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A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
FOUNDED OCTOBER, 1984

THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

STUDY GUIDE



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SCRIPTURE READING

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; 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.

Luke 10:19 (NKJV)

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.

John 14:12-14 (NKJV)

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. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

THEME

Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ have been given authority to go forth in His name, acting as His representatives; however, very few believers exercise the authority that has been given unto them by Jesus. We must learn our authority and exercise our God-given rights in the earth. People who are hurting and in trouble need the proper authority to come to their rescue.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The believer's authority must not be confused with God-ordained authorities who have been set in certain positions to execute the will and purpose of God.
- B. God-ordained authorities must be submitted to and respected because they are set by God for the benefit of the people.
- C. God requires order; order requires set authorities.
- D. All believers have the right and privilege to minister in the name of Jesus; however, not all believers are set in positions of authority.

E. The believer's authority is over the devil and his emissaries.

II. THE NAME OF JESUS

- A. The believer's authority is in the name of Jesus. (Mark 16:17-18; Philippians 2:10)
- B. The name of a person is just as powerful as the person; as a matter of fact, the name of a person testifies to the authority and power of the individual who bears it.
- C. To operate in the name of Jesus is to act as His representative, doing exactly what He would do if He were here in person.
- D. The name of Jesus is the believer's power of attorney, which gives him/her the legal right to act and make decisions that are becoming to Jesus.
- E. Everything the believer does, both in word and deed, should be done in the name of Jesus. (Colossians 3:17)
- F. Many people have been deceived into thinking that they do not have the right to function in the name of Jesus; they equate authority with extraordinary anointing.
- G. The proficiency of the believer's authority is dependent upon his/her faith. We must believe in the authority of the name of Jesus in order to get the desired results.
- H. Every born-again believer has the God-given right and responsibility to go forth and minister to others in the name of Jesus.
- I. In the name of Jesus, we also have the right and responsibility to stand against the opposition of the devil.
- J. Acts 4:12 declares that people are saved through the name of Jesus.
- K. The religious leaders confronted Peter and John because of the name of Jesus. They did not care if the two apostles preached or taught, but they forbid them to preach or teach in the name of Jesus because they realized that the name had authority. (Acts 4:18)
- L. As believers, we, too, must realize the authority in the name of Jesus.

- M. According to Luke 10:19, believers have authority over the power of the enemy, but until we exercise our authority, Satan will continue to dominate.

III. THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. According to Acts 10:38, God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power.
- B. Many believers do not understand anointing and what it does; consequently, they do not utilize the resources within them.
- C. In both the Hebrew and Greek languages, anointing means to rub or smear an oil or ointment upon someone or some object.
 - 1. When Moses dedicated the tabernacle, he anointed the various objects in the tabernacle. He also anointed Aaron and his sons, who were to serve as ministers in the tabernacle.
 - 2. The oil used to anoint the various objects and people consisted of special ingredients. The anointing oil was not to be duplicated and used for any other purpose.
- D. When some object or some person is anointed, the anointed object or person is set apart for a particular purpose.
- E. Under the Old Covenant, a special oil was used for anointing. Under the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit is God's means for anointing.
- F. When God chooses to set a person apart for a particular work, He makes that distinction known by anointing that particular individual with the Holy Spirit. The giftings of the individual set him/her apart for a particular work or ministry.
- G. All believers have authority in the name of Jesus, but not all believers are anointed to do the same things.
- H. When one is anointed by the Holy Spirit, he/she is supernaturally empowered to do what he/she has been set apart to do.
 - I. All believers have authority over the devil, but not all believers have the same ministry.
- J. Many people do not understand the difference between anointing and inspiration.

1. The anointing of the Holy Spirit sets one apart for service.
 2. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit is a supernatural influence that enables one to know or to do a particular thing at a particular time.
- K. Through the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the believer's authority, great exploits can be accomplished for the kingdom of God.

