

I heard a story about a fellow that answered the phone at a certain business and the man on the other end of the line was irate about something. He said, "I want to talk to someone around there with a little authority." The man that answered the phone said, "Well go ahead and talk to me. I have about as little authority as anybody."

It is sad, but many Christians see themselves as being on earth without any authority. They have been convinced by erroneous teaching that they are just "worms in the dust," struggling and hoping that someday somehow they will make it through this life and maybe God will build them a cabin in the corner of "Glory Land".

The truth of man's God given authority is revealed in Genesis 1:26-28: **"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over everything that moveth upon the earth."**

You will notice it was at the end of the sixth day when God created man in His image and gave him authority and dominion over this planet.

These verses indicate that God gave mankind a lease on this planet and evidently it is for 6000 years. This is revealed in the six days of the Genesis account. When the lease expires God will take back control of this planet.

In Luke chapter 4, Jesus entered into the synagogue on the Sabbath day in which the scripture in Isaiah 61 was read. They called on Jesus to read. **"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."** (Isaiah 61:1-2)

This was the first sermon He preached in His home town, and they tried to kill Him. They were angry because Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel." Tradition tells us that when He finished He sat down in the seat reserved for the Messiah. They didn't even believe Jesus was anointed much less that He was the Messiah.

Gospel means good news. Good news to the poor is: You don't have to be poor anymore! He was saying the blind didn't have to be blind anymore, that the broken-hearted didn't have to be broken-hearted anymore! The bruised didn't have to be bruised!

I am convinced that if Jesus had said, "Well, everybody has to be sick sometime. You will never have anything on the earth; you'll have to wait until you get to heaven. You must suffer trials and tribulations and there's nothing you can do about it..." They would have said, "Amen, Brother! We're going to vote you in as pastor!"

Jesus was preaching the truth - the Good News that He said was anointed to heal and set the captives free. If Jesus was on earth in His divine power, why did He have to be anointed?

Jesus entered the earth legally because He was born here. He was also born of a virgin; the blood of God flowed through His veins. He was the Son of Man; yet He was God manifest in the flesh.

One translation of Philippians 2:7-8 says when Jesus came to earth, He stripped Himself of that divine power and became a man.

Acts 10:38 tells us: "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power, and who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil; for God was with him."

First John 3:8 says, "...For this purpose the Son of God was manifest, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Jesus came to earth to get back everything Satan had stolen from mankind. Yes, Jesus was the divine Son of God. But He did not operate in the divine power of the Godhead. **He performed miracles by the anointing of the Holy Ghost - which is available to you and me today!**

Let's look at the legal aspect of being born on the earth. Understanding the authority God has given men is of utmost importance concerning this matter.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep."
(John 10:1-2)

I stopped one day as I was reading this scriptural passage and said, "Lord I'd like for you to reveal what that means. I've looked at it for years. I don't understand it. What is the *sheepfold*?"

He said, "The sheepfold is the earth. My Word says you are the sheep of my pasture. You're not in heaven yet, are you? The door represents the legal entry. Any being coming to the earth any other way than through the legal entry is a thief and a robber."

I asked, "But what is the door, or the legal entry, into the earth?"

He said, "The legal entry into the earth is being born of a woman." It is obvious from these scriptures that anyone who attained entrance some other way, the same is a thief and a robber and **he does not have legal authority on earth.**

“Satan, demons, and evil spirits are here without legal authority. They climbed up some other way - they weren’t born here and have no authority here on earth. They are thieves and robbers.” They only usurp the authority of mankind.

A thief robbing the First National Bank may have *power* when he’s holding a gun and demanding money, but he has no authority. Satan has been stealing, and he has no legal authority on this earth! You as a believer are the one that has legal authority, because you were born here. Your physical body gives you authority on earth. But God furnishes the ability to destroy the works of the devil.

“To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.” (v. 3) this is the purpose of Jesus coming to earth: to lead us out of the darkness into the light, and eventually out of this world into heaven and then back to a new earth.

