

The Authority Given to Mankind



Bijoy Das was born blind. After praying in Jesus' name, Holy Spirit opened his blind eyes. Demonstrates he can see clearly by catching a stone and counting fingers. His miracle triggered a mighty move of God in his village and approximately 1,200 turned to Christ - **Dumdumi, West Bengal, India Spring 2002.**



CHAPTER 7

Spiritual Warfare And Our Authority

In the early 1980s I was working as a carpenter in Aspen, Colorado on a large townhouse building. I was looking for opportunities to share Christ with my co-workers but had little success. Finally one day at lunch one of the workers asked if I wanted to go get high on marijuana and get drunk with the rest of the crew after work. I told him I did not need that because Jesus gives me a great high. He told me “don’t tell me about your Jesus.” Little did he know the Bible calls our God ‘**The Most High.**’ I would rather get high on ‘The Most High’ than some substitute or counterfeit.

Even though this guy did not want to hear anything about Jesus he started going around the job site telling everyone about the Jesus fanatic at work. With his help I ended up taking

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five guys to church one night for a midweek service. Three of them spoke Spanish and did not understand the preaching but the other two were Americans. The American men really enjoyed the service. I asked one man, Noah if he wanted to accept Christ that night. He told me “not now” but that he was interested in going to the church again. I told him I could take him on Sunday.

Later that week we worked together and were scheduled for overtime on Saturday but he never showed up to work. That night at about 3:30am Holy Spirit woke me up. I waited on Him to find out what was happening. He transmitted to my spirit man, ‘bind the spirit of suicide and spirit of death.’ I took authority and bound those spirits and then prayed in tongues, allowing Holy Spirit to pray through me. Finally after praying for a while I had peace and went back to sleep.

The next morning I went to pick up Noah for church service. He stayed in a place where many of the workers from out of town stayed. I went in and nobody was around. So I began leaving. As I passed by a bedroom door I heard a faint sound from inside the room and felt like I needed to open it. I was not prepared for what I saw. Blood was all over the room. An empty bottle of sleeping pills was on the dresser. When the pills had not worked, Noah cut his wrist. When cutting his wrist did not work, he cut his main artery and blood was all

over the room. He was laying in a puddle of his own blood. The only thing that had kept him from bleeding to death was that his arm was folded and blood had begun to dry.

I called for the ambulance and called the church to pray. Noah was put in intensive care. I asked my Pastor, Bruce Porter, to visit him the next day because I had to be at work. Pastor Bruce went to the hospital and found Noah awake and recovering. He found out that everything that could go wrong for Noah had gone wrong. Noah's wife left him. Someone stole his luggage and nothing good was happening. He decided to take his life. When Pastor Bruce shared the good news of Jesus with Noah, he received Christ as his Lord. Like a lightbulb, something turned on on the inside. All of a sudden he had a reason to live. We ended up traveling to Minnesota together, and I counseled him a bit in his walk with Christ before we parted ways.

I thank Holy Spirit for leading me to share Christ at work even though the response was not good at first. I thank Him for transmitting to my spirit man to bind the spirits of suicide and death, take authority over those demons in Jesus' name and pray in the tongues for Noah. If I had not been obedient to my partner, Holy Spirit, Noah would be in hell today without Christ. We need Holy Spirit to transmit to our spirit man things that pertain to the present and the future. We need to pray in

tongues and use our God-given authority.

Demonic Warfare And Our Authority

Daniel was in a season of mourning, fasting and prayer. As he persevered in prayer, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and revealed some things that were occurring behind the scene in the spiritual realm, and why it was taking so long for his prayers to be answered. *Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, **your words were heard**; and I have come because of your words. **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me**, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come"* (Daniel 10:10-14).

This passage gives us insight into struggles that are taking place over nations and reveals that we can't be passive, but need to rise up with authority and persevere in prayer for nations

and governments. The prince of the kingdom of Persia was a demonic spirit (fallen angel). It delayed Gabriel from breaking through with the answer to Daniel's crucial prayers. Daniel was unaware of this struggle and continued pressing in to get the answer. As Daniel waited for the answer, Gabriel and another angel Micheal were contending with the prince of the kingdom of Persia.

