

POWER & AUTHORITY*

God gave Jesus all power and authority over all creation in order to carry out His Kingdom purpose. We previously learned that the word for power in Greek is *dynamis*, like dynamite, meaning strength or ability, as in being stronger than an opponent. On the other hand, authority is rank and the right to do something, as in being the boss. The word for authority is *exousia* and is defined as “the power of choice or the liberty to do as one pleases, including the power of rule or government, or jurisdiction.” Jesus has all *dynamis* and *exousia* over all creation and now He now shares that with us as we go out to do His Kingdom work.

*Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*Ephesians 1:18-23: - I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and **his incomparably great power [dynamis] for us who believe. That power [dynamis] is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **far above all rule and authority [exousia], power [dynamis] and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.***

Authority was God’s original design for mankind. God gave Adam and Eve all authority in the earth in their state of purity and innocence and they had God-given command over all creation including the animals, fish, birds, and plants. All they had to do was speak the word, and all of creation had to obey. For example, Adam could say to the birds, “come here,” or to the clouds, “move from here to there,” and they had to obey because they were subject to Adam. Furthermore, before the wrong-tree incident, man outranked the devil. All Adam had to say to the serpent was, “NO.” But unfortunately, he didn’t.

As God’s Son, authority was Jesus’ birthright. He could do anything that He pleased, and all creation had to obey. Unlike Adam, Jesus maintained His rank over the devil even when the evil one tested Him for forty days in the wilderness by saying, in essence, “NO.” Jesus’ divine nature always led Him in purity so that He used His God-given authority correctly according to God’s will. Jesus also had authority from God to forgive sin, something only God can do and which inherently releases people from the devil’s subjection. As such, the signs and wonders of God that followed Jesus proved His authority from God.

*Mark 1:27: The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? **A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.**” (See also Luke 4:36.)*

*Luke 5:23-24: Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? **But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” (See also Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:5-11.)*

*Matthew 8:27: The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? **Even the winds and the waves obey him!**" (See also Mark 4:41.)*

Jesus' message was, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" He did not come to condemn, to judge, or to oppress but to forgive, show mercy, and set free. Everywhere Jesus went, He proclaimed or taught about the Kingdom of God and then demonstrated God's love and power by healing the sick, casting out demons, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, multiplying food, and commanding the weather. It was not just power that poured out through Jesus – it was the love of God offering salvation, deliverance, healing, and sustenance for all who would believe. Here is a chart of some of Jesus' miracles.

THE BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT	
2 Blind Men	Matthew 9
Blind Man	Mark 8
Man Born Blind	John 9
Blind Man	Matthew 20, Mark 10, Luke 18
THE LAME WALK	
Man Lame 38 years	John 5
Paralyzed Man	Matthew 9, Mark 2, Luke 5
LEPERS ARE CLEANSED	
Leper	Matthew 8, Mark 1, Luke 5
Ten Lepers	Luke 17
THE DEAF HEAR	
Deaf and Mute Man	Mark 7
Deaf and Mute Boy	Mark 9
THE DEAD ARE RAISED	
Girl in Death Bed	Matthew 9, Mark 5, Luke 8
Man in Coffin at Funeral	Luke 7
Man in Grave/Four Days Dead	John 11
THE SICK ARE HEALED	
Woman Bleeding 12 Years	Matthew 9, Mark 5, Luke 8
Woman with Fever	Matthew 8, Mark 1, Luke 4
Man Near Death	Matthew 8, Luke 7
Boy Very Sick/Near Death	John 4
Man with Swelling/Dropsy	Luke 14
Deformed Hand Restored	Matthew 12, Mark 3, Luke 6
Cut Off Ear Restored	Luke 22
DEMONS ARE CAST OUT	
Boy with Violent Seizures	Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9
Girl with Tormenting Evil Spirit	Matthew 15, Mark 7
Man with Evil/Unclean Spirit	Mark 1, Luke 4
Mute Man	Matthew 12, Luke 11
Woman Crippled 18 Years	Luke 13
Man Driven to Insanity	Matthew 8, Mark 5, Luke 8
Mute Man	Matthew 9

Jesus was not limited to these miracles or to these illnesses. In fact, these examples are just the highlights that the writers of the Gospels chose to write about for our edification. However, these writers also made it definitively clear that Jesus healed ALL diseases for those who came to Him in faith.

