

October 7, 2012

## **The Saints Authority In War**

*Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)*

*12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

At the return of Jesus Christ, one angel sent by God will put Satan into a pit for a 1,000 years (Rev 20:1-3). It is an authority issue, not a prayer issue. I imagine - when that day comes if the angel given 'the authority to chain Satan' turns to God, hands clasped in prayer, "Oh God Most High, I humbly ask now that you bind Satan as you have commanded" Or imagine the angel turns to God and says "But God, Satan is an angel like me." , what a travesty. This is our state today in the church. True - by prayer in faith and the Word of God we establish the fellowship with Him that keeps us close and controlled by Holy Spirit. However, prayer is not to apply the authority, but to ask for wisdom and discernment in applying the authority already released and given to the saints for our victory over Satan.

**First:** Before beginning this teaching, there is an assumption, a prerequisite that is an important part of this authority. The title declares it "The Saints". This is one that is born of God, born again, having received the spirit of God and has confessed faith in Jesus AND their submission to Him in all their life. This authority is exclusively for the Saints.


**Second:** Authority<sup>1</sup> is a delegated power and responsibility given to another by one having the power to delegate such actions and rights. God has given the Saints, authority - power to do what He does, therefore it is a responsibility to carry it out and not abdicate it back to the boss, the giver - God of the universe. Interesting fact is that authority is only functional with *acceptance* and *understanding* of that authority.

### James 4:7 (NIV)

7 **Submit yourselves, then, to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submit comes from the Greek word *Hupotasso*, meaning to submit first to God's authority in obedience. Then we have authority.

### Greek 5293, Strong's

**hupotasso**,  *hoop-ot-as'-so*; from Greek 5259 (*hupo*) and Greek 5021 (*tasso*); to *subordinate*; reflexive to *obey* :- be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

Therefore God's given authority is for the saints in active submission and obedience to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Let me simplify our focal verse:

We struggle (KJV says wrestle) or fight not with man but with the devil and his forces.

This simple truth has been so thwarted and misunderstood and I IGNORED. Woe to the teachers that ignore and do not teach the truth of the kingdom of God.

Satan's agenda is to destroy us, but Jesus came to give life and destroy the works of the devil. For it is written

### John 10:10 (KJV)

10 The thief [Satan] cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

### 1 John 3:8 (NIV)

8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Know this - It is God who shed His own blood that we who believe can have the victory in the war of good and evil, light and darkness. All that will be discussed is based on the love of God. (John 3:16) As new creations the Saints primary command is to love God and man. (Read 1 John where God is Love and we are to be like Jesus). The focal verse supports this indirectly, love man, hate the devil and his forces. So in love we stand and fight for Christ and who He died for, the world, mankind.

### Acts 20:28 (NIV)

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his

own blood.

### **Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)**

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

### **1 Peter 1:18-19(NIV)**

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

### **Psalm 107:2 (KJV)**

2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

### **Colossians 1:13-14 (KJV)**

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

PRAISE GOD !! With His shed blood we are redeemed , bought and now empowered to do God's work in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Once one can understand our focal verse, the victory over the enemy and our flesh is mostly conquered. WHY? Think about it. When we get upset or have been offended by someone, we focus our reactions, our offense (which is sin) on them. Eph 6:12 says it is not the man person (flesh and blood) but the enemy that is at the root of our struggles.

Now one needs to understand also that a demon, evil or unclean spirits are persons without a body. They have all the same emotions we do. You can see this in various scriptures through out the Bible that reveal their character and their own desires. I will use only one passage to show this truth.

The demon spirit who called himself 'legion' found in Matt 8, Mark 5 and Luke 8 shows various emotions and 'feelings'. These demons were frightened when they saw Jesus and came and fell at the feet of Jesus and 'shouted at the top of his voice' and the demons begged Jesus for mercy. Demons display sense of survival, desires and emotions as they begged Jesus not to torture them. They displayed reasoning asking Jesus to swear to God and ask to go into the pigs. They showed a sense of commitment asking not to be sent out of their assigned area.

### Mark 5:6-12 (NIV)

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.  
7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."  
10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them."

A demon can be said to be a 'person' without a body until they enter a man-person. So we, accordingly, can deal with them as such but with the power and authority given us to do so by Jesus our Lord without FEAR. For it is written:

### Luke 10:17-19 (NIV)

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

Snakes and scorpions represent the serpent of old, the devil, Satan. The scorpions are demons and evil spirits of darkness.

