

The image is a vertical composition. The top half shows a view of the Earth from space, with the sun rising over the horizon, creating a bright glow and lens flare. The bottom half shows a sunset over a beach, with waves breaking and the sun's reflection on the sand. The text is overlaid on the image.

STAND

YOUR

GROUND

*How to overcome in the
dark day!*

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Stand Your Ground!

In Ephesians 6, the word "stand" is repeated four times. Verse 11 says to "stand firm against all strategies of the devil." Verse 13 NKJV says, "withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." And verse 14 says, "Stand your ground." We get to stand, therefore, until we get what we are standing there for. Stand, stand, stand, stand until we are the last ones standing. We are to occupy, maintain, resist, stand our ground, enforce the victory and declare God's Word, and the devil must flee from us.

I want to encourage you to operate in the victory already secured by Jesus at the cross, which includes healing and freedom from the oppression of evil influences. We don't need to persuade God to set us free or heal us. Instead, we stand our ground in faith and act on the authority Jesus gave us. Go for it!

Much love
Colleen

CONTENTS

Stand Your Ground

Standing Orders

Understanding God's Nature

The New Covenant of Grace

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Jesus is Triumphant Over Satan And His Dark Forces of Evil

We Have a Mandate to Occupy Till He Comes

THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TWINS

We Have Authority Over the Demonic Realm

We Are to Use The Name of Jesus in The Battle

Speak To The Mountains

Dominion

The Devil's Only Power is Deception

The Limited Power/Abilities of the Kingdom of Darkness

Your Authority Will Work For You When You Are Humble, Surrendered and Submitted to God

Maintain, Resist, Stand Your Ground And Enforce the Victory

Standing Does Not Mean Fighting

Our Authority Is Found in The Indwelling Lord Jesus Christ

Epilogue

Standing Orders

We have our standing orders, Jesus said, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20). He also gave us power and authority to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out demons." (Matthew 10:8).

Along with the power and authority comes responsibility. We are to humble ourselves before God, resist the devil (James 4:7) and stand in the victory Jesus gained for us. Ephesians 6:10–11 gives us the how to—be strong in the Lord and stand against all the strategies of the devil. Our role is to stand firm in faith and enforce what Jesus has already done for us. To stand our ground, we must first know the territory and scope of the ground we are defending and the devil's strategies. We must also be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. The key word here is—"in His mighty power." In His strength and

and ability not ours. We are to go in the strength/mighty abilities of Jesus and rely on Him, the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and His promises. Paul prayed for the Ephesians and for all those who would believe that they would understand the incredible greatness of God's power. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:19–20a). After reading this short booklet, you will gain insight into the authority of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Understanding God's Nature

The only way we can know God is through the Bible. We need not just to read but study God's Word because a lot of passages appear to contradict each other. In Numbers 15:32–35, God commands death by stoning for picking up sticks on the Sabbath. In John 8:3–11, He forgives and does not condemn a woman caught in the act of adultery. So, readers can be confused about what God is really like.

We need a better understanding of the Word of God. In the Old Testament, we see a picture of God that is incomplete. We need to understand the Old Testament in light of the New Testament to know the nature of God. When we hold on to the Old Testament ideas about God, we fail to see His whole nature. We think of God as a God of wrath, judgement and punishment.

Here's an example of how things were done in the Old Testament times. Elijah was one of the few prophets left in Israel because Jezebel had killed them. King Ahaziah, who had been seeking after pagan gods instead of inquiring of God for his healing, also had .

a hand in it. He sent messengers to Baalzebub, the god of Ekron (2 Kings 1:3–20).

This is an Old Testament example of power, the anointing and the wrath of God in defence of His prophets. One hundred and two men were consumed by fire at Elijah's command (2 Kings 1:10).

Let's compare this story of Elijah with a story in Luke 9:51–53. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, and He sent messengers to a Samaritan village to prepare for His arrival. But the Samaritans did not welcome Him because Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. When James, John and the others saw this, they had a knee-jerk Old Testament reaction and asked Jesus if they could call down fire from heaven to burn them up. But Jesus rebuked them. Jesus replied: "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" (Luke 9 55–56). So they went to another village.

