



MULTIPLYING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Study Notes by Thomas Hale

This document is a compilation of quotations taken from the book, “The Authority of the Believer” by John A. McMillan and thoughts by Thomas Hale. Its goal is to accelerate and enrich the personal studies of others through a structured guide.

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“THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER”

And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, 20 Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], 21 Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come. The Amplified Bible. The Lockman Foundation, 1987, p. Eph 1:19-21.

*6 And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint **seating (authority - syzkathizo)** with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One). The Amplified Bible. The Lockman Foundation, 1987, p. Eph 2:6.*

There are a few subjects relating to the Christian life concerning which there is so little exact knowledge as that of the authority of the believer. It's not because such authority is the property only of a few elect souls. On the contrary, it is the possession of every true child of God. It is one of the “all things” received in Christ. Its reception dates from the soul's contact with Calvary.

Ephesians lifts the believer with the ascended Christ to the heavenlies where he is made a partaker of Christ's throne. They are made to sit with Christ “in the heavenlies.” His people, therefore, occupy “with Him” the same august position. This honor is not to a chosen few but is the portion of all those who share in the resurrection of the Son of God. It is the birthright of every true believer, of every born-again child of God.

They are made to sit with Him; that is, they share His throne. To share a throne means without question to partake of the authority which it represents. Indeed, they have been thus elevated, in the plan of God, for this very purpose, that they may now even exercise, to the extent of their spiritual apprehension, authority over the powers of the air, and over the conditions which those powers have brought about on the earth and are still creating through their ceaseless manipulations of the minds and circumstances of mankind.

For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue). The Amplified Bible. The Lockman Foundation, 1987, p. 2 Pe 1:3.

The Lord Jesus, "Head over all things to the church, which is His body," is hindered in His mighty plans and working because His body has failed to appreciate the deep meaning of His exaltation and to respond to the gracious impulses which He is constantly sending for its quickening. Consequently, it is only as the Word is carefully meditated upon, understood, and obeyed that the Head has freedom of action through its members. How little the average member feeds, with careful mastication, upon the Word.

"Hath put all things under his feet." The feet are members of the Body. How wonderful to think that the least and lowest members of the Body of the Lord, those who in a sense are the very soles of the feet, are far above all the mighty forces we have been considering. Yet so it is. What need for the Church to awake to an appreciation of her mighty place of privilege. Exalted to rule over the spiritual powers of the air, how often she fails in her ministry of authority, or grovels before them in fear.

As we meditate on the completeness of His authority, let us remember that He is there as the Representative (**Hebrews 2:5-9**) of redeemed humanity. And "may the eyes of our understanding be enlightened" by the Holy Spirit so that we may believe, without any doubt or shrinking, that the wisdom and will of the Father have made us sharers of this same authority, and that He verily intends that we should exercise it day by day in growing comprehension and apprehension.

The question is often asked: Why does God permit this or that condition? Does not the answer lie here? God has planned that man shall, through the out-working of redemption, regain the place of authority in creation that he has lost. To this end, Christ, having conquered for man, sits as his Representative in the seat destined for him when redemption fully manifests. In the interim, the wonderful provision exists that man shall be reckoned in Christ and shall, **to the limit of his spiritual understanding and obedience**, be endowed with the authority of His name.

Why, then, is there not more manifest progress? Because a head is wholly dependent upon its body for the carrying out of its plan. All the members of its body must be subservient, that, through their coordinated ministry, may be accomplished what is purposed. The Lord Jesus, "Head over all things to the church, which

is his body," is hindered in His mighty plans and working, because His Body has failed to appreciate the deep meaning of His exaltation, and to respond to the gracious impulses which He is constantly sending for its quickening.

Accordingly, God throws upon man their responsibility for the continuance of the conditions which we question. We feel they ought not to be. We realize that they are the working of the enemy. We cry to God to rebuke the enemy and to alter things. Through the teaching of the Word, He replies: "My children, rebuke the enemy yourselves. The authority over him is yours. It is the responsibility I have committed to you. I desire you to learn in these things to prevail. I have purposed a high and holy ministry for you in the coming age. This is for you the time of testing and preparation. Be strong and be of good courage, and none shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life."

Thus, unless the Word richly indwells for the instruction of the mind, the Spirit of God, although present in His fullness, has nothing to work upon. The impulses of the Head cannot be translated by Him into appropriate action through the Body, but are often like the immature motions of a child. The Head is thereby hindered because the Body has not grown up into the stature of a perfect man. In divine patience the Head waits. Brethren, we are to blame greatly, not only for our own weakness, but also for "the hands that hang down and the palsied knees." God help us to realize this, and to fulfill our ministry through the Word both to others and to the Lord.

If we are walking in the spirit, our normal life is in the heavenlies. To secure the consciousness of this, there must be the daily acceptance of the fact. Let us, morning by morning, as one of our first acts of worship, take our seat with Christ and return thanks to God for all that it implies. Let us often remind ourselves that we are seated far above all the powers of the air, and that they are in subjection to us. As our faith learns to use the Name and the Authority of Jesus, we shall find the spiritual forces yielding obedience in ways that will surprise us, As we continue to abide closely in Him, our prayers for the advancement of the Kingdom will become less and less the uttering of petitions, and will increasingly manifest the exercise of a spiritual authority that recognizes no national boundaries, but fearlessly binds the forces of darkness in any part of the world.