**To Trample** - This is not a passive and quiet thing but an active and aggressive response that the saints are to do in this war.

### James 4:7 (NIV)

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**Resist** - Likewise is active not passive.

Have you read this next verse with meditation and understanding - Listen and understand in the name of Jesus!

### Matthew 11:12 (KJV)

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

### Matthew 11:12 (NIV)

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

Understand - The kingdom of God is forcefully advancing because it is being violently and forcefully taken hold of by MEN because of the war with Satan ,

who is opposing and has set his anger against God and His Kingdom. God has given and we must receive it and advance the truths and liberties given us by the King of the Kingdom of God. For the devil, the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

The clearest way I can say it is - The **violent** and **forceful** are the ones bold in their faith in God, Christ Jesus and His Word (apart from His Word you can do nothing, John 15:5,7 BUT in Christ we can do all things, Phil 4:13 KJV). Then do not back down but persevere for the prize at all cost, even death, as they submit to God's way and truth and **resist** and **trample** our enemy, our adversary Satan under foot by God's grace and mercy to us that have believed in our hearts. The true disciples of Jesus, obey and do what He has commanded. (Matt 7:21)

#### **Romans 16:20 (NIV)**

20 The God of peace will soon **crush Satan under *your* feet**. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

God has given us ALL power over ALL Satan's power. Consider this, although we can not see the evil spirits, we have ALL power over them. This is how the battlefield is leveled and equalized. But **we must do it by faith** as God's elect, the saints.

#### **Romans 14:23b (NIV)**

23... and **everything that does not come from faith is sin**.

#### **1 John 4:4 (NIV)**

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, **because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world**.

Now that I have given a simple insight to love your brother and hate the enemy that comes to steal, kill and destroy, with violent resistance, You **must be careful** to resist falling captive to perverse thinking like the world, falling captive to traditions of man, **particularly religious traditions and doctrines**, that nullify the word of God.

#### **Mark 7:13 (NIV)**

13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

Here are two **crippling traditions and false teachings** that have given Satan, the demons, evil spirits and all the forces of darkness power to rule in the lives of the saints ----

1. It is up to God alone to control Satan and his attack against us and mankind and so we are taught to 'pray' that the Father will remove and guard you from the devil.
2. The devil has no power to control or *possess*<sup>2</sup> a saint who has received Holy Spirit.

It is true (read Job) that God can give a hedge of protection, but He has NOW, since Christ has descended and ascended back to the Father, given us the power and authority over Satan by His name and shed blood *as we watch and wait for His return*. At his return, one angel sent by God will put Satan into a pit for a 1,000 years (Rev 20:1-3). It is an authority issue, not a prayer issue. Imagine - when that day comes if the angel given 'the authority to chain Satan' turns to God, hands, clasped in prayer, "Oh God Most High, I humbly ask now that you bind Satan as you have commanded" Or imagine the angel turns to God and says "But God, Satan is an angel like me." , what a travesty. This is our state today in the church. True - by prayer in faith and the Word of God we establish the fellowship with Him that keeps us close and controlled by Holy Spirit. However, prayer is not to apply the authority, but to ask for wisdom and discernment in applying the authority already released and given to the saints for our victory over Satan.

Here is a fact - man is triune with spirit, soul and body (SSB) (Gen 2:7 & 1 Thess 5:23). The new birth of the spirit (John 3:3,5, 2 Cor 5:17) that is received by a believer in Jesus Christ is secure if we persevere in faith. It is our new spirit that is righteous (Rom 5:17) and without blemish (Col 1:22 NIV). However the body and soul remain without this newness, but must be transformed into the likeness of Christ (Rom 12:1-2, Col 2:8-9, Phil 2:12-13). By the Spirit of God, our spirit is given power and control over our body and soul based on OUR WILL. This is why we are still under the influence of our body and soul (carnal or flesh).

### **Colossians 3:12 (NIV)**

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

### **Romans 8:6 (KJV)**

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Daily we must set in our soul, our mind to obey Christ. For Paul wrote:

### **1 Corinthians 15:31 (NIV)**

31 I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **1 Corinthians 9:27 (NIV)**

27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Now with a new and empowered spirit, God works with us and enables us to work out this transformation of the body and soul as we wait for Jesus to return.

### **Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)**

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

The fear is that reverent fear of God who has loved us and given us redemption from our sins and our adversary the devil.

Satan continues to have access to us through our body, our 5 senses, and our mind that can influence or control our soul (mind, will and emotions). SSB teaching is not within the scope of this teaching, but is critical for the understanding of who we are and the battle we are in.