There were prejudices between Jews and Samaritans at that time (John 4:9), but Jesus loved and ministered to the Samaritans. They had accepted Him as the Messiah. This time, they rejected Him because He was going to Jerusalem, where the hypocrites were (Luke 9:51–56 NKJV). Jesus rebuked them for trying to do what was done in the Old Testament, where God dealt with humanity in the only way He could.

God's nature is not judgement. You won't find that in the New Testament. He does judge, and He is holy and just to do so, but scripture reveals to us that 1 John 4:8 says that God is love; He doesn't just have love or operate in love; God is love. We need to harmonise the Old with the New to understand the fullness of God.

Hebrews 1:1–4 tells us that Jesus radiates God's glory. He expresses the very nature of God—His true nature revealed. When we read about God's great love for us (John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; 4:10), we can be certain that this is an accurate depiction of what God is like.

When we read, we are cleansed of our sins and that there is no condemnation to those who belong to Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). We can be sure that all our sins, even those committed in the future, are forgiven, forever taken away, and God will not remember them (Hebrews 10:2, 10, 12, 14, 17; Romans 3:22; 8:32–34; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 19, 21; Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13, 3:13–14; Galatians 3:13:1; Hebrews 9:26, 28; John 4:17).

For God so loved us, John 3:16

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Hebrews 9:12 NLT

With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever."

The New Covenant of Grace

The Old Covenant could not make anything perfect, so God had to bring in something better. This was the New Covenant, which was sealed by the shed blood of Jesus. A New Covenant of Grace. John 1:17 says, "For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ." Grace has a face—the Lord Jesus Christ. The Law was given through a servant. Grace and truth came through the Son. The law talks about what we ought to be. Grace reveals who God is. Under grace, God provides righteousness as a gift. God takes our stony hearts engraved with the law, gives us a new tender heart, and writes His law on our hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3

"Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts."

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

We don't have to persuade God to heal us.

God wants us to live and even fight from the victory Jesus gained for us at the cross. Jesus defeated the devil and disarmed him by His suffering, death and resurrection. He stripped them of every weapon, spiritual authority, and power to accuse us (Colossians 2:15). I like to imagine a devil as no bigger than a chicken lying to and tormenting people because God is too big and powerful. Every person is an image bearer of God. But, only believers are sons and daughters of God (John 1:12), born again of incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23) and authority to bring down satan's dominions.

The Bible does not teach us how to cope with our problems; it teaches us how to walk in victory. That's how we overcome. We stand in the victory we already have in Jesus. We have the faith, the Name of Jesus and weapons to fight with. In his letter to Ephesians 6:10-19, Paul informs us of the freely available armour of God so we can stand firm against all the strategies of the devil and resist his lies. But we must to use it. There is no victory without a battle. The armour consists of the belt of

truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the Sword of the Spirit and prayer in the Spirit at all times. It is a battle in the spirit realm and not against people. Paul also reminds readers to be strong in the Lord and His mighty power.

There are seven pieces of armour. Five are defensive, and two are offensive. The belt of truth holds the scabbard for your sword and daggers. We must have truth, the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit, because truth dispels darkness. That is what this ebook is all about—the Word of God in your mouth, overcoming the lies of the evil one. So the truth is the devil cannot fool you any more because you are armed with the truth of God's Word. So, the truth you know sets you free.

God's Word in your mouth can cut the devil to pieces. Ephesians 6:17 Paul writes the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God in our mouths. It is an aggressive, offensive weapon. The belt holds everything together.

The breastplate protects your heart. Your shoes protect your feet. The helmet protects your head. The shield protects your whole person. But the sword is for attacking. God's Word in your mouth can cut the devil to pieces. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." The declared Word of God is a sword that is sharper than any two-edged sword. A two-edged sword can cut both ways. In today's language, we could say that it is like a laser; it can cut in any direction with precision. The Sword of the Spirit and praying in the Spirit can cut the devil to pieces. Jesus faced the devil and used His sword. Jesus said to His enemy, the devil, "It is written!" Three times.

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:7

"Jesus said to him, It is written again, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."

Matthew 4:10

"Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve."

