

Exercising Your Authority in Prayer



“Many in the church today are being held captive spiritually, not because of the enemy’s power, but because we do not clearly understand our authority and calling in Christ... As we begin to understand the hope of His calling, we will begin to walk in an abundant life of freedom and power.”

Most Christians do not realize or exercise the tremendous authority they have in Christ. God has called us to make a difference on earth. He wants us to rule it. He can enforce His will, but He limits His dealings on earth by working through His people. He does not want us to passively stand by and watch the earth fall into decay (Psalm 8:4-6, 115:16). But if we were to evaluate the situation, isn’t this what many Christians are doing? How many of us exercise our authority? This needs to change.

God has given us authority on earth to rule. It may not feel like it, but it’s true. He does nothing on earth unless he does it through a person. He always intended to rule the earth but through His delegated authority in mankind (Genesis 1:26). We were to carry out the government of the earth, but man (through Adam and Eve) gave it away through disobedience. You know the story.

Adam transferred authority over the earth to Satan (Luke 4:4, 2 Corinthians 4:4). All of mankind was then under his dominion. God did not give Satan authority over the earth, Adam did. We needed someone to stand between us, and Satan, to break that dominion. Jesus was the only one who could. He came as a man completely fulfilling God’s will and became our intercessor - the one Who could join us to God again and break Satan’s headship over us (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus purchased us with his blood (Revelation 5:9, 1 Timothy 2:5), and not only restored us to God, He became the way that God could again have dominion over the earth (1 Cor. 15, Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus could now rule in the affairs of earth, but He has given us authority to rule, and through prayer we exercise our authority in Christ.

We are called to pray and seek justice on the earth on behalf of others. Through breakthrough prayer not only can we break the personal strongholds in our lives, but we can impact our cities and nations. The world lies in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19). Look around and you see this everywhere. Jesus has authority in heaven and on earth, but since He is no longer on the earth, he rules through his Church. He changes things on earth through us. We must learn to exercise our authority right in the middle of Satan's territory. Exodus 15:3 says, "The Lord is a mighty warrior: the Lord is his name." As we use our authority, we can subdue powers and principalities (Ephesians 3:10).

"Praise be to the Lord, my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle."

Psalm 144:1

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