



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

WALKING IN AUTHORITY

Dear Friends and Partners,

Imagine running into a stranger on your way to church who happens to be sitting patiently outside of the city gates in hope that someone will respond to his plea of desperation. *“Do you have any spare change? Can you help me out please? I am disabled and unable to walk. Is there anything you can do for me today?”* Without hesitation, you face this man and respond by saying, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you.” And without thinking you reach down inside and draw from the river within you and out comes these words, **“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”** Suddenly this stranger receives strength in his feet and ankle bones and he leaps up to his feet and begins walking, jumping and praising God. Wow! What a day to remember. In Acts chapter three, we have a historical account of this very occurrence.

“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.”

Acts 3:1-10 (KJV)

Peter, whom the Lord used in this instance, was not an angelic being that just floated down from heaven one morning and stumbled across this crippled man. He was a fisherman by trade. He was married and possibly had kids of his own. As was his habit, he went out one day on the lake fishing when all of the sudden Jesus stepped into his world and called him into the ministry.

“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them,

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.”

Matthew 4:18-20 (KJV)

As would be in any of our lives, this drastic change would ultimately affect the course of Peter and those whom he came in contact with. Peter soon would recognize that Jesus had the words of life. He was about to become a disciple of Christ!

The gospels record Peter's strengths as well as his shortcomings as he was a work in progress, being mentored by the Lord himself. However mind the fact that he was only a man who still had to resist and stand against temptation, doubt and unbelief just like we do.

The man at the gate called beautiful had no idea when he awakened that day that his life was about to change. Someone carried him to the gate that morning as was his custom, but today he would be walking home on his own! On the other hand, for Peter, in relation to his part in the story, was this something out of the ordinary for him? Was this unusual? I mean commanding a cripple to walk and seeing the results instantaneously didn't seem to surprise Peter. From the account we have in Acts, it almost seemed to be "business as usual." We must keep in mind that it was Jesus who sent them out two by two and told them to: heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and to cast out devils. (Matthew 10:8) Then what was so unusual about this miracle that took place in Acts chapter three? NOTHING! Peter knew whose He was and what to do with that which had been given him.

Let's take a closer look and find out just what did Peter have and how was he to use what had been given him.

It was during his earthly ministry that Jesus emphatically taught his disciples that what He had been doing they too would be doing.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

John 14:12-14 (KJV)

It would be in **His name** that these works would be carried out. Jesus who clearly understood authority was about to release or delegate and transfer this authority over to the disciples. In fact more specifically, to the CHURCH! If you recall that after Jesus' resurrection, He stood up and announced, "**All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**" Upon His declaration, He then turned right around and hands it over to the church... "**Therefore you go.**" (Matthew 28:18,19) God has done all that He needed to do in restoring authority back in this earth to His family. It's now up to us to rise up and begin to use it! All the authority that had been given to Jesus was for the benefit of the church. This power of attorney gives to the believer access to that "**all authority.**" There was still one catch though. Because having authority with no power to back it up or having power with no right to use it (authority), in both cases would be to no avail. Jesus directed his disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Spirit.

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Luke 24:49 (KJV)

It was *after* the outpouring of the Spirit in Acts chapter two that the early church now had Holy Ghost power to back up their position of going forth in the authority of His name. They knew it was real. There was no conjuring up or trying to manufacture a move of God. God simply moved when they took the first step and stood up, spoke out, stretched forth their hand in His name and declared, ***“In the name of Jesus, rise and be healed.”*** So again, how did the early church exercise their authority? Through words. And what did they do with this authority?

Healed the sick

Peter’s account in Acts chapter nine tells of his contact with a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. (vs. 33) Peter simply tapped into that authority which belonged to the church, and as a believer himself he directly exercised this authority over the man’s condition.

“And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.”

Act 9:34 (KJV)

It was an effortless move on Peter’s part. He knew he had the power of the Spirit and the authority to exercise it and so He did! What do you suppose would happen if you too began to exercise your God given authority over the enemy and all of his works? Could you get the same results as the early church did? Should you expect anything less?

“And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.”

Acts 14:8-10 (KJV)

Raised the dead

“Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.”

Acts 9: 36-41 (KJV)

Cast out devils

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.”

Acts 16:16-18 (KJV)

Moved in the miraculous

“The apostle performed many miraculous sings and wonders among the people.”

Acts 5:12 (NIV)

“Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous sings among the people.”

Acts 6:8 (NIV)

“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

Acts 9:17,18 (KJV)

“Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.”

Acts 11:19-21 (KJV)

“And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, SergiusPaulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.”

Acts 13:6 – 11 (KJV)

“Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”

Acts 14:3 (KJV)

You cannot heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils and move in the miraculous without power and the right to use it which is called authority. When we realize what we have and begin to use it, our days of struggle, lack, sickness and disease are over. Satan is well aware of who you are in Christ and what you can do with the authority that has been delegated for you to exercise by the Master Himself. Therefore the enemy’s goal is to keep the church ignorant. The Holy Spirit said through Hosea, ***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*** (Hosea 4:6) We need to come out of the dark and start walking in the light. Even Jesus underlined the importance of walking in the light. ***“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*** (John 8:32) If ignorance brings destruction, then understanding creates freedom. Why do you suppose we are instructed over and over again in God’s word to study, meditate, pay attention to and repeatedly listen to God’s word? **(2 Timothy 2:15; Proverbs 4:20-22; Joshua 1:8)** But it doesn’t stop here...It’s only knowledge acted upon that brings results.

Christians need to take their rightful place and stop blaming God like so many do as an excuse for their doubt and unbelief. “Well, I guess it must be God’s will. After all if it was supposed to turn out differently I’m sure God would have seen to it.” Really? Where is that scripture? Could it possibly be our plain ignorance or unbelief that brought the results, which we feared? Even brother Job who declared with his own mouth that, ***“the Lord gives and the Lord takes away”*** was big enough to admit later on in life that he spoke in ignorance. (Job 42:3)

You have authority over the devil and his works. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father far above the works of the evil one and you are right there beside Him because you are in Christ.

“Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

Ephesians 1:20-23 (KJV)

We are told in James 4:7 to, ***“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*** If this verse was not true, then it would not here and neither would be I Peter 5:8,9 which states, ***“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith.”***

Apparently you’ve been given authority over the devil since you’re told to resist him. Why would we be instructed to resist the devil if we had no authority over him; i.e. if he did not have to obey? When Jesus was on the earth He made a few bold statements himself that empowered His followers to go forth in his name.

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke10:19 (KJV)

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Mark 16:17,18 (KJV)

You have power over the enemy! If you did not, then you wouldn't be able to cast him out! I want to encourage you today to walk in the authority that belongs to you because you belong to Christ. Close the door on the devil and keep him out! You can be sure that he will endeavor to look for a way in - a back door if possible, but you still have the authority to cast him out!

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”

John10:1 (KJV)

Be careful not to empower him with your words. That's all it takes. Your words carry authority in the realm of the spirit so use them wisely. If you give the enemy something to work with against you or your family, He will run with it in hope of causing as much damage as possible. Right on the other hand, if you bind him in Jesus name and exercise authority over his attempts on your life, then he stands there paralyzed and can move no further.

“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:19 (KJV)

I'd like to leave you with one last thought to meditate on. It's found in Ecclesiastes 8:4. ***“Where the word of a king is, there is power.”*** Did you notice the word power? A king has power and the authority to exercise it - so do you! ***“Much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”*** Romans 5:16 (AMP) Walk in your authority today!

Your Friends and Partners,

Todd + Eva

