

# Exercising, Not Taking, Authority

by

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This short teaching shall address the idea of exercising, not taking authority in God's kingdom, but first let's state the last line first as follows: We cannot take what has been given; we receive and use, exercise.

First, let us look at some scriptures about what has been given to the believer:

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and *gave* them **power** and **authority over** all devils, and to cure diseases.

Matt 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he *gave* them **power** against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Luke 10:19 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.

Next, although knowledge of words is good, understanding of the words carries more weight; so, let's look at a few words out from the preceding scriptural passages, authority and power.

1. Authority – The definition is the power to act, authority. In the Greek the word is written, ἐξουσία. The translation is 'Exousia,' and the phonetic pronunciation is 'ex-oo-see'-ah.'
2. Power – The definition is might, strength. In the Greek the word is written, 'δύναμις.' The translation is 'dunamis,' and the phonetic pronunciation is 'doo'-nam-is.' From dunamis is where we get the modern word, dynamite; explosion.

From the preceding words and understanding of them coupled with what the scriptures say, we now are able to see Jesus has given us *both* power and authority! To do what? Use what He *gave* us against the devil!

Know and understand someone without authority cannot give authority to anyone! Why? Because the one who is giving the authority has no authority even if they appear to have authority! Using a personal situation what follows is a clear example:

I was approached by my supervisor in a large aerospace company where I worked. He took me to a side room and told me in low terms how if we could work together he would make sure I would become get into management. Wow! I thought this was very cool; so, I worked very hard to accomplish all I was given to do; I was motivated because I wanted to get into management. Well, another person I respected was talking to me and told me the supervisor who talked to me had told her the very same thing! Later, I realized the person who had told me he would make sure I got into management did NOT have the authority to do such a thing. I learned a very

valuable lesson through what is known as the 'Theory of Motivation.' The theory works as follows:

$$\text{Motivation} = \text{Desirability of Reward} \times \text{the Probability of Receipt}$$

What this means is a person's motivation to do something is equal to the desirability of reward; such as the desire for a job, position or something other, times the probability of receipt; that is, how much belief there is of actually getting what was promised. Now, if a person starkly realizes the person making the promise has absolutely no authority to make such a promise the credibility of the one making the promise is destroyed.

Jesus had the authority to give power and authority to the disciples and to all who are afar off, such as we who believe and are disciples of Christ. Further, Jesus physically demonstrated his power and authority to very many people, not just with words but in backing up what He said with healing of sick people, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, feeding a multitude of people over 5,000 in number with a few fish and bread! Yes, with no doubt Jesus possessed the power and authority; therefore, He could and did give us the very same power and authority and devils quaked, shook, in Jesus presence and so they will with us.

Now, look at the word, 'gave.' Before the word, 'gave' may be used, there is first the word, 'give.' In Luke 10:19 the writer record Jesus saying the word, 'give.' The writers, Luke and Matthew in Luke 9:1 and Matthew 10:1, respectively, recorded what Jesus did, He 'gave.' What was in the word, 'give?' Jesus offered the very same power and authority to His disciples? In fact, we can go so far as to say what he was giving was a gift. A gift is something given willingly without payment. What happens when a gift is offered? The one to whom the gift is offered 'receives' the gift! The gift is not taken! A person cannot take what has been given as they can only *receive*. The word 'gave' is the past tense of the present tense, 'give;' that is, it is the completed work of 'giving.'

Based upon the foregoing, where does this leave us? We cannot take which means to seize or capture. We cannot take anything from Jesus, we receive what He gives. Jesus gave us the dynamite power of (out from) God and the authority (out from) God to use in His name against the work of the devil. The power and authority Jesus gave us is infinitesimally greater than the power of the devil to the extent nothing can hurt us! The devil cannot whip up on us and the power and authority over the devil is in the complete Name of Jesus! We use the Name of Jesus without any fear Jesus' Holy Spirit will back up our words against the devil as we use Jesus' Name.

Remember, Philippians 2:8-10 says, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

<sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

<sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Lastly, Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

We exercise, use and apply, carry out, act upon the power and authority Jesus gave us! We expect to see the operation of the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ Name. Again, we cannot take what has been given to us, we receive it. If there is any taking it is in taking or seizing the opportunity to exercise the power and authority we have been given, in Jesus mighty Name, against the devil; that is to heal people, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and be living witnesses to the transforming power of God in Jesus Name by the Holy Spirit!