*Matthew 4:23-24 - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, **and healing every disease and sickness among the people.** News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him **all***

who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and He healed them.

See also Matthew 9:35, 12:15, 14:25-26, 15:30-31; Mark 1:32-39, 3:10-11, 6:54-56; Luke 4:40-41, 6:17-19, 7:21, 9:11; John 6:2, 20:30, 21:25; Acts 10:38.

All of this is to say that Jesus' miracles testified to Jesus' absolute power and authority over all creation and revealed a loving God's perfect and pleasing will on earth as it is in heaven. Accordingly, when Jesus' disciples asked Him how we should pray, He responded with a simple answer:

Matthew 6:9-13: "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**'

Jesus used His authority to bring heaven to earth. Now, He sends us for the very same purpose, and He has given us power through the Gospel to do it. What, then, is the Gospel?

THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER

The Gospel is the power of God. God is not the power, Jesus is not the power, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit is not the power – the Gospel is the power. Again, power is strength or ability.

Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, **because it [the Gospel] is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**

1 Corinthians 15:2-4: **By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received **I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, **that he was buried**, that he was **raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 1:22-24: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but **we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus paid for all of our sins and, therefore, the effects and consequences of sin have absolutely no legal right to our lives. Think of it this way: if we owed money to a creditor, then they would have the legal right to pursue us for the debt owed to them. This could include sending bills, calling relentlessly, seizing some of our assets, etc. However, if the debt was paid in full, then the creditor would have no more right to pursue us. Similarly, all of mankind is in debt because of sin and, until this debt is paid, curses, sickness, oppression, and death have the right to pursue us. However, since Jesus paid our sin-debt in full the charges against us have been cancelled and instead of sin's consequences, we have the right to blessing, health, and life – on earth as it is in heaven.

Colossians 2:13-14: When **you were dead in your sins** and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.**

Colossians 1:21-23: Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to **present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.**

The curse of God's Law is the presiding standard of retribution for our sin and stumbling and, without Christ, it has the right to enforce its consequences in our lives. However, when we believe Jesus, we are no longer subject to the curse of the Law. No matter how much we stumble, Jesus took it all upon Himself. This

profound exchange is the Gospel. Jesus Christ, who never sinned, had all of our sins imputed to Him, charged against Him, and placed on His account. (See Galatians 3:13.) Through faith, we, who are incapable of righteousness, have Jesus' righteousness imputed to us, credited to our account, and given to us as a free gift. He became sin. We become the righteousness of God. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.) Accordingly, anything which is outside of God's perfect and pleasing will for us as it is in heaven has no legal grounds to be in our lives.

Curse of the Law Deuteronomy 28: <i>(See also Leviticus 26.)</i>	The Power of the Gospel <i>(See many many other Scriptures...)</i>
<p>Lack: verses: 15-19, 23-24, 26, 38-42, 48, 63</p> <p>Sickness: verses: 21-22, 27-28, 34-35, 58-62</p> <p>Defeat: verses: 25-26, 29-33, 43-44, 48-57</p> <p>Unholiness: verses: 15, 25, 37, 45-47, 53-58</p> <p>Enmity with God: verses: 34, 36, 48, 61, 65-67</p> <p>Sinfulness: verses: 15, 45-47, 53-58</p> <p>Wandering/Exile from God: verses: 29,32, 36-37, 41, 63-68</p>	<p>Romans 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?</p> <p>1Peter 2:24: "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."</p> <p>Colossians 2:15: And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.</p> <p>Hebrews 10:14: For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.</p> <p>1Peter 2:25: For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.</p> <p>Ephesians 1:7: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace</p> <p>Ephesians 2:13: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.</p>

Think of it this way: Hypothetically, if we are all deathly allergic to bee stings then when we are stung by a bee, we know that we are going to die. That bee sting has power over us because, as the bee venom permeates our being and kills us, it proves to be stronger than we are. However, if we possess the anti-venom to bee stings, then all bee stings are rendered powerless and have no effect. Similarly, sin is like a bee sting, and the Law of God is like the bee venom enforcing consequences of the sting which pervade our being until we perish. (See Romans 6:23.) Christ's resurrection proves that Jesus is stronger than sin and death so, therefore, the Gospel is like the anti-venom that renders sin powerless, nullifies its effects. We apply the anti-venom by faith and it grants us immunity from stings that lead to death for all eternity.