IV. EXERCISING THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

- A. Exercising our authority requires faith; we must believe that we have authority, and we must exercise our authority with confidence.
- B. The name of Jesus is the believer's authority, but the believer must understand how to use the name properly.
1. Using the name of Jesus is not a formula that we attach to a prayer or a command.
 2. When a believer says "in the name of Jesus," he/she is actually conveying his right and privilege as a representative of Jesus.
 - a. As members of the Body of Christ, we are representatives of Jesus in the earth.
 - b. Just as an ambassador represents his/her country, believers represent Jesus and the kingdom of God.
 3. For a believer to say "in the name of Jesus" is to say that Jesus could not be here today so He sent me to represent Him. Everything that I say and do is under the authority of Jesus and His kingdom.
- C. Knowing our position in Jesus is the key to understanding our authority that comes through Him.
- D. When a believer speaks to sickness and disease, circumstances, or to a demon, he/she is speaking on behalf of Jesus; consequently, it is extremely important to speak in agreement with the Word of God, not adding to or taking away from It.

- E. All authorities, including the believer's authority, are limited to the parameters set by the one who delegated the authority; therefore, it is imperative for all authorities to know the parameters of their authority.
- F. The manner in which a believer approaches opposition or adversity and the words spoken against the opposition or adversity must agree with God's Word and Jesus' ministry; otherwise, Satan does not have to obey.
- G. The effectiveness of the believer's authority is directly related to the believer's belief in his/her authority.

V. THE POWER ENFORCING THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

- A. According to Philippians 2:9-11, the name of Jesus is above every heavenly name, every earthly name, and every subterranean name.
- B. There are no natural or spiritual forces that are superior to or equal to the name of Jesus.
- C. When the believer operates in the name of Jesus, his/her authority is backed by the kingdom of God.
- D. Satan has already been defeated and sentenced; however, he has not yet been punished. He is still at liberty to use his intimidating tactics against the believers; therefore, the believer must exercise his/her spiritual authority over Satan's intimidation.
- E. When the believer confidently stands in his/her authority against Satan's attacks, Satan must submit to the authority inherent in the name of Jesus.
- F. According to Hebrews 1:14, the angels are sent to minister for those who will inherit salvation.
- G. When the believer comes to the full realization of his/her authority and of the forces standing by to enforce that authority, he/she will aggressively confront and overcome Satan and his cohorts.

VI. SUMMARY

- A. The believer's authority must not be confused with God-ordained authorities who have been set in certain positions to execute the will and purpose of God.

- B. All believers have the right and privilege to minister in the name of Jesus; however, not all believers are set in positions of authority.
- C. The believer's authority is over the devil and his emissaries.
- D. The believer's authority is in the name of Jesus.
- E. According to Luke 10:19, believers have authority over the power of the enemy, but until we exercise our authority, Satan will continue to dominate.
- F. All believers have authority in the name of Jesus, but not all believers are anointed to do the same things.
- G. All believers have authority over the devil, but not all believers have the same ministry.
- H. Exercising our authority requires faith; we must believe that we have authority, and we must exercise our authority with confidence.
- I. The effectiveness of the believer's authority is directly related to the believer's belief in his/her authority.
- J. Satan has already been defeated and sentenced; however, he has not yet been punished.
- K. When the believer comes to the full realization of his/her authority and of the forces standing by to enforce that authority, he/she will aggressively confront and overcome Satan and his cohorts.

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. We are living in a time when authority is disdained and resisted. If we are not cautious, we will find ourselves shrinking from responsibility by not exercising our God-given authority as believers.
- B. Satan and his cohorts do everything they can to resist God-ordained authority; consequently, it is imperative that believers know their authority and refuse to succumb to Satan's resistance.
- C. Jesus is depending upon the believers to exercise their authority in earth, thereby establishing His kingdom.

- D. What are we doing with the authority that has been given unto us?
- E. Not only do believers have the God-given right to confront Satan and his demons, but we also have the responsibility and mandate to do so.
- F. It is time to wake up, to stand up, and to aggressively confront the attacks of the enemy.
- G. When believers begin to exercise their God-ordained authority, not only will they break the bondage from their lives, but they will also break the bondage of the enemy from the lives of others.