Jesus is Triumphant Over Satan And His Dark Forces of Evil. In Peter's first letter, Peter provides an excellent summary of what Jesus did. 1 Peter 2:21–25 Verse 21 tells us that Jesus suffered for us (cf Isaiah 53:4–5) Verse 22 tells us that Jesus never sinned nor ever deceived anyone (cf Isaiah 53:9). Verse 23 tells us that he did not retaliate when He was insulted (cf Isaiah 53:7). Verse 24 tells us that Jesus personally carried our sins in his body on the cross (cf Isaiah 53:4,11). Verse 24 tells us that by his wounds, we are healed (cf Isaiah 53:5). Verse 25 says that we were like sheep who wandered away, but now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of our souls (cf Isaiah 53:6).

Colossians 2:15 says, "Jesus disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross." Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ. We are not only conquerors but more

than conquerors (Romans 8:37). We triumph and have power and authority over evil only because of what Jesus has done on our behalf.

Now look at Ephesians 1:20–23,

"Which He worked in Christ in raising Him from the dead, and He seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly, far above all principality and authority and power and dominion, and every name being named, not only in this world, but also in the coming age. And He has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Now look at this: Ephesians 2:6 says,

"And has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus." This is how God sees us: seated with His Son in heavenly places far above every principality and power. Far above every demon. Notice we are seated in Jesus. The devil wants us to think we are on our own and, therefore, powerless. We are seated

with Jesus far above all principality and authority and power and dominion and every name being named.

Jesus provided for our healing through His beatings, our forever forgiveness through His substitutionary death on the cross and our victorious resurrection life through His resurrection. By the stripes Jesus suffered at the hands of cruel soldiers, we were healed. Like those who were bitten by serpents in the wilderness, when they looked upon the brazen serpent, they were healed. Jesus claimed the likeness to Himself: "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32).

Adam and Eve had been given unconditional dominion, power and authority over the earth. Once God speaks, it is done. Hebrews 1:3 says, "He sustains everything by the mighty power of his command." God meant it when He gave them dominion over the earth (notice - that dominion did not extend to over each other).

Maybe Lucifer knew that the God-given authority he operated in was conditional. He could not fight against God, and He still can't. His battle is with people because God is too powerful for him. He wanted the power and authority God had given to man. Psalm 115:16 says, "The heavens belong to the LORD, but he has given the earth to all humanity." However, Satan, through his rebellion against the Creator God, is now the god of this world.

2 Corinthians 4:4 "Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God."

Satan knew he could trick Adam and Eve into obeying him; then, he would become their master; consequently, he could take the power and authority that had been given to humanity and use it to receive all the praise he desired.

As Creator, therefore owner, God could have come and destroyed everything with a breath, including Adam and Eve, Satan and all the angels that rebelled. But He had given dominion over the earth to Adam and Eve, and He could not go back on His Word (Hebrews 1:3).

As you know, Adam and Eve yielded that authority and power over to Satan; they always had a choice, and so do we. They willingly yielded to him. God allowed Satan to become the 'god of this world.' Lucifer lost his God-given power the moment he rebelled and became Satan. Now, he uses the authority and power God gave to Adam and Eve and, consequently, humanity to rule and reign over the earth against us.

For the devil to influence us takes our cooperation; that's why he seeks whom he may devour. Romans 6:6 says that when we yield to sin, we yield to the author of sin—Satan. Thereby empowering him.

Romans 6:16 says,
"Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be

a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living."

We Have a Mandate to Occupy Till He Comes

Occupy is a military term that means to take possession, control, and have authority over. God calls you an overcomer because He created you with the potential to occupy until He comes. Luke 19:13 KJV: "And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." There is a champion inside you, and God knows the potential of the seed He has put in you.

When the seventy-two disciples returned from the towns that Jesus sent them to, they excitedly reported, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name." Jesus replied, "Yes, I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning." In falling from heaven, Satan took one-third of the angels with him, and at the same time, he lost his authority, privilege and status. "Look," Jesus continued, "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. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are

registered in heaven" (Luke 10:17–20). Remember, this was before the cross and overpowering of the Holy Spirit. We have the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the same authority over all the power of the enemy.

