

Freedom Study 6.... Authority

Jesus calls us to a life of freedom and confidence. “Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest!”

You don't have to live enslaved by anything.

Jesus is Lord and He has given us His authority!

I. God has supreme authority and power.

But there is one thing that is absolutely.... a non-negotiable!

Jesus is Lord.

- He rules over everything.
- He is sovereign, supreme, and final.

“Our authority is derived NOT from our knowledge but from our relationship with Jesus.”—Jack Hayford

Luke 10:19 (NKJV) Behold, **I give you** the authority to trample (Pateo=step on top of, used of stomping on grapes, conquering, subduing) on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

That statement doesn't mean a lot... unless you know the Source of the Authority. Who said so?

When it comes to spiritual freedom, it is important to understand authority.

Power= *dunamis*= ability, strength, mighty works
Authority= *exousia*= right to exercise power

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the Kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

Do we really believe that?
Does that truth shape our lives?

1 Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV) But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our **Lord Jesus Christ**.

The more you understand and believe the Lordship of Christ and lean into His power and authority with confidence—the more spiritual freedom you will experience.

Jesus' Lordship is based on His ownership of everything, His creation of everything, and His omnipotence over everything.

Colossians 1:15-19 (NIV)

15 He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Revelation 1:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

His mission cannot be stopped.

Mt. 28:18-19... "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

Now go and make disciples of all men, baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teach everything I have given to you. I am with you always to the very end.”

This is the One we follow tonight.

This is the One who gives us power over demons, strongholds, curses, and bondages.

This is the One who sets us free!

- Jesus regularly exercised authority over demons.
- He didn't have to battle, strain, or sweat.

Matthew 8:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out (ekballo= throw out, drive out) the spirits **with a word** and healed all who were sick.

James 2:19 “You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.”

1 John 3:8 (ESV)... The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Matthew 8:16 (NIV84)...When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word.

In Luke 11...Jesus had just delivered a man from a spirit, by casting it out, it caused him to not be able to speak. But when he was set free he was able to speak.

But some Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out the demon by the power of Beelzubub, the prince of demons.

Luke 11:20–22 (NIV84)

²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. ²¹ “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

”The Finger of God”= was used by the Egyptian magicians after the 3rd Plague, to say this has happened by the “Finger of God”. It’s out of our league, beyond anything we understand.

Then we read later that the “Finger of God” came on Mt. Sinai and wrote the 10 Commandments on Stone.

Jesus is identifying Himself as Yahweh, as the same God who sent the plagues and wrote the 10 Commandments.

The Finger of God...points to the authority of God, His immense-unlimited-ability.

Jesus went on to say, a STRONG MAN who is fully armed may guard his palace. And everything looks secure, untouchable, and insurmountable.

But when One who is STRONGER...attacks him, overcomes him, and takes away his armor and protection...he is completely defeated.

Satan is the strong man.
Jesus is the Stronger Man.

Deliverance (Freedom)= is the liberating of points in the mind-emotions-and will which have become trapped, deceived, or bound by some effective working of the Adversary.---- Jack Hayford

II. God has given believers authority and power.

- If you are in true relationship with Jesus
- If you walk in humility and submission
- If you know who you are in Christ
- If you understand what the Word says

The devil will be afraid of you.

It’s important that we have the right heart and motives.

1. God's authority is not given, to give us honor, notoriety, or a name.
2. God's authority is to be used humbly, recognizing that its all about His presence and ability.
3. God's authority is "delegated authority" so it has to be used for His glory and in His will.

Delegated means it's not yours but His, it comes through Him

Most importantly.... it is urgent that we receive His authority and walk in it with confidence and faith.

“Behold (be sure to see, fix your eyes on this) I have given to you authority!”

Mt. 16... Jesus took his disciples to Caesarea Philippi, this particular location was one of the ancient centers of paganism and occultism. There was a river there that flowed into the mouth of deep cave and it was called “The Gate of Hell”. Human sacrifices and cultic worship were done there.

Peter, “You are the Christ the Son of the Living God”

This includes His divinity, His Lordship, His mission, His gospel, His power, His authority, and His glory.

Matthew 16:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter (petros), and on this rock (petra) I will build my church, and the gates (center of government, contracts, legal agreements) of hell shall not prevail against it.

The church is marching against and attacking the gates of hell and hell cannot stop the march of the church against hell.

Jesus built His church and gave her authority...and Satan cannot defend himself against the church or stop her.

Then we have this pivotal passage:

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

These specific keys are for binding and loosing.

These allow us to move in dimensions of prayer and personal ministry for distinct and demanding situations...exercising our delegated authority.

This is closely linked to “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Binding= is restricting for God’s intended purpose
Loosing= is releasing for God’s intended purpose

“As it is in heaven”

The grammar is profound here... the verbs (perfect tense) are (whatever you bind or loose) “shall be bound” and “shall be loosed”. It has already been bound or loosed in heaven by God’s purposes and is now being continually released through your use of God’s authority.

These keys are enacted by believers through prayer and faith, with delegated authority, to declare His purpose in situations by binding and loosening. Things that God already desires and has purposed. And we come into agreement and speak His authority and darkness cannot stand.

Hell will crumble and fall.

*As surely as Jesus said He has come to proclaim liberty to the captives (Lk.4:18), the keys that He puts into our hands authorize His people to open or lose, to unlock or lock, to bind or to loose.

There are many applications of these prayers.
But the bottom line is we have been given authority to deliver God’s will and purpose through prayer, His Word, and His Spirit...using these keys.

So you have authority, as a believer, to speak freedom...to demolish lies and strongholds.