

FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Authority of the Believer

WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS WORLD?

- ▶ Original Design – Mankind was given authority & dominion (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:1-6)
- ▶ FACT: God gave mankind the right to rule (or have dominion) over the earth... not to Satan or demons
- ▶ Rebel Rulers stepped in (Genesis 3; Ephesians 6:12)
- ▶ Christ won back what was lost (Hebrews 2:6-8; Matthew 28:18)

PRINCIPLE: In Christ all believers have both the authority & the responsibility to resist the devil.

A. DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN POWER & AUTHORITY (Luke 9:1-2; 10:17-20)

- 1 Authority ▶ the right to rule (*exousia*)
- 2 Power ▶ the ability to rule (*dunamis*)
- 3 Subjection ▶ to arrange under (*hupotasso*)

B. SOURCE OF AUTHORITY (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:17-23)

- 1 The Resurrection of Christ (Ephesians 1:17-20)
- 2 Scope of the Lord's Authority (Ephesians 1:21-23)
 - ▶ Far above...
 - ▶ In the present age and...

C. Conferring OF AUTHORITY (Ephesians 1:19; 2:6-7)

D. Location OF AUTHORITY (Hebrews 8:1)

E. DIVINE Purpose OF AUTHORITY (Ephesians 3:9-11; 1 John 3:8b; Matthew 28:18-20)

F. Rebellious holders OF AUTHORITY (Ephesians 6:12; John 14:30)

G. QUALIFICATIONS FOR AUTHORITY

- 1 Faith (Acts 19:13-16; James 4:7)
- 2 Humility (Proverbs 16:18)
- 3 Boldness (Proverbs 28:1; Joshua 1:7)
- 4 Dependence (John 15:5)
- 5 Servant's Heart (Philippians 2:3-4)

H. THE ISSUE OF FEAR (2 Timothy 1:7; Revelation 21:8)

- ▶ Imminent ▶ Potent
- ▶ Key to Eliminating Fear: Neutralize one of these two attributes

Great Spiritual Warfare Resources (Books) by Neil Anderson:

- Victory Over The Darkness
- Bondage Breaker

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The Authority of the Believer

Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God that through Christ, He has given us power and authority not only to prevail in spiritual warfare, but to fulfill the Great Commission.

MY STORY

What do you consider to be your mission in life? Do you view it mission possible or impossible? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What from this week's message gave you new insight into the believer's authority?
2. How do **Genesis 1:26-28** and **Psalms 8:3-6** show that God initially intended for humans to have rule and dominion over the earth? How did humans lose the right to rule?
3. What question did David ask in **Psalms 8:3-6**? Have you ever looked to the heavens and asked a similar question? Knowing what we know today about the vastness of the universe, why is David's question even more relevant in our day and age than when he asked it?
4. In **Hebrews 2:6-8**, how does the author of Hebrews expand on what David said in **Psalms 8:3-6**?
5. Explain the following in your own words: "Through sin mankind lost the right to rule; but through Christ, it was regained (**Matthew 28:18**), and believers have both the authority and responsibility to resist the devil."

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

6. Before sending out His disciples, in **Luke 9:1,2**, Jesus gave them power and authority to drive out all demons, to cure diseases, and to preach the gospel. Define authority and power. According to the testimonies of the disciples in **Luke 10:17-20** when they returned, how successful were they in their ministry?
7. What are some ways that Christians can exercise power and authority in spiritual warfare today? How can fear affect a person dealing with evil spiritual forces? What encouragement does Paul give Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:7**? How does it apply to us today?
8. What is the extent of Christ's authority according to **Ephesians 1:19-23**? How does it make you feel that if you are in Christ you share in that "incomparably great power"?
9. According to **Ephesians 3:8-11** what is the divine purpose of authority?

TAKING IT HOME

10. As a believer, how does it make you feel that you have power and authority in Christ for your involvement in spiritual warfare? How have you been able to use that power and authority in ministry or in everyday life?
11. The qualifications for authority shared in the message were faith, humility, boldness, dependence, and a servant's heart? Why is each one important if a person wants to exercise power and authority in spiritual warfare?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and ask God to help you walk more fully in the power and authority that you have in Christ as you engage the enemy in spiritual warfare.