

**AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD,
SO I HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD**

John 17:18

A) THE GREAT COMMISSION

authority

“power as entrusted...commission, right, and might” (1)

The Father entrusts all authority in heaven and earth to the Son. Our authority is in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”
(1 John 3:8b)

“28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”
(Matthew 12:28)

“18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All **authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:18-20)

“18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”
(John 17:18)

B. AS THE FATHER SENT THE SON...

power

dunamis, comes from dunamai, which means “ability.” (2)

a. The prophet Isaiah “sees” the source of the Lord’s power.

“2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.” (Isaiah 11:2-5)

“1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion--
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.” (Isaiah 61:1-4)

b. The incarnate Jesus Christ had set aside His divinity. He did miracles as man in right relationship with God because He was setting forth a model for us, something for us to follow.

“19 So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise...

30 I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me...

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.” (John 5:19, 30, 14:10)

“43 I have come in my Father's name,” (John 5:43)

“5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)

“14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)

“17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” (Hebrews 2:17)

“Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'” (Hebrews 10:7)

b. God anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power; the incarnate Jesus Christ relied on the Holy Spirit to complete His mission here on earth.

“16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”
(Matthew 3:16-17)

“36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” (Acts 10:36-38)

C. SO JESUS CHRIST SENDS BELIEVERS...

a. Our power as believers flows from the Holy Spirit.

“8 But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)

“21 Jesus said to them again, ‘**Peace** be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit**. 23 If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.’”
(John 20:21)

b. Jesus commands believers to co-labor with Him, proclaiming the reality of the Kingdom here on earth and destroying the works of the devil.

“7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”
(Matthew 10:7-8)

“17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

(Mark 16:17-18)

15 He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ 16 Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ 17 And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you **bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be **loosed** in heaven.’”

(Matthew 16:15-19)

c. “Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. With faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus, sins are forgiven, one becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit, is adopted into the family of God, is granted eternal life, and is empowered to live a Christ-glorifying life. The believer in Jesus as Lord and Savior is enabled to take on the character of Christ, as exhibited in the fruits of the Spirit.” (3)

Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

(John 14:6)

“18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, ‘I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.’ 7.1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

(2 Cor. 6:16-7:1)

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
(Galatians 4:4-7)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved—6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:4-10)

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
(Titus 3:4-7)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”
(Galatians 5:22-25)

“13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”
(1 Peter 1:13-16)

d. If we want victory over sin and demonic oppression, we must put on the whole armor of God.

“10 Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.** 11 Put on **the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up **the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on **the belt of truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by **the gospel of peace.** 16 In all circumstances take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take **the helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God,” (Ephesians 6:11-17)

e. “Any area of our heart or mind that is not surrendered to Jesus Christ is an area vulnerable to satanic attack. And it is here, uniquely in the uncrucified thought-life of the believer’s mind, that the pulling down of strongholds is of vital importance.” (4)

“3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For **the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.** 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

7 Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. 8 For even if I boast a little too much of our **authority**, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed.”

(2 Cor. 10:3-8)

f. Discernment is a gift from God, which enables us to understand the condition of our hearts and recognize where an action is coming from – from the Spirit of God, the human soul, or a demonic spirit.

“10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits,” (1 Cor. 12:10)

g. As prayer ministers, we invite those receiving prayer to the cross to deal with issues of the human soul, and take authority in the name of Jesus Christ to cast out demonic spirits.

As Bill French says, “There is a clear difference between habitual sin that has established a carnal stronghold and an uncontrollable manifestation of a demonic strongman who has set up residence in or around an individual... A stronghold is defined as an area in an individual’s life that has been surrendered to habitual sin. This can be a significant issue because the minister has no authority over another individual’s life. When a demon is the problem, the deliverance minister has absolute authority in Christ. But when the problem actually exists in the individual’s soul – that is, the mind, will, and emotions – a different approach is called for. When an individual’s will is involved, the Holy Spirit will not violate that will, and He will not allow the minister to override it, either. Instead, the individual receiving ministry must acknowledge entrenched sin and be taught to overcome it.” (5)

“1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our *faith*, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

h. In the Kingdom of God, the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective.

“32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:32)

“40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” (Luke 6:40)

“12 'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

“22 And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (Matthew 21:22)

“21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.” (1 John 3:21-22)

- (1) The Complete Word Study Dictionary, edited by Spiros Zodhiates. Page 606, 607
- (2) When Heaven Invades Earth, A Personal Prayer Journal, by Bill Johnson. Page 90
- (3) “Basic Tenets of Faith,” North Shore Bridge Christian Fellowship
- (4) The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind, by Bill Johnson. Page 50
- (5) The Remedy, by Bill French. Pages 83-84.

Shoes*

“My child, walk in My footsteps, live in My shoes.
This is your place of safety because I am bigger than anything or
anyone you will ever face.

This is your place of provision, for you will walk in My increase
for your life.

This is your place of expansion for I am growing you to fit the
anointing that I have set aside for you.

You have power to stand in Me.
My strength is yours as you walk in Me.
Walking in bloody footsteps, your sins are forgiven and your
weaknesses are covered.

Enjoy this life.
Be a child in Me.
Speak to your enemy, your detractors, and your problems with the same
confident word:
“My God is bigger than you.”

It will always and ever be true!”

*The Language of Love, by Graham Cooke. Page 52