

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

**BY J.P. TIMMONS
DECEMBER 23, 2012
© 2012 CCI PUBLISHING
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

“One day as he was teaching the people in the Temple courts and preaching the gospel, the Chief priests and the teachers of the law, Together with the elders, came up to him. ‘Tell us by what authority you are doing these Things,’ they said. ‘Who gave you this Authority?’” Ω Luke 20:1-2

**“All authority in heaven and on earth has been Given to me. Go therefore and make disciples Of all nations, baptizing them in the name ...”
Ω Matthew 28:18**

The Bible is my favorite book not just because it's a supernatural book from Heaven that contains the Word of God but also because it is filled with humour as well as wisdom and knowledge. Now the first scripture above is one of the most humorous in all of the Scriptures. It ranks ahead of Pharaoh asking for “one more night” with the frogs and the Philistine King of Gath, Achish's response when David feigned madness: “Am I so short of madmen that you brought this fellow here?”

It's also perhaps the most rhetorical question in all of the Bible. The so called religious leaders of Jesus' day knew that He had authority

because they saw signs and wonders throughout the 3 ½ years of His ministry. In fact, in one of the most *known* chapters in the Bible, John 3, Nicodemus—who was one of the highest religious officials—a member of the Sanhedrin and a Pharisee stated: “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God ...” Who is the “we” Nicodemus is referring to? The religious leaders of course! The same ones who are now asking Jesus “from whom” He gets His authority? Now what reason does Nicodemus give for *why* they knew that Jesus was “a teacher sent from God?” The answer is also in John 3:2, “... for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

When the Lord first put it in my heart to write *Mysterious Secrets of the Dark Kingdom* I meditated a long time over the title and felt led to add the subtitle: *The Battle for Planet Earth*. Why is there still a battle going on for Planet Earth if all authority belongs to Jesus? Last year when we were interviewed on Christian television here in the USA I asked a question: “With all the churches in this community, why is the devil still in charge?” In most communities there is about 1 church for every 50 people. The answer to this question goes to spiritual authority—what is it? Who has it? How do you exercise it? What does it do? Why isn’t it being used, etc.?

Now in Luke 4 as well as the other gospels we find what is called, “The Temptation of Jesus.” And if you read and meditate on this you will learn some important facts, the first one of which is that if you’re going into battle against the devil himself you’d better fast and pray! This is the only time that Jesus fasted 40 days. Now you must also recognize that the statements that the devil made to Jesus were not *all* of the temptations! No, He was being tempted the whole time. But the Scriptures only record three and the fact that there were more is further amplified in 4:13, “And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.”

But notice Luke 4:5-6, “And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world *in a moment of time* (italics added for emphasis; this demonstrates the power of Satan), and said to him, ‘To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.’”

So at the beginning of Jesus' ministry the spiritual authority—and remember the spirit realm dominates the physical realm—over the earth belonged to Satan. At the end of Jesus' ministry on the earth as noted in Matthew 28 above, however, that had changed—now this authority belonged to Jesus, the Second Adam. And because Jesus possesses this authority He also can “give it to whom I will.”

And we know from the New Testament Scriptures that this authority of Jesus continued to be exercised by the Apostles (Jesus appointed the 12 apostles+70 others who were apostles because they were “sent ones”) during His ministry and there are another 22 apostles by name listed. Further, it's quite clear that this authority was exercised through the other Five-fold offices as well as deacons because Philip—one of the first seven deacons who was later promoted to the Five-fold office of evangelist—is named in Acts 8.

Therefore, as Christ's ambassadors and servants, every single Christian is empowered to “cast out demons”; “heal the sick”; “raise the dead”; perform signs, wonders and miracles by virtue of Jesus giving this spiritual authority to His Church as well as the Holy Spirit giving spiritual gifts to every Christian. So, again, *why* is the devil still in charge of your community if you and other Christians have been given the authority to make him leave? When will the true Church arise and obey the commandments of the Lord? All Heaven is waiting for this to occur.

How Spiritual Authority is Exercised

As I've written and preached for 30 years, every Christian has a three-fold anointing from the Holy Spirit—prophet, priest and king. The kingly anointing that we inherited from Jesus is how we exercise spiritual authority over the earth. That authority is through the spoken word (*cf. Matthew 8:5, 21:19, et al.*) by faith just like Jesus did! When you begin to speak the Word over your household, finances, circumstances, community, etc., then they will change and line up with the spoken word. It won't happen overnight but it will happen and

the more you do it and the more Christians in your prayer group who do it the quicker will be the results. I guarantee it! If you want to stop abortion, drive out the X-rated video stores, drug dealers, etc., in your community then you form a prayer group of 3 or more people and begin to speak the word over the situation and it will change. Praise the Lord! We are called Christians which means “little Christ” so we should act like it! We should act like Jesus and expect our words to produce for the Kingdom of God.

We are in the Christmas Season where Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. But we must remember, Jesus didn't just come to take away the sins of man. He came for many reasons but the main one we must remember if we are to fulfill God's plan for our lives is: “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the work of the devil” (1 John 3:8). Jesus is called “the Prince of Peace” but there can be no peace as long as the devil is “killing, stealing and destroying” people in your community. As Jesus' representative, are you destroying the work of the devil? Whether we like it or not, there is a battle going on for Planet Earth, our children, communities and nation. That battle must be won by every Christian exercising their three-fold anointing! Get started today in your community by teaching and training other Christians to accomplish this goal.

Remember, when you are a doer of the Word “and not a hearer only” you will not be deceived (James 1:22) and the people you minister to won't be deceived any longer either by the Dark Kingdom! They will know that, like Jesus, you “are sent from God” and they will know who the true God of the Universe is. Praise the Lord!