Again, until one is born of God, the spirit of man is dead (Gen 2:17; John 3:5), and can NOT understand, (1 Cor 2:14) or have the power of God to fight the god of this world, the father of lies, the god of the air, Satan and all his host and demons.

### **1 Corinthians 2:13-14 (NIV)**

13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

### **1 John 4:4-6 (NIV)**

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

When we sin the door is opened and sin, crouched at the door, enters and over time can *control so firmly* (possess) and do so much destruction that life is miserable.

But this is why God has given provision for our body and soul when we do sin.

### 1 John 1:9 (KJV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Since our spirit is without blemish (Col 1:22) and we have the gift of righteousness (Rom 5:17) this promise is for our weakness while in this perishing and mortal body and soul when we sin.

### Genesis 4:7 (NIV)

7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

'Master it' by Rom 8:6

### 1 John 3:8 (NIV)

8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Remember, Satan tempts through the body, the 5 senses and through your mind and this is why we MUST know the truth of who we are in Christ. We must know the Word of God so to filter all the thoughts and temptations of our mind (2 Cor 10:4-6). And to take captive by divine power those thoughts that are against God's Kingdom and righteousness.

Praise God, we have been given the authority (not just a position) to violently resist (Matt 11:12; James 4:7) and trample our enemy (Luke 10:19) so to reign in abundant life (John 10:10; Rom 10:17) and not a life of misery, deception and defeat, but victory.

### Romans 5:17 (NIV)

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the *gift of righteousness* reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

### John 10:10 (NIV)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

### John 14:6 (NIV)

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



This authority, a truth, is for the saints and not for the ungodly and unjust since they are condemned already (John 3:18). It is the '*gift of righteousness*' given the believer that now qualifies us an ambassador (2 Cor 5:20) to administer with power and rights. Be holy for I am holy said God. When led of the Spirit we walk and live holy and do not allow the devil to enter. We take captive every thought (mind) that is set against Christ by the divine power - authority given to us. (2 Cor 10:4-5, 2 Pet 1:3-4)

These next verses deal with the soul - mind, will and emotions.

### 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

8 **Be self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

### 1 Peter 1:13-16 (NIV)

13 Therefore, **prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled;** set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 **As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.** 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: **"Be holy, because I am holy."**

= Prepare your minds - Rom 12:1-2 and 2 Tim 2:15 KJV.

AGAIN

### Romans 8:6 (KJV)

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Now that the introduction is complete, let us look at the title given this study- ***The Saints Authority In War***, laying aside man's traditions and misconception of Satan's access to us when we sin or disobey.

Satan is real and roams about on this earth (Job 1:7; 1 Pet 5:8), where his kingdom is, the kingdom of darkness(2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:13). Satan is real though man generally and rarely can see demons and evil spirits of his kingdom except by divine intervention. Satan and all his authorities, rulers and spirits of darkness and demons have access to man. Proof - Satan was given access to tempt and deceive Adam and Eve and even the Christ, Jesus, the Son of God, God incarnate, Emmanuel. This remains true today for both the righteous and unrighteous, the saved and the lost, the just and the unjust...

But - PRAISE BE TO GOD Child of God, hear this and REJOICE, I say REJOICE... For it is written and declared by God -

### 1 John 3:8 (NIV)

8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning

from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

**1 John 3:8 (KJV)**

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

**John 1:14 (NIV)**

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)**

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

**2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)**

7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Divine power is given us, POWER - LOVE - SOUND MIND for our victory in Jesus is real when we resist, trample and declare God's Word which will NOT come back void (I sa 55:11 KJV)

Let us establish the reality of Satan from God's revealed word and the blessed hope and power and truth of Jesus Christ crucified, his death and resurrection. I will start with this passage found in Matt 16. Here, for the first time, the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God is revealed to the 12 Apostles when Jesus asked them "Who do you say I am."

**Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)**

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock ***I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*** 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

This statements is so peculiar to man in his own mind, yet so real and true. With great hindrance to the body of Christ, the church, it has been watered down, ignored and NOT taught to the saints as it should be. NOR HAVE THE SAINTS BEEN AGGRESSIVE TO SEEK THE TRUTH THROUGH GOD'S WORD(2 Tim 2:15,KJV).

