The Believer's Authority

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Chapter 6: Risen with Christ

- We find rich truths when we unpack Colossians 2:12–15

  For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead (v. 12 NLT). Notice God the Father did this work.

  You were dead because of your sins … Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave our sins (v. 13 NLT). At the same time God raised us to new life, He also forgave our sins.

  He canceled the record of charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them at the cross (vv. 14–15 NLT). Jesus spoiled the demonic principalities and powers who opposed His resurrection and then stripped them of the authority that had been theirs.

- Satan *had* the power of death, but Jesus conquered him.

  Jesus said, *"I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave"* (Revelation 1:18 NLT).

- Jesus is the Supreme Head of the Church, yet exercising His authority in the earth must come through the body of Christ.

  Jesus aid, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven"* (Matthew 18:18 NLT).

- The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth—but He will never lead us apart from the Bible, the written Word of God.

Discussion Questions

Which of the four verses in Colossians 2:12–15 is most meaningful to you?

What is the significance of Jesus' words, "whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven"?

How can we be certain we are hearing the Holy Spirit correctly?