

# Authority and Faith

By B.D.Tate

**We cannot exercise faith without authority. Authority is realized through faith in God's Word.** Therefore, authority and faith go hand in hand working together. Faith without authority is weak, disconnected, and almost worthless. Authority will not become a force within us until we take God's Word to heart and obey it—through Faith.

## A CENTURION'S FAITH!

Matt. 8:5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

9 **"For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me.** And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

10 When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

11 "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12 "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, *so* let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

This account is remarkable for Jesus said the Centurion exhibited "great" faith. The most distinguishing element of the Centurion's faith was **his recognition of authority**. Authority for any soldier is very familiar known as the chain of command. Great

discipline is needed to maintain that authority from the Generals to the infantry soldier. **The centurion explains it well by saying as a man under authority I have authority—this also explains why he was a centurion!** Obedience to authority produces authority! All authority comes from God and when you and I resist it we are resisting God (Rom. 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.). The only authority we are **not** to submit to is authority being exercised *counter to the Word of God*. If we can grasp this principle that we only have authority in God’s kingdom *as we submit* to God’s authority then our faith will **leap forward with confidence**.

As a *sales representative* I had authority to make sales calls and present the company’s products. As long as I was under the company’s will I operated freely. The more I practiced as a sales representative the more confidence I gained. The more confidence I gained the more positive authoritative energy I put forth and the more successful I was. I would get into trouble if I didn’t know answers to questions and started making things up or making promises that the company hadn’t authorized me to make.

The chain of command and being under authority is an issue for everyone. Many teenagers begin to buck against the authority of their parents feeling that once they are on their own no one is going to tell them what to do. Many Parents make the mistake of teaching their children that obeying their parental authority is conditioned upon “just because I say so,” and not upon the authority of God’s word. Young adults only obeyed at home until their parents aren’t around believing that the only reason they should obey is because mom or dad are providing for them. *This type of conditional obedience* leads to the wrong conclusion that authority only exists while someone is dependent or living at home. When a son or daughter becomes an adult reasoning that he/she can establish their own rules just like mom and dad did—the foundation for understanding authority is lost. For the Christian, mom and dad should be **making it clear that the rules of the house are not of their own authority but from the Word of God**. Moms and dads are also **by example to be under the authority of God’s Word**. If mom and dad claim to love God,

claim to believe in Jesus, and claim they have faith, but do not submit to the Word of God their example is very poor and misleading to their children. Faith not under the authority of God, the Word, and in an intimate relationship with Christ is weak at best—if it exists at all.

**Consider how important authority is.** Authority is the right and authorization to speak or act. Authority is not based in our own life but the source comes from God. **Representative authority is only a good as that which it represents.** An Ambassador from a small or poor country has little weight while an Ambassador from the United States has great respect. A sales representative from a company with a reputation for lying, mishandling product, sending the wrong stuff, delaying shipments, for overcharging, or having bad service will find it hard to exercise influence on potential customers. On the other hand, a company that is honest producing a very competitive product, good pricing and excellent service will find that their representatives will be received and heard.

Authority requires knowledge and understanding. If a police officer doesn't know the law nor acts with confidence in his/her job, the public will be in a dangerous position. **Rebellious people do not submit to wimps or ignorance but rather take advantage of it.** Ronald Reagan's philosophy in regards to the Soviet Union was peace through strength. Knowing your opponent and what they respect is also important. Authority recognizes the need to be informed and trained. We train our police for example to act with authority. It takes confidence to walk out into the middle of a busy street and raise you hand to an on coming car to stop it. Authority produces this confidence because of the right and authorization to act in the public's interest.

Likewise our faith is representative as Ambassadors of Christ. Our authority comes from the highest level. The company we represent is superior and capable of working miracles. In fact, nothing is impossible with our company. **Our authority is dependent upon our knowledge and understanding** of the situation we are in. We are Ambassadors to a fallen world given the name of Jesus to set people free, to deliver the captives, to

bring sight to the blind, to cast out devils and destroy the works of the devil. We not only have his name we have His Spirit within us. When evil sees us they see Jesus.

Jesus said, Mt 10:40 "**He who receives you receives Me**, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

John 13:20 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives **whomever I send receives Me**; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

**Authority has everything to do with faith.** If people can convince us that our authority does not include here and now then we won't exercise it. If Satan can get us to believe that our authority was only for a certain few disciples and apostles then we will have doubt in exercising it. If we do not know in our hearts what God has empowered and commissioned us to do then we will miss it spending our days living far less than sons and daughters of God.

If someone comes into your house how long will you wait until you stop them from changing the furniture around or taking down your pictures? How long will you wait until you stop them from taking your tools, food, car, or money? What gives them the right to enter your place and decide what goes on in your house or your yard for that matter? Only the owners have authority and those they commission. We have laws against trespassing, breaking and entering, and the police will back up the homeowner with power to arrest, restrain, or even more.

