

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Pastor Katy Reeves

In Greek, authority means *exousia*, which is power to rule or dominion.

Colossians 1:13-22

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14**in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16**For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17**He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18**He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. **19**For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20**and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

21And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, **22**yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

This is where we are. Redemption gives us a good position with God and a right standing. We have been reconciled! Everything we lost in the fall from grace, Jesus bought it back for us. The main thing restored was our 'dominion or our power to rule!

How do we rule? What does 'dominion' look like?

Let's watch Jesus in action:

Mark 1:21-28

21They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach. **22**They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes. **23**Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, **24**saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" **25**And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" **26**Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. **27**They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." **28**Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

Jesus taught with authority. and He acted with authority. How did they recognize this authority? He was BOLD! He was CONFIDENT!

Mark 1:29-34

29And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30**Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. **31**And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.

32When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. **33**And the whole city had gathered at the door. **34**And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

What does this authority look like? Casting out evil spirits and healing sicknesses and diseases.

Mark 2:1-12

1When He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. **2**And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. **3**And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. **4**Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. **5**And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." **6**But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, **7**"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8**Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? **9**"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? **10**"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, **11**"I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." **12**And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Notice He has authority to forgive sins and, notice here, the connection to inner healing and receiving physical healing.

Mark 3:7-12

7Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and *also* from Judea, **8**and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all

that He was doing and came to Him. 9And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him; 10for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him. 11Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" 12And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was.

Authority enabled Jesus to help the people. People are looking and longing for someone who will live in this kind of authority. They will follow this kind of person

Mark 3:13-19

13And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. 14And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach, 15and to have authority to cast out the demons. 16And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), 17 and James, the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); 18and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; 19and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

Jesus gave this authority to His disciples so they could help Him reach more people. He has given us this same authority.

Mark 3:20-35

20And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. 21When His own people heard *of this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses." 22The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons." 23And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25"If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26"If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! 27"But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

28"Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

31Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him. 32A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." 33Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" 34Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, "Behold

My mother and My brothers! **35**“For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

Walking in this kind of authority will not and cannot be understood by the natural mind. People WILL think you are crazy--a nut case. Notice what Jesus did. He didn't even listen to family and wouldn't even entertain them! Don't let friends or family deter you from acting like Jesus.

Mark 4:35-41

35On that day, when evening came, He said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.”

36Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. **37**And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. **38**Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” **39**And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. **40**And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

41They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

It was authority, not physical power that calmed the storm. The earth was given to man. He was destined to rule and have dominion over it. The disciple can step into that destiny. Are you a disciple? Many 'believe', but not many are 'doers'. A disciple is a doer of the Word, a follower of Jesus.

Mark 5:1-20

1They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. **2**When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, **3**and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; **4**because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. **5**Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. **6**Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; **7**and shouting with a loud voice, he said, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!” **8**For He had been saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” **9**And He was asking him, “What is your name?” And he said to Him, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” **10**And he *began* to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. **11**Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. **12***The demons* implored Him, saying, “Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.” **13**Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand *of them*; and they were drowned in the sea.

14 Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And *the people* came to see what it was that had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the “legion”; and they became frightened. 16 Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and *all* about the swine. 17 And they began to implore Him to leave their region. 18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. 19 And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and *how* He had mercy on you.” 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

Jesus always used His authority to help people. There is a hurting world and they need our help. We need to be prepared. We need to know how to operate in this authority.

Mark 6:1-6

1 Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. 2 When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, “Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? 3 “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him. 4 Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives and in his *own* household.” 5 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He wondered at their unbelief.

And He was going around the villages teaching.

Many family and friends won't accept your behavior when you begin to conduct your life in this authority. They won't understand what has come over you. Many will get offended. Help and change for them will be limited.

Mark 6:7-13

7 And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits; 8 and He instructed them that they should take nothing for *their* journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belt— 9 but *to* wear sandals; and *He added*, “Do not put on two tunics.” 10 And He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. 11 “Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against them.” 12 They went out and preached that *men* should repent. 13 And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.

Again, He commissioned His disciples to go and operate in this authority. Why? So more people could be helped! Do you think Jesus was taking it easy while they were away? NO! He was always about His Father's business.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

This is our commission. We have been given this 'all authority.' We are to conduct our lives with this authority. How?

John 14:12-14

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. **13** And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask[a]anything in My name, I will do *it*.

The Name of Jesus is our power of attorney. We use the Name of Jesus to enforce what is lawful and stop what is unlawful. Heaven is our guideline. Whatever is lawful in Heaven can be enforced in the Earth. Whatever is unlawful in Heaven can be stopped in the Earth. How?

Matthew 18:18-20

18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say[a] to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. **20** For

where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Binding and loosing and confessions and decrees. Through these methods we declare what is allowed and what is not allowed in the Earth and, in particular, our lives and the lives of those we minister to!

We are well equipped to bring the reign of Heaven to Earth:

We have the Blood of Jesus.

We have the Name of Jesus.

We have the Word of our testimony.

We have the unction of Holy Spirit and His gifts.

And we have the authority to use this equipment!

[All Scripture is from the New King James version.]