1Corinthians 15:55-57: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" **The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Hebrews 2:14-15: Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so **that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

In short, Jesus overpowered all of our enemies through His life, death, and resurrection and the Gospel renders all sin, the curse, the devil, and even death powerless against everyone who believes Christ. Therefore, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to every affliction and oppression facing everyone that we know. This said, the power of the Gospel is only accessed through faith. For this reason, when Jesus' first followers asked Him what God required of them, His answer was simple: **believe.**

John 6:28-29: Then they asked him, "**What must we do to do the works God requires?**" Jesus answered, "**The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.**"

It is only through faith in Christ that we receive all of the benefits of His salvation and do the works that He did. He sends us out to proclaim the Gospel, which is the power of God to work miracles, signs, and wonders, so that we receive and reveal to others God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

Jesus' authority over all creation was His birthright as the Son of God and He used it to serve those whose lives had been damaged by the effects of sin. (See Philippians 2:6-7.) While He was on the earth, He shared this authority with His disciples when He sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven and to do the works that He had been doing, namely, miracles. Notably, He cautioned His followers to remain focused on what was truly significant – not their authority in Jesus' name but that they knew Him and were known by Him.

*Matthew 10:1, 7-8: Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and **gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness...** As you go, **proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'** **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.** Freely you have received; freely give. (See also Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-23.)*

*Luke 10:19-20: **I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.** However, do not rejoice that **the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.***

After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned His disciples into their Kingdom assignment. Because we who believe were included with Christ in His resurrection, His authority has become our born-again birthright as sons and daughters of God. (See 1 Peter 1:3; John 1:12) Post-resurrection, our authority in Christ is not just an assignment, it is part of who we have become.

When Jesus ascended to heaven, it was confirmed that Jesus Christ is supreme over everything created because He is seated at the right hand of God in the throne room of heaven. (See Colossians 1:15-20.) We who believe were with Jesus when He ascended to heaven, and therefore, we are seated in Him in the throne room of God, and we have the same God-given *authority* that He has.

*Philippians 2:9-11: Therefore **God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*Ephesians 2:6: And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,***

In Christ and according to God's will, we now have authority over creation, we outrank the devil and all of his cohorts, and we have the right to declare that sins have been forgiven in the name of Jesus. God placed everything under subjection to Jesus so that through faith in Him, we can execute God's will in the earth and do the works that Jesus did the way that He did them. Through this we reveal Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil and we make it known that Jesus has absolute authority over all.

*Ephesians 3:10-11: His intent was that now, **through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,** according to his eternal purpose **that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

*John 20:21-23: Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! **As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**" And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.**"*

POWER & AUTHORITY TO SAVE

In the Scriptures, a person's name often indicates their personality or purpose. The name Jesus means *God saves*, and this is certainly descriptive of God's purpose for Him. When Jesus described His mission on the earth, He described it like this:

*John 3:17: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **to save the world through him**.*

*John 12:47: If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For **I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world**.*

*Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man came **to seek and to save the lost**."*

We previously examined how Elijah's anointing and mission became Elisha's anointing and mission and how Elijah's cloak and a double portion of his spirit equipped Elisha with everything that he needed to fulfill his task. Now that the Holy Spirit has been poured out, Christ's anointing and purpose has become the anointing and purpose of each one of us as His disciples. His intent is for His followers to do His works with the same heart of love of God towards all people. Miracles are not for the purpose of being spiritually powerful to make ourselves look good or gain a following. The power of God for miracles is for the purpose of salvation, deliverance, healing, and sustenance.

*1Timothy 2:3-4: God our Savior, **who wants all people to be saved** and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

*1Timothy 4:10: **That is why we labor and strive**, because we have put our hope in the living God, **who is the Savior of all people**, and especially of those who believe.*

God's desire is to save. Jesus came to save. Power from heaven being given to us to work miracles is God's expression of love and confirming the name of His only Son Jesus so that the whole world can be saved through faith in Him.

*Excerpted/adapted from ACTS ▪ ALL RIGHTS RESERVED © 2015 Wendy Bowen, Manifest International, LLC
Excerpt from *Biblical Healing* ▪ ALL RIGHTS RESERVED © 2016 Wendy Bowen, Manifest International, LLC
Scriptures are New International Translation (NIV) unless otherwise noted, emphasis added by author