Jesus said Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

19 "**Go therefore** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "**teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Ro 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those **who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**)

How long will we let what Jesus died to provide go unattended? How long will we accept as normal, respectable by the world, or reasonable by other brothers and sisters in Christ, a vague Christian life with little or no power? We've been made joint heirs with Christ, we've been given His name, and shall we continue to live as if that means nothing? As long as Satan can convince us that the promises of God *have no dominion in this life but are for the next life*, he'll continue to steal, kill, and destroy us. We are in a war and God has given to us all things that pertain to this life and godliness (II Pet. 1:3). He has given us the power to overcome the enemy because **as He is, so are we IN THIS WORLD.**

1Jo 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

Mark 16: 15 And He said to them, "**Go into all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 "**And these signs will follow those** who believe: **In My name** they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."**

19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.** Amen.

1Jo 5:4 For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world**. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Lu 10:19 "**Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

We are being robbed from in this life if we do not from our heart understand the authority that belongs to believers. For us to operate in God's authority it is all related to how much we come under God's authority. The centurion was promoted in the Roman Army because his superiors trusted him, recognized his submission and obedience to authority. Businesses generally promote those that are cooperative, submissive to the company's programs, subordinate to authority, trustworthy and loyal, etc. As we live to God yielding our life to the Spirit we are coming under God's authority more and more. **The more we submit to God's kingdom the more authority we'll exercise.**

Authority is exercised with confidence not doubt or timidity. Authority comes from the heart not from the head. Authority demonstrates and speaks in accordance or agreement with God's authority. It takes faith, that knows, to recognize and embrace Godly authority. Because we believe God our faith responds with boldness, righteous indignation, assertiveness, *perseverance*, patience, and discernment. When we do not act in authority we are not recognizing what Christ has provided us. We are being misled and deceived by religious tradition, worldly thinking, and demonic trickery.

Authority in God's kingdom doesn't reside in *special people* it resides solely in Christ Jesus. There is no respecter of persons with God He has authorized the Spirit of Christ to dwell in every believer. God is after sons and daughters not servants, slaves, and some ruling class. Authority is humility and honor acknowledging the true source and stewardship in using the name of Jesus. Christian authority doesn't overstep Christ but NEITHER DOES IT UNDER STEP! We are to become single minded about the power and authority of God's word in us through Christ our Lord. We are His feet, His hands, His mouth, His body, **doing the same things, with the same Spirit for the same reasons as Christ did while on the earth.** Authority acts on behalf of another (Jesus) because we believe God's Word commissioned us to go in His name.

Authority operates under authority and within authorities. Consider this: Ps 105:7 He *is* the LORD our God; **His judgments**

**are in all the earth.** There are many judgments (or authorities) in the earth. Like a piano with many keys a trained musician can make beautiful music; however, an untrained person makes noise with the keys that can sound awful. Our lives live in a world of judgments or authorities that if we recognize them we can operate within them. A life in harmony with God's authorities is fulfilling, peaceful, in harmony but that life must be in subjection to these authorities. We cannot ignore them resist and act arrogantly towards them for we will smart for it. These authorities include but not limited to: talent, skill, knowledge, experience, timing & opportunity, respect, representative authority, wisdom, humility, parental authority, ownership, strength, power, intelligence, position, confidence, natural laws, spiritual laws of grace & faith, transgression, forgiveness, opinion, will, choice, truth, justice, mercy, kindness, etc.

With this in mind we cannot over ride the will of another but when permission is given we have the kingdom of heaven behind us to work the will of God in anyone's life. When people ask for prayer we must find out what they **can believe God for** because our prayers are limited by what they believe and approve. No one can be saved without that person's approval. God is *not* involved with witchcraft which seeks to over ride the will of another. All of this is to say that **faith and authority** must work together **for God's will to be done**. We can't exercise faith when we don't have authority to do so. And we can't exercise authority when our faith doesn't believe God's Word or **under God's authority**.

It is the **personal relationship** in the Holy Spirit that brings to our hearts the revelation of true authority in our life. As our relationship with God is so is our revelation of our authority in God. Someone who is devoted to the Lord, walking in the Spirit, gaining knowledge of the Holy One, studying and understanding spiritual things that is the person who is *under authority* and **therefore has authority**. Authority comes by faith and faith knows God's Will because it knows God's Word; however **our willingness to exercise our authority in Christ is directly related to our personal relationship with Him**. The deeper our

trust, love, and devotion in Christ, the bolder, the more **we sense the movement, trust the leading, experience the witness of the Holy Spirit and recognize His voice.** Furthermore, our conscience having been purged by the Holy Spirit does not condemn us and so our purity of heart from receiving and walking in forgiveness produces in us boldness and a *rising tide* of authority. Our authority comes because we believe Jesus, trust the Holy Spirit, and humbly recognize the grace that Christ provided.

Philemon 1:6 “that the sharing of your faith (authority) may become **effective by the acknowledgment** of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”

As we acknowledge everything that is in us through Christ Jesus our faith becomes more effective. That effectiveness is based in God’s Word and authority. God’s Word and authority working with faith is established through our relationship to God. That relationship is founded upon **God’s Love.** **Simply put our faith and authority will grow as our love of God grows.**