Jesus, when recognized as God, DID NOT talk about all the benefits for the believer. Jesus immediately spoke about Satan, our adversary. The same creature who, in all his pride and arrogance, tempted Adam and Eve and who tempted God, Jesus Christ and all men to this very day. Jesus's response puts the importance out front in this new revealed truth. --SAYING -

#### **Matthew 16:19 (NIV)**

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Jesus had already sent them out - with a COMMAND - Preach - Cast out (drive out - a forceful action again) demons - Heal the sick - Raise the dead. They had seen and experienced the power in His Name. And with the revelation as the Christ and Son of God he clarifies their authority and power to loose and bind on earth. (Also see Matt 18:18-19)

#### **Matthew 10:1 (NIV)**

1 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Take note of this: There is an understood subject YOU as I have indicated in [ ].

#### **Matthew 10:7-8 (NIV)**

7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 [you] Heal the sick, [you] raise the dead, [you] cleanse those who have leprosy, [you] drive out demons. Freely you have received, [you] freely give.

#### **Mark 16:17 (NIV)**

17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

#### **Luke 9:1-2 (NIV)**

1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

#### **Luke 10:1, 17 (NIV)**

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go...

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

DO YOU BELIEVE???

I ASK AGAIN - DO YOU BELIEVE?

If so - I ask for your own thought and consideration.

Have you declared to others the message of Christ?

Have you cast out any demons?

Have you healed any sick?

Have you raised the dead (OR even know someone that has. Maybe we should consider the company we keep.)

Do not be drawn away with lies and false teachings for JESUS said.

### **John 14:12 (NIV)**

12 I tell you the truth, **anyone who has faith in me will do** what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

You and I are "anyone". The TRUTH of the matter is summed up in this verse 12 and can pierce the heart if you read and believe God's word.

But clearly if you are a child of God and submitted to the Lordship of Jesus, we have these assurances because of His grace. These scriptures are 'there for us to know' - **Therefore** even if you have not walked and obeyed as instructed by our Lord Christ Jesus - Know this -

### **Romans 8:1 (NIV)**

1 **Therefore**, there is **now no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus,

And we all continue in faith by GRACE (Rom 5:17)

### **Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)**

12 **Therefore**, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--**continue to work out your salvation** with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

### **Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)**

1 **Therefore**, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)**

1 **Therefore**, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, **but be transformed by**

the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

God's grace abounds to us - but know this too His grace does **not** release us from the truth of His Word or release us from the responsibility of the authority given us.

**Therefore** ...

Renew your mind, your SOUL, in faith - Believing in your heart His Word!

Now here is a powerful scripture that ALL saints should memorize, practice and know it is of God for all who believe. We have already looked at it but again -

**Luke 10:18-19 (NIV)**

18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Seeing these scriptures that are specific to what the Saints, the children of God, have been given TO DO in the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD, why do we not see it happening? Again, it is because of the skewed and twisted teachings coming from traditions of man, the mind of man and not the Spirit of the Lord. And mostly by our own lack of study of the Word of God in spirit and truth. God, Jesus called them a *perverse*<sup>3</sup> generation then and now.

**Matthew 17:17 (NIV)**

17 "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me."

**Luke 9:41 (NIV)**

41 "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."

Oh yes, he called his 12 appointed and chosen apostles UNBELIEVING and PERVERSE after sending them out as shown in the verses above. So it is today - *Perverse* thinking! This is because we have not changed our thinking (repent) to agree with this truth of the Kingdom of God, His ways and His Word.

Remember it is written:

**Romans 14:23 (NIV)**

23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

### James 1:6-7 (NIV)

6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

Let us step back a few page or so and pick up with the thought that was expressed about Matt 16 passage. At the revelation of Jesus as Son of God, Jesus proclaims that Satan's power against the church would not prevail or have victory over us.

### Matthew 16:18 (KJV)

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Now consider this truth from the word of God. Jesus is God (John 1:1, Act 20:28) who shed His own blood for remission of our sins. When we study the miracles of Jesus we find that all the miracles Jesus did were also done by the prophets of OT either in type or similar- such as water to wine - water to blood, stops the storm - divides the sea, even causes a head of an ax to float, raise the dead, heal the sick, feed the 5,000 - provide manna for 40 years. However there is one miracle that you will NOT find in the OT. Did you guess it? **It is casting out demons!** This mighty and powerful thing was to destroy the work of the devil, to set the captives free and prove that the Jesus was the Christ.

### Luke 4:18-19 (KJV)

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

When Jesus did this powerful thing, he was called an agent of the devil, Beelzebub.

But Jesus said,

### Matthew 12:28 (NIV)

28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God<sup>4</sup> has come upon you.