The fact that our names are written in heaven makes it a permanent and powerful qualification to take authority over the devil. It also speaks of approval, safety and protection. Philippians 3:20 says, "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior." As citizens of Heaven, we have authority, and we are under the government of Heaven. We are to represent heaven here on earth.

THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TWINS

Jesus gave us authority over Satan and his dark angels because we are in Jesus. After His resurrection, Jesus said,

"All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18–20).

Therefore, refers to—"in light of what was just said." Jesus was telling His followers that the authority and power I have, I now give to you. Go and continue My work, the work I have begun." We need that authority and power to occupy the territory that was won for us by Jesus at Calvary.

We Have Authority Over the Demonic Realm

Matthew 10:1, 7-8

"Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. 7-8 Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!"

We have been given power and authority over demons (Luke 9:1). However, with authority and power comes responsibility; James 4:7 says, "Humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." That means if we don't resist the devil, he won't flee from us. We pray sometimes as if we don't have any power or authority. We beg God to get the devil off our backs. This is not operating the authority that we have. We have the authority to do something about it ourselves. We have God's power, but that

power is placed under our authority. If we don't use it, it won't be used. If we don't resist the devil, he won't flee. The battle is not between God and the devil' it's between the devil and us. Notice that James 4:7 does not say the devil will flee from God; it says the devil will flee from you. God has equipped us with power and authority. We must use it.

Have you noticed in the Gospels that Jesus never commanded His followers to pray for the sick, but He commanded them to heal the sick? He also commands us to heal the sick (Luke 9:2; 10:9). Jesus took the stripes on His back for our healing (Matthew 8:16–17), and now He's given us the power to heal the sick. He gave us power and authority over all demons to cast them out and cure diseases. Now it's up to us to use it.

Peter and John at the Temple Gate. Each day, a lame man from birth was carried into the Gate Beautiful so he could beg. He saw Peter and John and asked them for money. The narrative goes—

Acts 3:4–8

"Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them."

Notice Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have." He did not pray a prayer. They had the power to heal. It was not their human power but the power of God. Nothing in them could heal an ant. But remember, we are born again with the power and authority to use God's power.

**GOD HEALS.
OUR PART IS TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAS
ALREADY HEALED, ACCEPT THAT
POWER, TAKE AUTHORITY AND USE IT.
WE SPEAK TO SICKNESS, DISEASE AND
INFIRMITY AND COMMAND THEM TO
GO.**

We Are to Use The Name of Jesus in The Battle.

We declare God's Word in Jesus' Name. "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Philippians 2:10). Jesus Christ is Lord, Victor, Redeemer, Saviour and our Fortress. Jesus has already won the battle. The following scriptures declare Jesus' supremacy and victory at Calvary.

Hebrews 2:14

"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death."

Colossians 1:15

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation."

1 John 3:8

"But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil."

John 16:11 TPT

"And 'judgment' because the ruler of this dark world has already received his sentence."

Colossians 2:15

"In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross."

Romans 8:37 NLT

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us."

1 John 5:4

"For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith."

The first message the Apostle Peter

preached to the Gentiles was in the home of Cornelius. He preached, And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. "Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him (Acts 10:38). 'Immanuel' God with us. We are commissioned to do what Jesus did (Matthew 1:23).

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, and so are we. Jesus healed all who the devil oppressed. Another example of a person who was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power was Philip. Philip preached Christ, and evil spirits came out of unsaved people. Here is the narrative

Acts 8:5–8

"Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralysed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city."

Philip was not afraid to demonstrate the power of God. Paul was not afraid to testify that his preaching was in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:1–5). Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and power, and he knew it. We are to occupy and thereby operate in that same anointing until Jesus returns. We are empowered to lay hands on the sick and command demons in Jesus' name to cease their activities against people. We are to restore sight to the blind and set a liberty those who have been bruised. We have been commissioned and authorised to take authority over all the power of the enemy and crush them (Luke 10:19)

Speak To The Mountains.

Mark 11:23 says, "I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart."