Ephesians 6:12 (Amp) spells out clearly. *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.* It so important to understand our God-given authority, who we are in Christ and to know *the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds* (2 Corinthians 10:4). There is a demonic plan and agenda for our nation just as there is a Godly plan and agenda for our nation. Our focus always has to be Christ centered but at the same time we can't ignore evil trying to take control of places of influence, especially government. We can't remain passive to demonic plans for our nation. We have seen in the USA what a passive attitude towards evil trying to set it self up in our nation does when we do nothing. It causes our nation to go downhill quickly. Thank God the Body of Christ has risen up in authority in the USA in

recent years, to contend and stand against evil trying to set itself up over our nation. *To keep Satan from taking advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his schemes* (2 Corinthians 2:11 Amp).

We have things so much better than Daniel had it. We live under a new covenant since Christ went to the cross. We have access to the name of Jesus and the power of Holy Spirit to go with our authority. Jesus defeated Satan and his demons and rose victorious. Now all we are really doing is enforcing his victory over hell. *When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He **made a public example of them** [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having **triumphed over them through the cross*** (Colossians 2:15 Amp). Any warfare we do now needs to come from our position of victory in Christ.

Sharmila and I are very involved in USA politics and stay informed. I wrote a book to bring awareness on issues and the candidates during the last national election, entitled **The Damaging Effect of the Religious Spirit in Politics**. Why are we involved and informed? Because we believe that what happens in the United States government, in Washington, DC, greatly impacts the entire world. We are not easily given to conspiracy theories, but seek the truth and root of the problems that face our nation.

Paul words it well in Ephesians 2:2 (Amp). *You were following the ways of this world [influenced by this present age], in accordance with the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit who is now at work in the disobedient [the unbelieving, who fight against the purposes of God]*. Many who don't know Christ are puppets for demonic spirits. These spirits seek to influence our culture and its mindset. We can see this all over the world. With that knowledge, knowing who we are in Christ and using the authority we have through the name of Jesus we intercede for our nation and other nations. What we find so cool about our great God is when you follow His prompting to pray for certain issues He answers. Sharmila and I pray daily for our president and his administration. So many times we have prayed over certain issues of concerns over our nation. Then we watch the answer to that prayer on the evening news. Keep in mind you will not hear about answers to prayer in most of our media outlets. We also pray a lot for our very bias media and their agendas.

We need to stand in the gap and intercede for our nation, lest it be overrun by evil (See Ezekiel 22:30). We can't just be passive but need to be actively interceding with our God-given authority for those in power. *First of all, then, I urge that petitions (specific requests), prayers, intercessions (prayers for others) and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people, for kings and all*

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who are in [positions of] high authority, so that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This [kind of praying] is good and acceptable and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who wishes all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge and recognition of the [divine] truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4 Amp). Interceding for those in authority can also lead to the salvation of the lost in our nations according to verse 4.

I am very grateful that as a young man called into ministry in the late 1970's I had the opportunity to travel with and learn a lot about healing and deliverance ministry from an old time Gospel Tent Preacher by the name of Dick Hendren. He and his wife Tonna headed up **He Cares For You Ministries** together, until Dick passed away last year. Dick had a powerful healing and deliverance ministry. For the first time in my life I was exposed to the demonic realm and how through Jesus we have victory over demons. So much of what I learned during those days about casting out demons and intercession I have taken all around the world literally seeing thousands set free from demonic torment and pain. It has also helped me when interceding for those in authority. I will always be grateful for my time spent with those two. I have a lot of good memories working with the Hendrens, seeing for the first time in my life the authority we have in Christ and the supernatural power of Holy Spirit.

Proof For Atheists

Jesus said *But you will receive **power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses** [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1:8 Amp). The Greek word for **witnesses** refers to someone who has the ability to **back their testimony** of Jesus Christ with **miracles or proof** just like the early church did in the book of Acts. The word **witness** is used time and time again in the book of Acts and it referred to someone who had the power of Holy Spirit to **demonstrate by miracles the resurrection of Jesus Christ**.