### Luke 11:20 (NIV)

20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

When Jesus first began to preach He said,

### **Matthew 4:17 (NIV)**

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.**"

Here I will show another teaching that is of great importance without discussion.

**Repent** - means change your thinking or change your mind, not just stop sinning, for if you do not change your thinking you will continue to sin.

**Perverse**, as we have seen, is thinking wrong to the point of 'obstinate'. (see footnote at end of text)

Jesus is telling us to *repent* and agree with the Kingdom of God that He has now brought to us and to which has given us the keys to His kingdom of truth and life (John 14:6).

When Jesus began to cast out demons, it declared His power. And then He confirmed His power in the resurrection of His body. This also was to show what He said was true - "Repent for the Kingdom of God is near". Not only did this unique power prove who He is, but when we believe and obey Him and do the same thing Jesus did, it proves we are children of God, sons of God.

### **John 14:12 (NIV)**

12 I tell you the truth, **anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.** He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

The great commission says we are to 'teach to obey'

### **Matthew 28:20 (NIV)**

20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Why has 'casting out demons and evil spirits' been so neglected? It is the results of *perverse* thinking, man's traditions ALL coming from the power of the devil in his delusions and lies.... WHY do we tolerate the defeated adversary? - Cast him out and be free and renew our minds with the truth, the Word (John 17:17).

### **Luke 11:28 (NIV)**

28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

### **Matthew 11:6 (NIV)**

6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

### **Luke 12:8 (NIV)**

8 "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God.

### **Luke 9:26 (NIV)**

26 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

I agree to what I heard one man say "Life is not a play ground - it is a battlefield". The fiery darts or arrows that are poking - releasing disappointing events - trials of all kinds -sickness - ungodly soulish (carnal) actions are from the devil. Since this is the TRUTH, we must walk and live in the love of God for all men as revealed and demonstrated by Jesus, the Word, the Son of God, Emmanuel, God with us, **God who** manifested to destroy the works of the devil, by His Name and shedding His own blood as a man to redeem us from our enemy, the devil. Jesus has demonstrated His authority and then He has given us the same authority.

When Jesus cast out a demon or demons, He did not turn to the Father and ask Him to do it. We MUST take the authority, receive it, having faith in God by the name of Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords and DO WHAT HE HAS COMMANDED.

Declare the Kingdom of God  
Cast out demons  
Heal the sick  
Set the captives free  
Declare the acceptable day of the Lord

Jesus said to Saul on that glorious day He called and sent him, before he was sent as Paul. This verse I do not ever recall hearing it preached but is powerful and direct for us all - since we, those who believe - are to GO into all the world...

### **Acts 26:17-18 (NIV)**

17 ... I am sending you to them [Gentiles] 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

As shown and hopefully given every reader a deeper and more clear understanding of Christ the King of grace, came the first time in that Grace. BUT He came in attitude of war with all power by first defeating Satan (Matt 4). Then by giving us the same power and authority to violently do the job given us as shown in ALL the scriptures present here. Take special note of Act 26:17-18 for Paul. Also remember Peter, Matt 16:18-19. Both these great men, when recognizing who Jesus was, Jesus showed his war attitude against Satan, the enemy of God.



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**James 1:22 (NIV)**

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

\*\*\*\*\*

Will you be Doer - or just a listener? ? ?

This is ONLY one PART of the Saints life. But without it, one can not have the victory given us to its abundance! ! And of course, this authority is ONLY because of Jesus and by His name! By His shed blood! By His power, the resurrection power. That power that raised Jesus from the grave.

STUDY this and PRACTICE IT so you can stand and stand firm.

**BELIEVE-for a double minded man will receive nothing from God (Jam 1:6-8)**

NOW - all this said - The key is to Love, to Love God and man and to be known by God. He knows those who trust Him (Nahum 1:7 KJV) and those who love Him (1 Cor 8:3) If we love Him we obey his commands (John 14:14,21). It is not just to be able to cast out demons (Matt 7:21-23). We must be fully submitted to our King and have a close, intimate relationship with him, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be blessed and encouraged as you study asking Holy Spirit to teach you.

I agree with this prayer and offer it for you today:

**Ephesians 1:17-19 (NIV)**

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also 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 the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul and all that is with in us, Bless Your Holy Name.

