The Believer's Authority

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Chapter 5: Exercising Authority

- Our position of authority is based on our being seated with Christ in heavenly places (see Ephesians 1:20, 2:6). In this position, we are positioned *above* the powers we contend with in this life. Jesus has already conquered them; our job is to enforce that victory.

- Jesus said, *"These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak with new languages"* (Mark 16:17 NLT). The first sign Jesus identified as following *any* believer is that they will cast out demons.

- When we abdicate our position of authority over the devil, things don't go well. Peter issued this warning:

  Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8 NLT). Notice the devil is looking for someone to devour—someone who does not actively exercise his or her authority.

- We must not give the devil a foothold in our lives and in our families (see Ephesians 4:27). Rather, we are to do as James instructed: *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you* (James 4:7 NLT).

- As members of the body of Christ—the Church—we have a "ministry of authority."

  God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church (Ephesians 1:22 NLT).

  It is up to us to exercise this authority.

Discussion Questions

If Jesus already defeated the devil, why are we so important to God and His plans?

If Jesus has already defeated the devil, why are demons and evil spirits sill active in our lives?

Does our "ministry of authority" extend to the lives of others?