Another word for witness in Greek is bears witness by death or martyr. Our early church forefathers were truly witnesses for Christ in every way. Ten of the eleven remaining disciples of Jesus died a martyr's death after Jesus resurrection. Many today would think they died for a lie. Think about it! Why would anyone lay their life down for a lie, especially a lie they came up with? The disciples are the ones who saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead and spread the news about His resurrection. They had been convinced that Jesus was Lord and God by His resurrection, His teachings, and what they saw Him do as they followed Him.

They were also convinced by seeing His undeniable

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miracles happening after He was raised from the dead and they were filled with Holy Spirit. After Jesus was raised from the dead He told them *these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 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* (Mark 16:17-18). What better way to prove Christ is alive than to reproduce the same miracles and healings that He did. This is something Jesus said after He was raised from the dead, as proof He is alive today. These disciples of Jesus demonstrated the resurrection power of God with miracles, healings, signs, wonders and when it came down to it they freely laid their lives down as martyrs (witnesses) for Him because they knew it was true.

The religious leaders of Jesus day opposed Him and did not believe in Him. When they were arguing with Him He said this: *If I do not do the works of My Father [that is, the **miracles that only God could perform**], then do not believe Me. But if I am doing them, even if you do not believe Me or have faith in Me, [at least] believe the works [that I do—admit that they are the works of God], so that you may know and keep on knowing [clearly—without any doubt] that the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father [that is, I am One with Him]* (John 10:37-38 Amp). How do you prove Jesus is who He claims to be? How do you

know the Bible is true compared to all the other religions' holy books? Let a miracle settle the issue that Jesus is alive and who He claims to be.

Ted Turner

2 Timothy 3:5 talks about the last days we live in. It says *holding to a form of [outward] godliness (religion), although they have **denied its power** [for their conduct nullifies their claim of faith]. **Avoid such people** and keep far away from them.* Many Christians have embraced the belief that God does both good and bad because of the influence of Greek Philosophy mixed with Western Christianity. It has created a powerless form of Christianity that Paul tells us to avoid. They believe God causes suffering, sickness and disease and do not pray in authority, compassion and faith to help the suffering. How many people have looked in on Christianity and seen this type of powerless Christianity and have become atheists, God haters, agnostics, etc?

The famous billionaire Ted Turner, an atheist for most of his life, has spewed hatred for God and Christianity. It seems odd that an atheist, someone who does not believe in God, can hate someone he does not believe exists. *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good* (Psalms 14:1). Ted, now 79,

in recent years has softened his stance on Christianity a bit. He claims to be more agnostic now. As a businessman, he is the founder of the world famous CNN News Network. In 1990, Turner made a speech to the American Humanist Association (Atheists). During that tirade he made his (in)famous quip: ***“Christianity is a religion for losers.”***¹

He has made a lot of other remarks that showed he despised Christianity and God for most of this life. On March 7, 2001 in CNN’s Washington, DC newsroom Ted Turner addressed the staff on the occasion of CNN anchor Bernard Shaw’s retirement party and it happened to fall on Ash Wednesday. Many of the CNN staffers had visited church that morning, and some still had an ash cross on their foreheads. Before Mr. Turner began his remarks, he noticed the ash and quipped, *“What are you, a bunch of Jesus freaks? You ought to be working for Fox.”*² Fox is a news network that expresses conservative and Christian views, that would rarely be found on Ted Turner’s news network, CNN.

What made him so hostile to Christianity? When Ted was a young boy he wanted to be a missionary. He watched his sister Mary Jean suffer with Lupus for five years and die a horrible and painful death. Ted’s father said *“If that’s the type of God he is, I want nothing to do with him”* and then shot himself after seeing Mary Jean pass away. Shortly after that Ted totally abandoned

his faith in God and became an atheist, but not just an atheist, a very hostile voice against God and Christianity. Ted recalled, *“It just seemed so unfair because she (Mary Jean) hadn’t done anything wrong. What had she done wrong? And I could not get any answers. Christianity couldn’t give me any answers to that. So my faith was shaken somewhat.”* Since that time he has spent almost his entire life hating anything about Christianity.³

How many others are out there raised in Christians circles, but turned off to a lifeless powerless form of Christianity? We need to rise up with the authority we have been given by God, partner with Holy Spirit and be the witnesses He has called us to be in order to show this world Jesus is alive and is truly Lord, Healer and Deliverer. We need to show people He is not the author of evil, as Ted Turner believes. He is not in a bad mood and angry all the time with humanity. In fact He is in a good mood because He is a good God. He is not the author of bad or evil things that happen in life like natural disasters, sickness or disease. If we do not rise up and use our God-given authority many more like Ted Turner will fall away from our loving, compassionate Christ and oppose the Gospel, like Ted has done most of his life because of a very distorted view of God and poor theology.

