

ABSOLUTE DOMINION

The Authority of Jesus

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible.

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Psalm 93

*The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty;
The Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength;
Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved.
Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.
The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
The floods have lifted up their voice,
The floods lift up their pounding waves
More than the sounds of many waters,
Than the mighty breakers of the sea,
The Lord on high is mighty.
Your testimonies are fully confirmed;
O Lord, forevermore.*

God has granted us as believers, the authority of the Kingdom of heaven. It is the same authority that Jesus walked in when He was on the earth. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father." (John 14:12)

Jesus said that we would be able to do ALL the works that He did. There was nothing, not even one thing, excluded in His statement. And yes, there were even things that He didn't do while He was on the earth that He has granted us the privilege of doing.

*but just as it is written,
"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard,
And which have not entered the heart of man,
All that God has prepared for those who love Him."
1 Corinthians 2:9*

There are things that we have not even thought of, that we haven't seen yet anybody else do that God wants to accomplish through us. The principles that underlie these things, their core truths, are written in the Word of God, but the specific manifestation may be something that we've never seen before.

When Jesus lived on the earth in the flesh, He walked in total dominion over the creation. Every need that He encountered was met by the power and provision of God. He healed the sick, raised the dead, multiplied bread and fish, and even turned water into wine for no other apparent reason than saving a family from social embarrassment. Every chaotic element that He encountered was subject to His authority. No crazy situation ever seemed to be any strain to Him. He never indicated that He didn't expect anything but the miraculous power of God to break out right then and there.

And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."

And leaving the multitude, they took Him along with them, just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with Him.

And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

And being aroused, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

And He said to them, "Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?"

And they became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus was sound asleep during a raging storm, and when awakened by his fearful disciples, He rebuked the wind, commanded the sea to calm down with all confidence, and they instantly obeyed Him. That's some kind of authority! Then, He uttered these astonishing words, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Jesus acted as if the disciples' fear, rather than His actions was unusual. This should have been no big deal.

Let's take a look at another similar incident:

And immediately He made the disciples get into the boat, and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

But the boat was already many stadia away from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.

And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were frightened, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

But seeing the wind, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And when they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

Matthew 14:22-33

We see Jesus walking on the water to His disciples, while they were straining at the oars, attempting to cross over the stormy sea in their boat. When Peter cried out, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water", Jesus simple response, "Come!" emboldened Peter to step out and do the impossible. It was only Peter's being overcome by fear at the appearance the wind and waves, that kept his adventure from being all that it could have been. Jesus didn't even commend Peter for his bravery! He only said, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Many messages have been preached about how we are to step out of our "boats", our personal safe zones, to embark on new and challenging ventures in life. These are all valid lessons that we would do well to apply. But sometimes our application of this story causes us to "dumb it down" to much more reasonable expectations. Jesus did something which is totally impossible to natural man – He exercised authority over the elements.

What enabled Jesus to walk in such great faith? What did He see? How did He view Himself and the world that He lived in?

When Jesus came to earth, He lived life as the Son of Man. He typically referred to Himself as "the Son of Man" rather than "the Son of God". He clothed Himself with flesh and willingly subjected Himself to the same influences that we, as His creation, experience every

day. Within the confines of his flesh, Jesus experienced every enticement, every sensory perception and pull on His flesh that we experience. We must not underestimate the severity of this. It was his total heart commitment to be dependent on His heavenly Father in yieldedness, to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil.

Not only did He have every pressure on His flesh that we do, but I'm convinced that He didn't live His earthly life in the conscious memory of His pre-incarnate life in heaven. Jesus was born as a baby, grew up as a child in a family with other siblings, and lived the normal life of a young Jewish man. But He had no sin-consciousness separating Him from the Father. He learned about who He was by revelation. The grace of God was upon Him, and it was revealed to Him by the Word, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, who He was and what He was called to do. He loved the Father God with all His heart, His soul, His mind and His strength, and truly lived by "every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

Jesus was in full unity with the Father God. As the true "God-Man" without the separation of sin and sin-consciousness, He walked in God's dominion on the earth. What defined the exercise of that dominion was who He saw God to be, the God of the Scriptures.

Psalm 93 reveals the authority by which Jesus walked on the sea and calmed the wind and the waves:

*The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty;
The Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength;
Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved.
Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.
The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
The floods have lifted up their voice,
The floods lift up their pounding waves
More than the sounds of many waters,
Than the mighty breakers of the sea,
The Lord on high is mighty.
Your testimonies are fully confirmed;
O Lord, forevermore.*

This scripture reveals the awesomeness of a God who reigns in power.

