The Believer's Authority

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Chapter 3: Seated with Christ

- Jesus said, *"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth"* (Matthew 28:18). He also said, *"Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy"* (Luke 10:19 NLT).

- Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father—the place of authority—and we are seated with Him.

  But God … raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4, 6 NKJV).

- When the body of Christ realizes that the authority that belongs to Jesus also belongs to each of us and is available to us, our lives will be revolutionized.

  For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12 NKJV). We are the body of Christ!

- The elevation of Christ's people with Him into the heavenlies clearly points to the fact that we are to sit with Him. We are to share not only His throne but also His authority. That authority belongs to us!

Discussion Questions

Why does Paul use the human body as an illustration of the body of Christ?

Why is it important that we see ourselves seated with Jesus at the right hand of the Father?

How can we maintain balance in the biblical truths we learn and not fall into excess or error?

Chapter 4: Breaking the Power of the Devil

- The devil (Satan) has no right to rule us or dominate us. Our contact with the devil and his kingdom must always come from our place of authority in Jesus.

  For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12 NLT).

- The Bible identifies Satan as "the god of this world" (see 2 Corinthians 4:4). But he has no authority over us.

  Jesus said, *"Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you"* (Luke 10:19 NLT).

- The most effective way to deal with the devil is to *demand* what is ours through Jesus Christ, who made this statement:

  "You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!" (John 14:13–14 NLT). Jesus wasn't talking about prayer. The Greek word translated as *ask* in this quotation literally means "demand."

- The devil, Satan, won't argue with us when we make a demand on him in the name of Jesus. He is afraid of that name!

- Faith is the foundation for our authority. Smith Wigglesworth, an influential British evangelist, often said, "I am not moved by what I see. I am not moved by what I feel. I'm moved only by what I believe." We break the power of the devil when we speak the Word of God in faith.

Discussion Questions

How did Satan gain the power he wields in the earth?

If we've been given authority over *all* the power of the enemy, why do so many problems with the enemy still exist?

What is the key to successfully exercising our authority to break the power of the devil?