

# **Our Authority Over Sickness And The Devil**

## **From “The God of Miracles Lives Today”**

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Mark 13:34: “For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.” He gave AUTHORITY to his servants and to every man his work. Authority means the right to command obedience, the right to enforce obedience, and the right to act officially. Christ had authority over sickness and the devil. He had the right to command the sickness to leave and the devil had to obey. He had the right to enforce obedience, and He had the right to act in the official capacity as the Son of God.

The centurion came to Christ, and said, “My servant is sick at home and I want you to heal him.” Jesus said, “I will go.” The centurion said, “Jesus, you don’t need to go and heal him, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but speak the Word and my servant will be healed.” He said, “I am a man of authority. The ones over me tell me what to do and I have to obey. I have authority over a hundred men. I will tell them to do this or do that and they do what I command them to do.” And he said, “Now Christ, you have authority. You don’t need to come to my home, all you have to do is say the Word and that sickness will have to leave because you have authority over it.” And Jesus marveled and said, “I have not found such great faith, not in all Israel.” (Paraphrased from Luke 7:3-9).

The thing that brought healing to that centurion’s servant was his faith in the authority there was in the Name of Jesus over sickness. And dear friend, today, if you have faith in the authority of the Name of Jesus over sickness you will be healed. The very moment that you appropriate that faith you will be healed. Healing comes as you recognize that Jesus has authority over sickness--all He has to do is speak the Word and it shall come to pass.

Now Christ gave His disciples this same authority. In Luke 9:1 it says, “He called His twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.” He said they were to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He gave them authority. Christ did not need this authority, He already had it. He gave this authority to His followers.

In Matthew 10:8 Jesus told His disciples, “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.” Some people say we shouldn’t preach on healing. Jesus preached and practiced healing. The disciples preached and practiced healing. The Word of God preaches healing, and

I'm going to preach healing because God is a God of healing. He gave His disciples this authority. They went forth, and He went with them.

“Behold I give you authority over all the power of the enemy--over all the powers of the devil--over all the powers of hell--over every diabolical spirit or demon.” (Paraphrased from Matthew 10:1 and Luke 9:1-2)

Jesus has given that very same authority to us as His servants today. Christ has gone to heaven to prepare a glorious place for us, and what a place it must be. He has been there for nearly two thousand years getting it ready. He said, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also,” John 14:2-3.

He is preparing a place where there will be no more sickness. There will be no more heartache. There will be no more funerals. There will be no more separations—no more poverty—no more weakness or tiredness. What a wonderful place! It will be reserved for the children of God. But listen, friends, while He is gone, He has not left His church down here to face the ravages of hell alone. Jesus said He was going to build His church upon a rock. It is going to take something to keep that church going while He is gone. He has given authority to His servants to carry on His work until He returns. He didn't give us the power to heal, but He gave us the authority to use His power, “In His Name.”

There is not a businessman in America that would leave his business without someone in authority. He would have someone become the President of the firm while he was gone. He would have someone to be the custodian, someone to write the checks, someone to hire, and someone to take care of the bookkeeping. Every man would have his place, and that man would have authority over that certain position.

My dear friends, Jesus has gone away, and while He is gone He has given authority to His servants to carry on His work until He returns. I believe today, there are many people who are sick because they have not recognized the authority God has given His servants. They do not treat God's servants with the respect they are due.

Saul was a man that God blessed, anointed, and used in a tremendous way. Saul backslid, sinned, rejected God, and became a murderer and a terrible character. He even became demon possessed and died by suicide. The people told David to kill him, but David said, “Thou shalt not lay thine hands against God's anointed.” (Paraphrased from 1 Samuel 24:6). David would not even lift his hand against this man that he had seen God use in such a tremendous way. He was afraid that the wrath of God might come upon him. So respect the servant of God. Respect your pastor, respect the evangelist, respect the missionaries, and respect the ones that have authority over you under God.

In James 5:14 it says, “Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” That friends, is exercising POWER OF ATTORNEY. Christ has absolutely given us the legal right to use His name. He has given us authority to face the devil in the power of His name. He is not here, but He has given us authority to carry on His work until He comes. We can go forth using that power of attorney—using His name.

And my friends hear me now. THE DEVIL HAS TO RECOGNIZE US WHEN WE USE THE POWER of Jesus’ Name, just as though Jesus Christ Himself were standing before the devil and the devil would have to obey Him. We know that every time Jesus met the devil He defeated him. The devil was always defeated. Why? Because of the power and the authority Christ had. Christ has given us authority through the power of His name. Friends, He has not left us alone. He has given power and authority to His servants to carry on His work until He returns.

There is a difference between power and authority. No one has the power to heal, but we do have the power to exercise His authority. We have the authority to use His power. Then that power will bring healing—the Apostle Peter said, “In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk,” Acts 3:6. It was the first apostolic miracle performed. He recognized the authority there was in that Name, and he used that Name by faith. It did the work, and brother/sister, it will do it again today. There is power in the Name of Jesus, and we have authority to use that power, to use that Name. It’s not the power of man. It’s not the power of a church, but the power of Jesus’ Name that brings healing today.