Take some time to meditate on these following verses. They are some of the greatest truths of the Bible.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.” (v. 1)

“The thief cometh not, but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” (v. 10)

The thief was not born here. He was a created being of high order who rebelled against God. He was then stripped of his authority and cast out of Heaven. He came to earth for the purpose of stealing, killing, and destroying.

Legal Authority

Jesus said to Nicodemus, **“That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** (John 3:6)

We were all born of the flesh, but when we received Christ as our Lord we were born of the Spirit.

Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Jesus is the one who entered in by the door and became the Shepherd of the sheep! Jesus came to undo, destroy, and dissolve the works of the Devil.

Here we see a great truth: **Only people born on earth have authority here.** God delegated the authority of the earth to Adam and Eve. It was through the deception that they allowed Satan to use their authority. The good news is that Jesus came to undo the deception which Satan perpetrated upon mankind. He came to restore man to his rightful authority.

Jesus Is the Door

When Adam became subordinate to Satan, he was born from life unto death. Jesus came to reverse that process and cause man *to be born from death unto life!* Jesus

was the last Adam; there won't be another. He obtained eternal redemption for us!

“This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door...” (John 10:5-7)

In John 10 from the time Jesus said, *“He that entereth in by the door is shepherd of the sheep,”* He refers to going before us to lead us out. All that Jesus did for us, His suffering on the cross, His death, and resurrection could be read between the lines of these Scripture verses just before you get to the statement: *“I am the door.”*

When I would read this, I kept thinking the two doors were the same, but they aren't. The first door He refers to is a legal entry through physical birth which gives us authority on earth. The second door is the spiritual birth, *being born of the Spirit* which gives authority in the kingdom of God.

Jesus told Nicodemus, **“You must be born again. That which is born of flesh is flesh; that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** (John 3:3-6) Even though man is legally born on the earth, because of the fall of Adam he has a unregenerate nature and must be born again from spiritual *death* to spiritual *life*.

Jesus - The Way

Jesus said He was the door and all that ever came before Him were thieves and robbers. Many religious systems claim to be “the way,” but they are *not*. There is only one way to heaven and it's not through the church door. But rather through Jesus - *the door!* **Jesus is the way!**

You may go to church in order to find Jesus, but the church is not the door. The *only* way into the kingdom of God and heaven is through Jesus. Jesus Christ is the door, and if you don't go through that door, you're not going to make it. You can't climb up the backstairs to heaven!

Jesus said: **“...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”** (John 14:30) There was nothing in Jesus to which Satan could attach a stronghold. Satan couldn't get hold of His words because Jesus kept God's Word in His mouth.

In John 10:15 Jesus made this statement: **“As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for sheep.”**

“Therefore doth my father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me.” (vv. 17,18)

What a statement: *“No man taketh it from me.”* No man could take Jesus' life. They tried to several times while He was on earth; but He simply walked out from their midst.

“No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” (v. 18)

Jesus made the decision to give His life while still on earth, while in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed a prayer in the Garden that will make your hair stand on end if you read it with the thought of eternal redemption at stake.

He prayed, “**Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me...**” (Mark 14:36) *Take away this cup from me!* Jesus never prayed a prayer that was not answered. Here, the humanity of Jesus is showing through.

“**All things are possible with thee, so take away this cup from me.**” What if Jesus had stopped there and walked off? But thank God he didn’t!

“**Nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.**” What a difference the word *nevertheless* makes in His prayer! This was a prayer of dedication. Jesus had decided to go with God’s plan! He made the choice. “I’m, going to lay down My life.”

Look at the statement recorded by Luke: “**When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**” (Luke 22:53)

These are the words of a man - the man, Jesus, the Son of God - on His way to such a horrible death. “This is your hour, and the power of darkness.” He gave Himself to be the sin offering for all men; that we might have eternal redemption.

Your body gives you legal authority here on earth, but the Holy Spirit is a gift from God so that you can undo the works of the evil one. I challenge you to make a decision to present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God which is your spiritual service here on earth until Jesus comes.