The First Demon Cast Out By Jesus

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Lets take a look at the first demon Jesus cast out to learn something about authority. *“Then they went to Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He **taught** them as one **having authority** (exousia), and not as the scribes. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying ‘let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are- **the Holy One of God!**’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be quiet, and come out of him!’ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? What new doctrine (teaching) is this? For **with authority** (exousia) **He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.**’ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee”* (Mark 1:21-28).

Jesus taught and cast out demons with authority (exousia) and confidence. The people were amazed at the authority in which Jesus operated. Some are of the opinion that to minister with confidence and authority is prideful. Jesus was the perfect example of someone who walked in **Humility**. For more on this check out my book **Humility the Hidden Key to Walking in Signs and Wonders**. Humility also **gave Jesus the confidence** to operate in authority. There is no insecurity or

lack of confidence when we operate in true biblical humility. We will cover more on how authority, humility and submission work hand in hand in the next chapter.

I also want to bring your attention to something very strange. Notice what the unclean spirit said to Jesus. *“Did you come to destroy us? **I know who you are- the Holy One of God.**”* Think about it! Why would a demon let everyone know that Jesus was the Holy One of God? Demons are not ones to glorify Jesus, God the Son. There had to be a reason for this demon to say this. This demon thought he had the legal right to stay in this man and Jesus legally could not do anything about it because He was God. Remember Jesus stripped Himself of his deity when He came to earth operating as the son of a man (ref. Phil. 2:6-8). He was born on earth, had authority by being born on earth and He had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This demon did not take these things into account.

Personally I believe this demon said that, because he knew God, Jesus, the Creator had given authority to mankind to rule and reign on this earth and mankind had given his authority over to Satan who had become the god or ruler of this world, as it states in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. He knew God could not operate or go contrary to His Word in Genesis 1:26-28. Man was given the authority on earth, not God. God had to operate through a man to use his authority or power. It was the same for Satan.

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Adam gave his authority to Satan by submitting to his lies. In order for mankind to carry out their authority and to operate in miracles or healings on the earth they need the help of the Holy Spirit. It is quite similar for evil men and women to bring about evil in this world. Many work in partnership with evil spirits to do evil things. Each person has his or her own free will. Who they yield to is their choice, whether to God to do good or demons to do evil. For the most part, for God or evil spirits to have authority on the earth, they work through those who are born on this planet and will willingly submit to them to do their bidding. Jesus, God in the flesh was born on this earth. He could legally operate in the authority He gave man in the beginning of time. This totally caught this demon and hell off guard.

Through God's Word we can see that we are to be dependent on the Holy Spirit to carry out our authority. We also realize that God needs men and women yielded to the Holy Spirit to carry out His plan on the earth. We need to be in partnership with Holy Spirit to carry out God's plan on the earth.

Every person born on earth has authority, including Jesus, who was born in the flesh. Once again 1 John 4:3 says *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus **Christ (Greek -the anointed one)** has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of Anti-Christ which you heard was coming and already is in the world.*"

Spiritual Warfare And Our Authority

Jesus, the Christ, the anointed one, came in the flesh, stripped Himself of His deity and came as the Son of man enabling him to use the **authority (exousia)** God gave man in the beginning of time along with the **power (dunamis)** of the Holy Spirit to destroy the works of the devil.

It is God's desire for His people to understand the authority He has given us, in order to lay an unshakable foundation out of which miracles will flow. When the Body of Christ comes into this understanding, miracles and healings will become a regular occurrence. Then towns, states, and countries will experience a great influx of souls coming to Christ. Therefore let us arise and take hold of the authority we were destined to walk in, since Christ defeated Satan and restored our authority.



Isaac Mosher a 9th grader who was born with Goldhar Syndrome (deformities) was healed by Jesus and was able to hold his head up for the first time in his life - **Detroit Lakes, MN October 5, 2008.**