

## **The Authority and Power of the 21 Century Believer:**

**Luke 4:14-21: “Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:**

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”**

**He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!**

In this passage, we see the beginning of Jesus’ Galilean ministry, which began about one year after Jesus’ baptism and temptation. During that year’s time Jesus was ministering in Judah: the area in and around Jerusalem.

Luke emphasizes the Holy Spirit’s power in Jesus’ ministry; this resulted in Jesus subsequent fame.

Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. The synagogue originated during the Exile (Babylonian Captivity) when the Jews were separated from the Temple services in Jerusalem. The synagogue was both a religious and educational institution. It was the center of Jewish religious and social life.

A member or a visitor who was judged worthy was frequently asked to read the Scripture and make appropriate comments. Jesus regularly engaged in worship with others at the synagogue. Jesus is our example: we, who are in relationship with Him, should also participate in regular worship with others.

Jesus read the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1, 2. These verses describe the deliverance of Israel from exile in Babylon in terms of the Year of Jubilee, but its ultimate fulfillment awaited the coming of the Messianic age. Jesus boldly claims to be the Promised Messiah, and as these verses defined what the Messiah’s ministry would be - the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Jesus’ ministry fulfilled this

prophecy then and it is still being fulfilled through us ministering the Good News of the gospel of the Kingdom of God today!

Luke, in chapter 9:1 & 2 makes it clear that Jesus passed this same ministry on to his disciples and in Acts 1:1 & 2 to the entire church:

**“One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”**

**“In my first book, I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.”**

Jesus gave the disciples the **authority (the right to govern, the right to act)** to use the **power (the ability to act or produce an effect or result)** He transfers to them.

He gives them the delegated **authority that He Himself possesses, that is the “authority” to advance the Messianic ministry through casting out demons and healing of every kind of disease and illness.**

**Let’s look at Kingdom Authority for Ministry:**

Luke shows the flow of power of Jesus the King, who extends the delivering and benevolent rule of the Kingdom of God over hell’s works (demon power) and human hurt (disease). The order of ministry that began with Jesus in Luke 8:1, where He and his disciples began going to the nearby towns and villages announcing the Good News, continues to be exercised by His disciples as He trained them for ministry and later in the church as it spreads the Good News, Acts 8:4-12. The Good News throbs with confidence in the full transfer of power and authority for ministry by Jesus to His disciples: **Then and Now:**

1. We may expect victory over the powers of darkness and their operations (Luke 10:19). **“Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.”** (snakes and scorpions are symbols of spiritual enemies and demonic power, over which Jesus has given His Followers power).
2. We are assigned to “do business” as authorized representatives of our Lord until He returns (Luke 19:13). **“Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and**

divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, Invest this for me while I am gone.” We are charged to do kingdom business. As He told us here is this verse we are to **Invest, trade, continue doing kingdom business** (KJV – Occupy) until He returns!

3. We are promised the Father’s pleasure “to give” us the Kingdom, that is, to supply us with His peace and power (Luke 12:32). **“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.”** The “little flock” is a reference to the Old Testament idea of Israel as God’ sheep. Jesus’ use of it here for His disciples clearly designates them and the church birthed through them, the new, true Israel – the propagators and inheritors of His present and consummated (completed – final) Kingdom. Notice: that we possess the kingdom in part in us NOW and in full in us when His kingdom is fully come.

Luke 10:8, **“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!”**

**What Power Do Christians Have over Demons? The Bible says in 1 Jn 4:4, “The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.”**

The Holy Spirit-filled believer has been given power over all demons. When Jesus Christ sent His apostles out on their mission, He said He was giving them authority (Greek – exousia) over all the power of the enemy, in Luke 10:19 that we just looked at.

Jesus’ authority is greater than all satanic power. When the apostles came back from their mission, Luke 10:17, 20, they said, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name,” Jesus replied, **“Don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”** **The believer has unlimited authority over demons in the Name of Jesus. That authority, however, is nothing compared to the blessings of salvation, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, and the glory and authority we will know in heaven.**

**Dominion over evil has been given, but we can expect to see spiritual breakthrough to the degree we receive and apply that authority:**

- **in prayer**
- **in preaching**
- **in teaching**
- **in personal ministry**

**Reasons why we (Christians – Believers) fail to complete this mission entrusted to us by Jesus:**

1. **Apathy**: a lack of interest, being and having an attitude of unconcern, or indifference. This is when we have not been active in our spiritual disciplines of prayer, reading of God’s Word, mentoring or training by those who are spiritually mature or by the “Shepherds” God has placed over us, and the fellowship of believers (built-in support system).

2. **Unbelief**: Our faith has been shaken by some event or experience.

**ILL**: share story of when Ryan was born with a cleft lip or the story when he was age 15 and we found out he had brain damage since birth. Share the thought of “when bad things happen to good people” by Dr. Voorhis and how we were encouraged.

3. **Not My Job**: We think that this responsibility belongs to someone else. “it is the job of the pastor, or evangelist but not mine.” We in the America Christian churches have become complacent. We think the work of ministry is for those who work fulltime at pastors, etc. We want to push the responsibility to others.

4. **Fear of Commitment**: worry or concern that the commitment to the task of the great commission is too time consuming or too hard. Maybe it will be too taxing emotionally, so we don’t do anything.

5. **Who Me?**: “I am not good enough or I don’t have anything to offer”. Well, because of sin, no of us are good enough in ourselves, but this task, this great commission is given to us based on our new relationship with Christ. It is because of His cleansing, His ability in us, and His empowerment by the Holy Spirit that we can do anything and now **EVERYTHING!!**

**ILL**: share personal story of being shy and horribly introverted and the **THINKING** I was nothing or nobody.

**If He can change me, He can change anybody!!**

**How do we get out of this spiritual funk? How do we get back on track? How do we get back into the purpose He has for us?**

**We return to our spiritual roots. We remember our spiritual heritage. We remind ourselves of the spiritual “memorial stones” of what God has done for us and what He promises to do in us, through us and NOT IN SPITE OF US!**

**Look at Psalm 31:1-10: “I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. Come, let us tell of the Lord’s greatness; let us exalt his name together.**

**I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds me and defends all who fear him. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing.”**

This psalm of David is a Hebrew acrostic poem: each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This psalm is one of the most quoted psalms in the New Testament.

With David as our pattern, we are to sing praises to the Lord continually. The word “praise” here is the Hebrew work “tehillah” and refers to a hymn of praise, or the singing spontaneous praise to God, Ps. 40:3 – “He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what He has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord.” The New Testament also calls for us to sing and “making music to the Lord in your hearts”, Eph. 5:19.

When our hearts are full of praise: two things happen:

1. We can’t be negative or speak or sing things that are not of the Lord.
2. Our hearts will find expression – whether it is songs, or words being spoken.

We are always to sing praise and this psalm instructs us on How three ways:

1. Sing to prompt others to do the same.
2. Sing as a transforming remedy for fear, bringing boldness.

3. Sing as an exercise of faith, invoking deliverance.

Altar Service:

If you are like me, you have been in a dry place or you may be there now. God is fully aware of our situation and needs, but He expects us to communicate with Him. He respects our will. He will listen, act, and empower us once we make the connection.

How many of you need to make a new start?

How many of you to get out of a spiritual funk?

How many of you will be open and honest with yourselves and stop playing around and get serious with the Lord Today? Not tomorrow but TODAY!

Do you need a refreshing: A new download of His presence or a New SONG?

Listen to this song and come to the altar as a sign you mean business. I need more of Him and You do TOO!!!

Play "Open the Heavens" by Gateway Worship by You Tube.