Verse 3 says, "The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their pounding waves." The "floods" are the chaos of a creation under the curse of sin. Creation groans and travails under the curse it has been subjected to, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God.

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

Romans 8:19-22

Only the true authority of the Kingdom of God has the ability to calm the raging elements.

Also, the floods and pounding waves spoken of here, are inclusive of the people who live in the earth. Fallen humanity also, in its darkness and rebellion motivated by the prince of the power of the air, rages against the Lord and attempts to throw off all restraint of godly living

*Why are the nations in an uproar
And the peoples devising a vain thing?
The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
"Let us tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!"*

Psalm 2:1-3

None of this raging of the creation shakes or concerns God, or His authority.

Psalm 93:4 says,

*More than the sounds of many waters,
[More] Than the mighty breakers of the sea,
The LORD on high is mighty.*

More than any storm, flood, or rebellion the Lord on high is mighty. He always has, and always will have the ultimate authority.

Jesus knew that His own Oneness with the Father enabled Him to walk in the Father's authority over creation. His dominion over the stormy sea indicated not only His authority over the winds and water, but His absolute confidence in authority over everything that rages against, or defies the perfect will of the Father.

He had absolute confidence in God's power and authority over creation. More amazingly, He personally identified with this dominion so thoroughly as to walk in it, knowing that the God-one in fully unity with the Father would be able to walk in God's dominion. "For

whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith." (1 John 5:4) Jesus' confident identification with God is so thorough that we never see a worry or a fearful care. He knew that He had dominion in the earth realm.

There are two main things that will enable us to walk in the Kingdom authority that Jesus promised we would, and that He even longs for us to walk in.

First of all, we must know our redemption and who we have become in Christ. The New Testament, mainly in the Epistles tells us what we have become in the New Creation. Christ is now our identification, rather than our old sinful self.

...that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
Ephesians 4:22-24

Because this New Creation life has been given to us in Christ, it is not something that we have to earn or achieve; we only have to become "renewed" to it. We must be diligent to not only study about our new life and meditate on the truths about it, but we must be diligent to "put on" the new self. Laziness and passivity will always be our enemies, and many Christians have been robbed of experiencing victory by succumbing to these two enemies.

The second main thing we need is to begin to see just who our God is. We have already been completely reconciled to God by the sacrifice of Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:16-18). Now we must begin to see Him as revealed in the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit. Being joined to the Lord in the Spirit, we can now see the God of the Word with clear spiritual vision.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:8

As we study and come to know the truths in the Bible about being in Christ, we must move on from there to seeing who He is, in order that we might identify with Him. We see these things with the eyes of our hearts.

...the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.
Ephesians 1:18-19

We see by the Spirit and release ourselves to that revelation. As we see Him, we comprehend His nature and begin to reflect His glory.

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Jesus saw the God who had dominion over the raging floods. Jesus saw the Provider as He multiplied food to feed multitudes. He reflected and demonstrated God. If we see the God of the Word with clear vision, we will see how to do His works in Jesus' Name. Ours isn't an independent dominion, but God's dominion working through us. Therefore, we must see His dominion.

Ps 93:1 says

*The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty;
The LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength;*

If the Lord reigns, if He has all strength and power, why would He need to "clothe" and "gird" Himself with strength?

This is speaking of preparing for action. God has chosen to take action according to His strength; He is rising to a challenge. Likewise, we must "gird" ourselves for action.

There are attributes of our new nature that we must choose to "put on":

Colossians 3:10 says that we have "put on the new self which is being renewed to a true knowledge according the image of the one who created him.

Colossians 3:12 tells us to "put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience"

Romans 3:14 tell us to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lusts."

To "put on" the Lord Jesus is to purposely choose to act according to the Christ life.

In the same manner we must clothe ourselves in His strength and exercise authority over unruly earthly circumstances just like Jesus did. Authority must be exercised in order to set disorderly things in order.

Jesus exercised authority by speaking and doing. He showed us how victory is lived out. He showed us that bringing peace to unruly earthly elements is the will of God. Now we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and "prepare our minds for action" (1 Peter 1:3).

We must learn, we must commit to, learning how to exercise dominion with the same confidence that Christ did on the earth.

Passivity cannot be entertained and indulged. True knowledge must be acted upon and authority must be exercised over the tumultuous forces that would rise to challenge the Kingdom of God. This results in God receiving the glory that is due Him!

*Your testimonies are fully confirmed;
O Lord, forevermore.*