

THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Time of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church

KINGDOM AUTHORITY

Matthew 16:18-19

¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

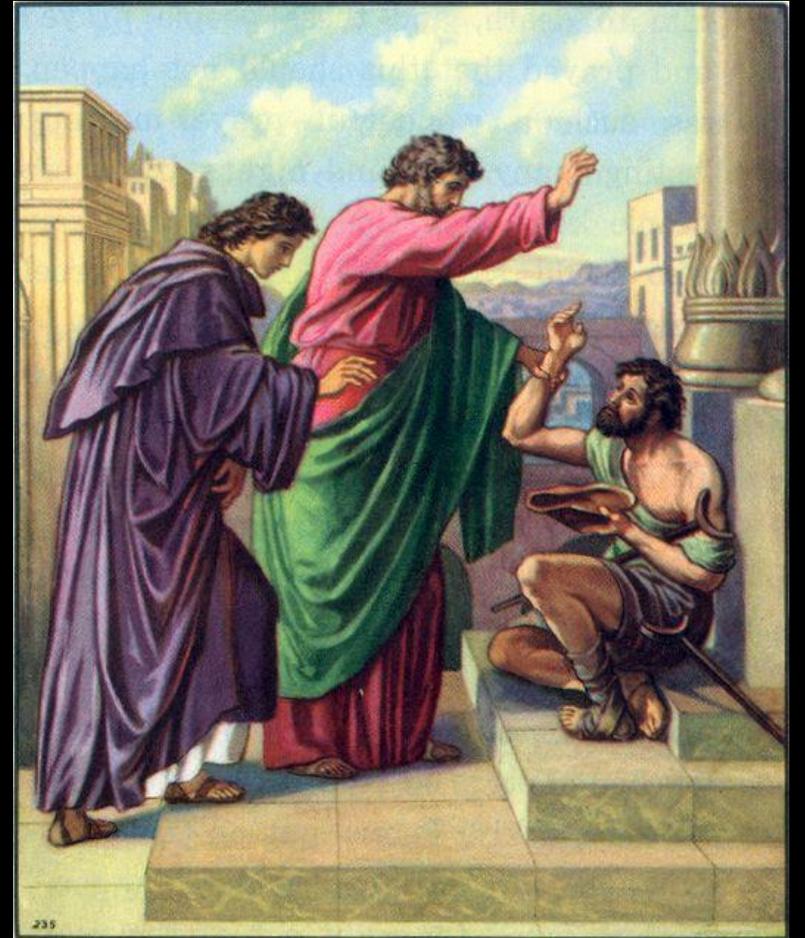
Jesus had said that his church would have authority. Shortly after the birth of the church in Acts 2, the followers of Jesus discovered what that looked like.

AUTHORITY OVER ILLNESSES

Acts 3:6-7

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

First, the disciples exercised authority over diseases.



AUTHORITY OVER EARTHLY GOVERNMENT

Acts 4:18-20

¹⁸ So they called the two apostles back in and told them that they must never, for any reason, teach anything about the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ Peter and John answered, "Do you think God wants us to obey you or to obey him?" ²⁰ We cannot keep quiet about what we have seen and heard.



If Government opposes God, we obey God!

AUTHORITY OVER SIN

Acts 5:4b-5

Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

When Christians sinned deliberately, their sin resulted in premature death.



THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:18-19

¹⁸ ...I will build My **church**, and the **gates of Hades** shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

The word ***church***, the mention of the ***gates of death***, and the reference to ***binding and loosening*** are all indications of **delegation of authority!**

