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Recap

Last time we met, we started looking at some ***practicalities*** of spiritual warfare. We introduced the concepts of idolatry, divination, witchcraft, and sorcery.

Let's awaken to the power of Jesus' Name!

In this session and the next, we'll focus on the ministry of deliverance.

- The casting out of evil spirits was an important part of Jesus' ministry.
- After His ascension, the Church carried on His ministry of deliverance.
- Every Christian needs to understand the concepts of *authority in the Name of Jesus* and *having faith in the Name of Jesus*.
- An *exorcism* is something different from the simple New Testament ministry of *casting out demons*.

Jesus had authority within Himself

"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick... When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one [cont'd]

could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, ‘What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’ Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, ‘If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.’ And He said to them, ‘Go’” (Matthew 8:16, 28-32a).

- Notice: Jesus casts out demons with a word of command.
- Laying on of hands involves a release of **power**, while a word of command involves a release of God’s **authority**.

“Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, ‘What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out’” (Luke 4:36); “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me... to proclaim liberty to the captives...” (Isaiah 61:1 ff.).

Unlike Jesus, we do not have authority in ourselves. We must be **given** authority.

Power and Authority; Jesus authorizes the Twelve

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them **power and authority** over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And He said to them, ‘Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And whoever will not receive you, [cont’d]

when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.’ So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere” (Luke 9:1-6).

- The word for *power* here is the Greek word *dunamis*, which speaks of the active power of God. Authority is the Greek word *exousia*.
- Power and authority are two different concepts. Power speaks of ability or strength. Authority, on the other hand, speaks of the **right** to act. Authority is not about raw power; it’s about having permission to act. For example, a police officer has a weapon but has also been authorized.
- English Bible translations often confuse the words “power” and “authority.” Some word study may be needed if we are to determine which word is being used. Authority is the right to act, and that includes the use of power, when necessary, to accomplish your will.
- Demons, unlike human beings, will submit to the authority of Jesus’ Name.
- Jesus cast out demons with a command, and presumably the Twelve did, too.

Jesus authorizes the Seventy

“And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’” (Luke 10:9).

But notice what they later reported to Jesus: “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name’” (Luke 10:17).

After the Ascension, the Apostles (and others) use the Name of Jesus

Review the famous story found in Acts 3, when Peter healed the lame man.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.... 11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon’s, greatly amazed. 12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus... 16 And **His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong**, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. (See Acts 3:1ff.)

The authorities then arrested Peter and John and questioned them: “And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what power or by what name have you done this?’” (Acts 4:7); “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ‘If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole’” (4:8-10).

When we see people being healed and delivered in the Name of Jesus, it tells us that God wants to magnify the Name of the Lord!

Let's talk about names...

Names were believed to reveal a person's nature or character.

- To use a person's name means to stand in the place of that person.
- In Israel, you could appoint someone to use your name and act on your behalf.
- In our culture, a power of attorney serves a similar function.

“What kind of name?”

In Jesus' day, they understood that you could use another person's name, and that names could carry spiritual power. The Jewish religious leaders understood that healing could come through the exercise of **power** or by using a **name**.

Understanding the flow of authority

What if you had the right to use the Name of the Man whom God put in charge of the Universe? What does the Bible tell us about the authority of believers in Christ?

1. The Father is the Source of all authority.
2. Jesus then gave us His authority, and His Name.
3. We can now exercise His authority, according to the principles of God's Word.

This is why Jesus was impressed with the faith of the centurion. The centurion understood how authority works. We also can—and should—develop a strong faith in the Name of Jesus!

1. Understand the POWER of the Name Of Jesus

We need to understand how much authority God has placed in Jesus' Name.

1. The Bible says that God has made Jesus to be Lord.

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter told the crowd, "...let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

2. Jesus' Name has been exalted by God.

"...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:8b-11).

3. Jesus has been seated at the right hand of God.

This is the highest place of authority anywhere! When the Bible says that Christ has been seated at the right hand of the Father, it means everything has been placed under His feet. He is exercising all His Father's authority.

“[God] seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church...” (Ephesians 1:20-22).

2. Understand the **PRIVILEGE** to use the Name of Jesus

When Jesus received authority from His Father, He didn't give His authority to the whole human race. The right to use another man's name requires that he specifically **give** you that right.

Jesus said that the authority of His Name belongs to those who **believe** in Him. He said, “And these signs will follow those who **believe**: in My name they will cast out demons...” (Mark 16:17ff.).

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore...” (Matthew 28:18-19). That makes no sense unless, by saying that, He was also giving them the right to use his Name. People who are **not** in relationship with God through Christ cannot exercise the authority of Christ.

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, [cont'd]

“Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. (Acts 19:13-17)

3. Understand the **PURPOSE** of using the Name of Jesus

What is God’s purpose in giving us the Name of Jesus? I believe He has several.

1. God wants to magnify the Name of Jesus.

When those exorcists were defeated, the Name of Jesus got honor. Unbelievers saw that it was a Name like no other. “[T]he Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him” (John 5:22-23).

2. God wants to demonstrate Jesus’ true identity.

In *Acts*, the power of Jesus’ Name shows He truly is who the Apostles said He was.

3. God wants us to continue Jesus’ mission, by using His Name.

Through Jesus’ Name, we not only continue His **works**, but we’re called to continue His **Work** – telling people the Good News of the Kingdom and inviting them into it!
