

Understand your authority

AUTHORITY = Def. Right to exercise power.

We see here that Authority and power are not the same... but they often go together.

*Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the **power** of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Authority = Greek word - Exousia

Power = Greek word - Dunamis

There are different types of authority - all authorities come from God

- 1) Parents [Eph. 6:1](#)
- 2) Governments [Rom. 13:1](#)
- 3) Social authorities – Bosses, employers [1 Tim. 6:1](#); [1 Pet. 2:13](#) - Paul & Peter told us to submit
- 4) Spiritual authorities – [Eph. 1:22](#); [Heb. 13:7+17](#)

To obey – Grk 3982 – to be persuaded. To have trust and confidence. To give place to them. Listen to those over you and let yourself be persuaded.

Jesus is our example

Jesus was submissive to these authorities.

- ❖ To his parents – [John 12:51](#)
- ❖ To the government, He paid taxes – [Matt. 17:27](#)
- ❖ To spiritual authority – His Father [John 5:19+30](#)

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jesus knew that it was in learning to walk in submission and obedience that was his greater authority.

[Matt. 8:5-10](#) The centurion understood this principle and recognized Jesus as a man of authority. He also knew how he would exercise this authority.

Authority is always given and delegated

God gave authority to man at the beginning.

Gen. 1:26-28 "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' "

God gave dominion to man

Dominion = to rule, to prevail, to subdue.

Gen. 1:31 – God saw that all he had made and done was good. Giving his authority on earth to man, was part of the good thing He put in place.

God made man as the god of the earth

Ps. 8:4-8

Authority must be given, never taken!

Man lost his authority. Satan did not take it, Adam gave it to him. **Luke 4:5**

We must understand that with authority, comes responsibility.

Gen. 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. To keep = to be a gatekeeper. To keep watch, not to allow any intruder.

Gen. 3:6 Adam was next to Eve and saw + heard everything
Adam had authority and responsibility, but he did not assume his responsibility by exercising authority to protect the garden, his wife and human race.

How did satan obtained this authority, what did he do for Adam to give him that authority?

- ❖ satan spoke, lied, deceived.
- ❖ Eve and Adam listened to him.
- ❖ Adam did not exercise authority (should have kicked the serpent out of the garden).
- ❖ By doing so, they ended up obeying.
- ❖ They became satan' slaves. **Rom. 6:16**

The devil knew how the world operate, and the laws God put in place.

If he could get Adam to obey his word then he knew he would become his master, and slave owner.

- ❖ Adam became a slave to sin and satan.
- ❖ satan became the god of this world. **2 Cor. 4:4**
- ❖ satan is not using a superior supernatural power over us.
- ❖ He is using the authority that God gave man over the earth... our power & authority against us!
- ❖ He can only do something when we submit ourselves to him and give him permission.

Why didn't God do anything ? (stepped in, shouted from heaven...)

If He would have intervened He would have violated His own word because He had already given the earth and authority to Adam and could not take it back.

Ps. 115:16 *The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.*

Ps. 89:34 *My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.*

Ps. 15:1+4 *Who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who swears to his own hurt and does not change.*

Ps. 138:2 *You have magnified Your word above all Your name.*

Heb. 1:3 *The whole universe holds together by the integrity of God's word.*

Yes God is sovereign, but in His sovereignty, He has limited Himself to His word.

Example : If I have a day off, then I am free to do whatever. Pastor asks me to help him clean the church. I agree to come from 2 to 4pm. If a friend then invites me to a free movie at 3pm, I will not be free to go because I have given my word to my pastor. In my freedom, I have limited myself by giving my word.

God is the creator and owner of the world so can't he just do anything he wants on the earth?

Example: If I rent a house, I agree to a lease that both the owner and myself will sign. I will then receive the keys of the house, that gives me the authority and right to allow or stop anybody from coming in. If the owner wants to repaint the house or do any type of repair, now by law, he first has to ask my permission to get in, they cannot just come in and do what they want, even if I made a big mess of the house. He can only come in by permission and invitation.

He is the owner of the earth, but we have a lease, and the keys.

Now legally, according to His laws and His Word, He works on the earth when we invite Him to.

Matt. 16:19 I will give you the keys of the Kingdom and whatever you will bind on earth you will bound in Heaven and what you loose on earth, will be loosed in heaven.

Ps. 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

When God wants to do something on the earth, He tells us, and then we have to ask Him, invite Him.

This is what authority and prayer is all about.

Lilian B Yeomans said: "It seems that God can do nothing on the earth, unless men first ask Him."