Now we have not the power to heal, but we have the authority to use His name. A policeman can stand down here at an intersection; a little hundred and twenty-five pound policeman. He holds out his hand, and the big logging truck stops. A big two hundred and twenty-five pound logger is in the truck. He says, “Hurry up policeman, I’m in a rush.” And the policeman says, “You’ll go when I tell you to go.” You’ll never move until I tell you you can move. Then the logger glares at him, and says to himself, “I could get out there and with one hand I could whip you. You haven’t the power to stop me.” It’s true, he doesn’t. The policeman knows he doesn’t have the power, and the logger knows he doesn’t have the power. But THE POLICEMAN DOESN’T NEED THE POWER. He has been given the authority under the law to carry on and to fulfill the works of the law of the land. And there is only one reason that logger stays there—he doesn’t stay there because he’s afraid of the power that this man has, because he knows the man hasn’t the power to stop him. He knows that policeman has authority entrusted to him. If he violates that position of authority, and he runs past and resists the signals of that officer, he’s going to have the whole city, the whole

county, the whole state, and the whole United States after him. That policeman has been entrusted as an officer of the law and given authority to carry on the work of the law.

It is exactly the same thing in regard to God. God has not given any man the power to heal. There is not a man in the world who can heal anybody of anything, but God has given men the authority to use the power of Jesus' Name. Every man that God has called and ordained to preach the Gospel is a servant of God, and to that servant God has given authority to carry on His works until He returns. Every man will not have the same authority. Every man will not have the same talent--the same gift, but all of us have authority to carry on the works of Jesus until He returns. We can use the Name of Jesus with authority and it's going to produce works—it's going to produce the same works that Jesus produced when He was here. Jesus said, "The works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father," John 14:12.

Oh, friends, the power is in the Name of Jesus. The devil trembles when he hears the Name of Jesus. We have authority to use that Name, to exercise it legally. Resist the devil. The devil has no claim upon a child of God. You can break every attack of the devil by the Name of Jesus. In the Name of Jesus, exercise the authority that God has given, and God will drive the devil's power back.

Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work," John 9:4. In these dark closing days of time, as darkness is coming down upon the world, we must go forth and use the authority that God has given us. God has given us authority today over all the powers of sickness and over all the powers of the devil. When we pray for you, we demand in the Name of Jesus that the devil release his hand from you. All sickness is the result of the devil. If there had never been a devil there would never have been any sickness.

Jesus has given us the authority to demand the devil to release his hand from you and the devil has to obey us. Friends, the devil has to obey us as His servants just as much as he would obey Jesus Christ. I say that reverently. I say that because I know it's the Word of God. In the Name of Jesus we can become bold. In the Name of Jesus we can make the devil fear us. There is power in the Name of Jesus, and we dare by faith to exercise that divine authority He has entrusted us with. All the power of hell has to flee. The powers of the enemy are defeated forever by the authority of Jesus Christ.

Every child of God has the legal right to use that name. Perhaps your child is epileptic. When one of those epileptic convulsions come upon it, God has given you power and authority to use that Name and command the epileptic demon of hell to leave that body and go back to hell where it belongs. It will have to obey

you just as though Jesus Christ Himself were there because He is there. He's there in the power of His name. So when we pray for you friends, we exercise this authority. Through the Name of Jesus we come before the devil. We command the devil to release his power and the devil has to do it. God has not given us authority to heal, but He has given us authority to believe that He has already done it. You are already healed. Two thousand years ago Jesus healed every one of you just as much as He saved all of you. Believe Him now, and you'll be healed. Have faith in the authority of the name of Jesus like the centurion did. You don't have to beg and ask God for it, just believe Him. Take it by faith and stand upon God's Word, and God is going to honor it.

As servants of God we are His ambassadors. An ambassador has no power, but he has authority to act in official capacities, and every nation recognizes the authority of an ambassador. If they don't treat that ambassador right, it won't be just the ambassador that they will have to contend with but the whole country, the whole government that is behind that ambassador. We are ambassadors of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We meet the devil and say, "Devil, take your hand off that body. Take your satanic influence away--take your oppressing hand from that body." And the devil says, "You haven't the power to make me do it. You haven't the power to cast me out." Sometimes the devil speaks forth boldly.

It's true, we tell the devil. We admit we don't have the power. We have no power. We are weak human beings with no power in ourselves, but we are not depending upon our power. We are ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven. We have the authority to command that the devil obey us. We have the right to enforce the devil to obey us because God has given us authority in the Name of Jesus to demand the devil to do it. When we boldly take that stand, the devil is going to flee. He will flee from you. The Bible says so.

If the devil can bluff us and cause us to fear and tremble at his presence and power he will defeat us. But when we boldly meet the devil with, "Thus saith the Word of God," we claim our throne rights, and we claim our legal capacity in the Name of the Lord. When we say, "Devil, I stand as an ambassador of the kingdom of Heaven, and you are defeated in the Name of Jesus--I command you to listen to me--I command you to obey me--I command you to leave--I command you to take your hands from my body," then the healing power of Jesus will begin to flow because God recognizes that "power of attorney."

You exercise legal faith as you appropriate the power of Jesus Christ, and everything that Christ had or did is yours right then, through the power of His Name. Oh, let's believe Him friends. God has given authority to His servants, so let's have faith in God, and God will heal you. God wants to heal every one of you friends, and God will, if you will believe. So, when you are prayed for, have faith in this authority.

When you call for your pastor to pray for you and he lays hands on you, anoints you with oil, and prays the prayer of faith . . . right then friends, forget the man's hands. By faith, appropriate the nail scarred hands of Jesus--that's what it means: "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up," James 5:15. They can receive because they have come legally and claimed healing through the Name of Jesus.