In Christ

Billy<sup>5</sup>

## Footnotes and Comments


### 1. Page 1 - For our understanding of definition of 'authority' take note of 2a,b and 4b below.

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**au•thor•i•ty** \i -"thär-i -tĒ, Ō-, -"thŌr-\ **noun** pl **au•thor•i•ties** [ME *auctorite*, fr. OF *auctorité*, fr. L *auctoritat-*, *auctoritas* opinion, decision, power, fr. *auctor*] (13c)

- 1 a (1) : a citation (as from a book or file) used in defense or support  
(2) : the source from which the citation is drawn
- b (1) : a conclusive statement or set of statements (as an official decision of a court)  
(2) : a decision taken as a precedent  
(3) : TESTIMONY
- c : an individual cited or appealed to as an expert
- 2 a : power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior  
b : freedom granted by one in authority : RIGHT
- 3 a : persons in command; *specif* : GOVERNMENT  
b : a governmental agency or corporation to administer a revenue-producing public enterprise <the transit authority>
- 4 a : GROUNDS, WARRANT <had excellent authority for believing the claim>  
b : convincing force <lent authority to the performance> **syn** see influence, power

Luke 10:19 God gives the believer the power (Greek - *exousia*) or authority - a unique and specific word which is so clear to the full and complete power, ability, and privilege of the believer.

**exousia**, Greek 1849, Strong's **sexousia**,  *ex-oo-see'-ah*; from Greek 1832 (*exesti*) (in the sense of *ability*); *privilege*, i.e. (subject) *force, capacity, competency, freedom*, or (object) *mastery* (concrete *magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control*), delegated *influence* :- **authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.**

### 2. Page 6 - Here you will find a Webster's Dictionary definition of 'possess'. In society today this word is almost always associated with 'ownership'. However you must understand when speaking about demon-possession, it is not about ownership but as 2.b below shows - 'to enter into and control firmly' is the proper definition of the demon-possession.

The Greek word that is translated 'possess or possessed' is

Greek 1139, Strong's **daimonizomai**, *dahee-mon-id'-zom-ahēe*; middle from Greek 1142 (*daimon*); to *be exercised by a demon* :- have a (be vexed with, be possessed with) devil (-s).

To be demonized, controlled by invisible being is NOT an ownership issue and MUST be understood so to fully grasp and receive the truth of God's word concerning the battle we are in. For sure scriptures says we that believe have been bought for a price, redeemed by the blood of Jesus. It is our spirit that is born again, righteous and free from Satan's access. However the body and soul remain accessible to our own fleshly acts as well as the the temptation and control of the devil when we sin and do not guard our souls.

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**pos•sess** \pi -"zes also -"ses\ [ME, fr. MF *possessert* to have possession of, take possession of, fr. L *possessus*, pp. of *possidĒre*, fr. *potis* able, having the power + *sedĒre* to sit — more at POTENT, SIT] (14c)

*verb transitive*

- 1 a : to have and hold as property : OWN  
b : to have as an attribute, knowledge, or skill
- 2 a : to take into one's possession  
b : to enter into and control firmly : DOMINATE <was possessed by demons>  
c : to bring or cause to fall under the influence, possession, or control of some emotional or intellectual reaction <melancholy possesses her>
- 3 a *obs* : to instate as owner  
b : to make the owner or holder — used in passive construction to indicate simple possession <possessed of riches> <possessed of knowledge and experience>

**pos•ses•sor** *noun*

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per•verse

- 1**   **a** : turned away from what is right or good : CORRUPT  
      **b** : IMPROPER, INCORRECT  
      **c** : contrary to the evidence or the direction of the judge on a point of law <perverse verdict>
- 2**   **a** : obstinate in opposing what is right, reasonable, or accepted : WRONGHEADED  
      **b** : arising from or indicative of stubbornness or obstinacy
- 3**       : marked by peevishness or petulance : CRANKY **syn** see CONTRARY

**4. Page 14** - Here is another subtle issue about our subject. Matthew was a tax collector but was called Levi in the other gospels. Possible due to the Levi priesthood heritage revealed in his name, one of the unique things Matthew did was show his Jewish reverential reluctance to use the name of God. In particular, he wrote 'heaven' for 'God' whenever he referred to God's kingdom. He wrote 'Kingdom of heaven' instead 'Kingdom of God'. OH, but here in this verse, Matt 12:28, to express the absolute power of God, Matthew writes "Kingdom of God. And notice, this is to declare Jesus is of God by the casting out of demons.

In the book of Matthew, the author uses Kingdom of God only four (4) times compared to the 31 times he uses Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew is also the only book that you will find the phrase, Kingdom of heaven.

**5. Page 17**

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