

Gaining Authority

I. Intro

- A. Many people believe that the work on the cross automatically gave all believers all authority. I believe in looking in the Word and believers throughout history that the cross won all authority that believers have access to, however there are ways shown in scripture of how we actually access it.
- B. Power vs authority: ability vs right/gun verses badge. Authority is more than just having access to power - it's accessing power in the right way.
- C. Today we want to talk about 3 areas we see that increase our authority: 1. Dependency, 2. Identity, 3. Overcoming

II. Authority from Dependency

- A. Authority comes from *dependency*, even with Jesus

“Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.” John 5:19

“I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” John 5:30

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13

- B. Dependency:

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Cor 12:9-10

(Flip side: “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Phil 4:13)

“Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved....Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it.” SOS 8:5-7

- C. The thought process that Jesus has all authority and gave it to us, and therefore we now have it independently of Him is error. These verses make it clear that the authority comes through dependency on the person of the Holy Spirit. Everything starts with God, not us.

III. Authority from Identity (Scott)

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus” Eph 2:4-6

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Rom 8:9-11

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— Col 1:21-22

“22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all [a]and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified [b]freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a [c]propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed” Rom 3:22-25

“14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Heb 4:14-16

IV. Authority through Overcoming Difficulty

“Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters*, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” Matt 24:12-13

Rev 2-3: “to him who overcomes...”

- A. There is an authority that comes either be having a personal weakness and overcoming or going through difficulty or warfare and overcoming.

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.” Job 42:5

- B. Going through hard times is meant to learn the enemy's devices in the specific area so that we gain authority over them in that area, they lose power, and strategy can be created for others in the kingdom to overcome. (Rees Howells "Gain Position")
- C. Going through hard times can be a hugely successful tool for gaining authority, however it's not automatic. The purpose of going through a hard time is to eventually coming out overcoming, not to get stuck in victimhood. There is a twisted wilderness syndrome where people believe that God wants us to be habitually weak and stay that way from struggle. The Lord wants us weak to *our own strength* and *dependent* to where He is the source, but this gives us *greater authority* against the enemy than we've ever had. This brings Him glory.