

0. Authority of the Believer (Pre-40 Day Campaign message)

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Subtitle: An Overview

The “Authority of the Believer” is a classic truth that was taught so well in the early days by the Word of Faith teachers. Ministers such as Kenneth E. Hagin, Charles Capps and others had been given the revelation of the believer’s authority, to teach the body of Christ about our God-given dominion that we have in Christ.

At it’s core, the “authority of the believer” means exactly what the title says, namely, that as believers we have authority.

- We are not beggars
- We are not serfs or slaves
- We are sons and daughters of the Most High God!
- God has vested tremendous authority in us as the church, and as individual believers

Definition of the word “Authority”:

- Authority is the right & privilege to operate at an elevated position or rank
- Having authority means we are authorised to rule within a delegated sphere or space
- Authority is dominion
- Kingdom – the king’s domain

Galatians 4:6–7 (NKJV) *And because **you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore **you are no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, then **an heir of God through Christ**.*

- A slave is the lowest in rank and position
- But a son has a high rank and position
- We are heirs of God through Christ, and joint-heirs together with Christ (Rom. 8:17)

Romans 5:17 (GNB) *It is true that through the sin of one man death began to rule because of that one man. But how much greater is the result of what was done by the one man, Jesus Christ! **All who receive God's abundant grace and are freely put right with him will rule in life through Christ.***

NRSV: ... *exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.*

Ampl.: ... *reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah).*

What are the areas or spheres of Authority that we have as believers?

1. We have authority to access heaven & come before God's throne

Hebrews 4:14, 16 (NKJV) *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ... **16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

- Our ability to come into God's presence is entirely based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ
- We come to the throne of grace, not through our own righteousness, but through the righteousness of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)

Matthew 26:28 (NKJV) *For **this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.***

- Not only were our sins forgiven through the shed blood of Christ, but we were made the righteousness of God Christ

Hebrews 10:19–20 (NKJV) *Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20** by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh.*

2. We have authority to use the name of Jesus Christ

In law, this is called: Power of Attorney, where one person is give full legal rights & privileges to operate on behalf of another person, as if they were that person.

We are authorised to use the name of Jesus Christ:

- In Prayer:

John 16:23–24 (NKJV) *And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.** 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

- In commanding situations and circumstances

John 14:12–14 (NKJV) — **12** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. **13** And **whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** **14** If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

- Ask – Gr. aiteo – “to demand” (Strong’s: denotes a request of the will)
- This is not speaking of praying to God in the name of Jesus, but using the name of Jesus Christ to demand situations and circumstances to change
- We heal the sick, in the name of Jesus Christ

3. We have authority over satan and demon spirits

Luke 9:1 (NKJV) *Then He called His twelve disciples together and **gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.***

Mark 16:17–18 (NKJV) *And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name they will cast out demons**; they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

- We cast our demons on the name of Jesus Christ

Luke 10:18–20 (NKJV) *And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **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.** **20** Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that **the spirits are subject to you**, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”*

4. We have authority to rule and reign in life

Revelation 1:5–6 (NKJV) ... *Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, **6** and **has made us kings and priests to His God and Father**, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- Jesus Christ has made us kings and priest
 - Kings to rule in the earth
 - Priests to access the presence of God

Deuteronomy 28:13 (NKJV) *And **the Lord will make you the head and not the tail**; you shall be **above only**, and **not be beneath**, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.*

- Even under the Old Covenant, God wanted His people to rule in life
- We have a better covenant, established on better promises (Hebrews 8:6)
- In Christ, we can rule:
 - over sin (Romans 5:17)
 - over self (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

James 4:7 (NKJV) *Therefore **submit to God**. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

- Our rulership in life is entirely dependant on our total submission to God, and to His established authorities (
- Submission to God means surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