THE EKKLESIA

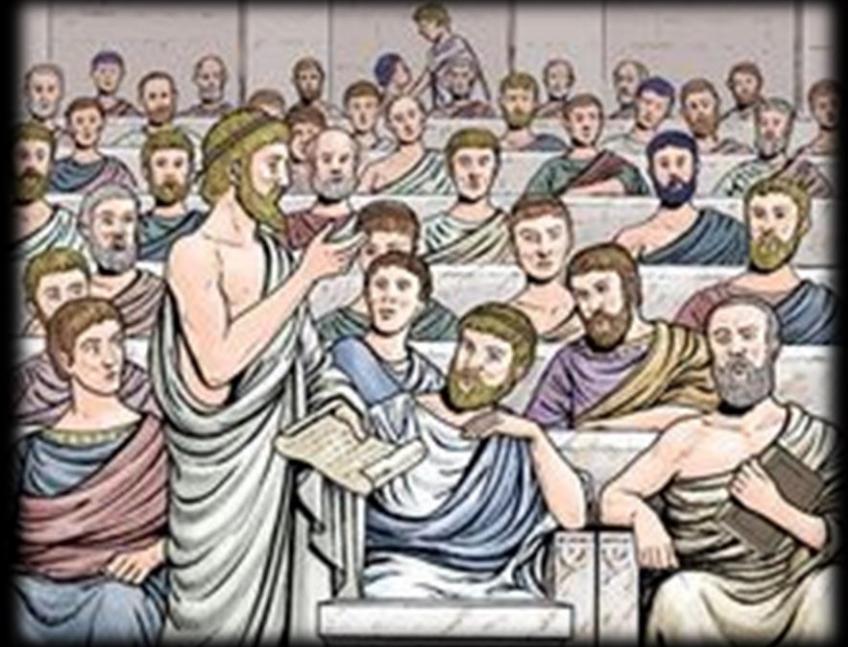
The word church is the Greek *ekklesia*:

1. *Ek* (out) + *klesia* (from *caleo*, to call)

It is a "called out" assembly

2. In ancient classical Greek, it often referred to a city council.

The ***ekklesia*** was a legislative body making decisions for the community.



THE GATES

Deuteronomy 16:18

“You shall appoint **judges and officers in all your gates**, which the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

- Abraham bought land at the gate (Gn.23)
- Boaz married Ruth at the gate (Ruth 4)

The **gate** was the courthouse.



BINDING AND LOOSENING

John 20:21-23

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send 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 any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

Jesus gave the church a *power of attorney* to conduct Kingdom business in His name!



AUTHORITY FOR SERVICE

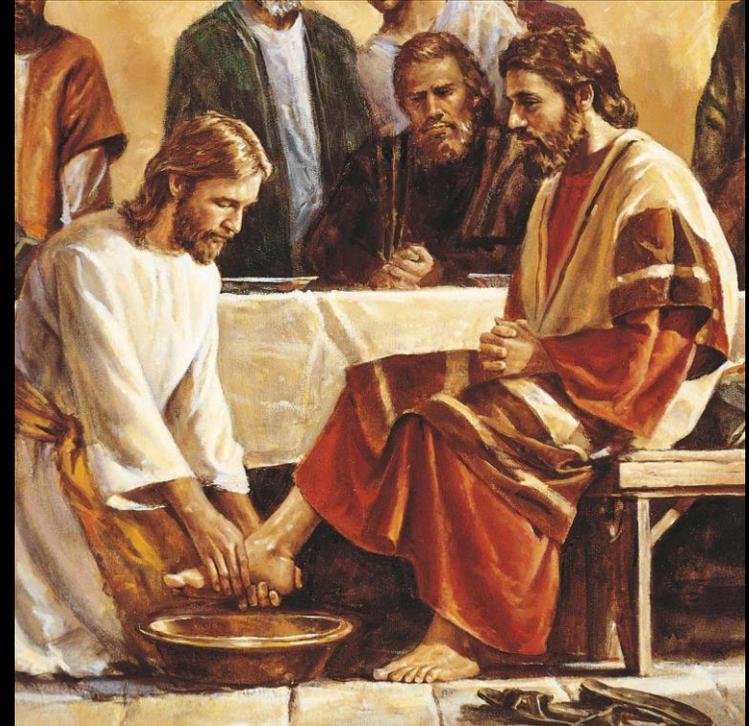
Biblical authority is a tool for effective service. It is always exercised for the benefit of others!

Matthew 20:25-28

²⁵ But Jesus called the disciples together and said: You know that foreign rulers like to order their people around. And their great leaders have full power over everyone they rule. ²⁶ But **don't act like**

them. If you want to be great, you must

be the servant of all the others. ²⁷ And if you want to be first, you must be the slave of the rest.



REDISCOVER AND RECOVER

It is now time for the church to rediscover and reclaim the authority we have been given, so we can serve others and fulfill the call of God of us!