Just praying and asking God to deliver people from demonic oppression supernaturally requires no faith or the use of our God-given authority. Jesus commanded us to heal the sick in His Name. He gave us the power to go and cleanse the leper and raise the dead (Matthew 10:8). We must do our part because God won't step in and do what He's told us to do. That's our responsibility.

In Mark 9:23, Jesus said, "All things are possible to those who believe." God has done His part—Satan and his dark angels were defeated and disarmed at the cross. The Word says in 1 Peter 2:24 that Jesus personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." We were forever healed and forever forgiven at Calvary. God's mercy was poured out. God placed His power in us, and now it's up to us to release it. Speak to the mountain and command it to move. Speak to sickness and disease and command it to move.

Dominion

Genesis 1:27-28 says,

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

The power and authority to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, govern it, and reign over fish, birds, and all animals came with a responsibility—a responsibility to know God's Word. We can speak to the mountain of offence, pain or trouble and command them to move.

The Devil's Only Power is Deception.

Ephesians 6:10–11 says, "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."

His strategies are cunning, crafty and

deceitful. The Lord Jesus has given you and me power and authority over all the power of the devil. Luke 9:1 NKJV; "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases." Notice Jesus gave authority over all the power of the enemy. All means all. We will not be free from Satan's harassment by praying and asking God to remove the devil; that power has been given to us. James 4:7 does not say the devil will flee from God. It says the devil will flee from us. "So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Resist means to fight against; it is active. It helps if you are mad at his activities. Put your foot down and rise up in godly anger and faith and exercise your authority in Jesus' name

and the devil must flee. We must take back what the devil stole from us. God will not rebuke the devil for you. We must stand up and resist him. God gave us power and authority over the devil and all demons. We must do what Jesus told us to do. He told us to resist the devil, and he will flee from us.

You would not sit idly by and watch a thief steal your stuff. The devil is trying to destroy your life, even kill you with sickness and disease and take your prosperity from you. Resist him, tell him to leave and not to come back. Rise up, you mighty warrior!

The Limited Power/Abilities of the Kingdom of Darkness

The devil CANNOT read our minds. God is the only one who is omniscient or all-knowing. The devil did not even know that Jesus would gain victory through the cross. In fact, he schemed to put Jesus on the cross. Had he known that the cross meant his defeat, he would not have crucified the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8). The devil does not know what you are thinking until you open your mouth. If you are fearful, he has no clue until you say it.

The devil is NOT omnipotent or all-powerful. Only God is. The devil is just a roaring toothless lion—1 Peter 5:8 tells us, "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." He is a liar (John 8:44). He lies to people to get them to give the impression that he has power.

The devil is NOT omnipresent or everywhere all the time. Only God is everywhere. His presence is not just limited to a church. He is in us (Colossians 3:3), and He will never leave us (John 14:16; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).

Your Authority Will Work For You When You Are Humble, Surrendered and Submitted to God. Notice that James 4:7 says, first, to humble, surrender, and submit yourselves to God. So, authority will work for you when you are humble, surrendered and submitted to God. God gave us this privilege, and we must use it.

When Jesus said in Luke 10:19 KJV, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

The first 'power' in Greek is exousia (Thayer Dictionary), which means power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases, and authority over. "Power" is best translated as "authority."

The second 'power' over the enemy is dunamis, which is best translated as ability. We have power and authority over all of the abilities of the enemy.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The word 'power' here is *dunamis* in Greek. It means, Strength power and ability. We receive the strength, power and ability of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses and do what Jesus did. Someone say hallelujah!

Maintain, Resist, Stand Your Ground And Enforce the Victory. It is essential to realise that God has given us resources to enforce the devil's defeat. Colossians 2:15 says, "Jesus disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross." God does not need us to defeat the devil because Jesus has already defeated him and the kingdom of darkness. We must maintain, resist, stand our ground and enforce the victory. We occupy until Jesus returns. Jesus defeated, defanged and disarmed the devil. He is a defeated foe. We don't have to defeat the devil.

We don't fight for victory; we stand and resist in the victory Jesus won for us.

In Ephesians 6, the word "stand" is repeated four times. Verse 11 says to "stand firm against all strategies of the devil." Verse 13 NKJV says, "withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." And verse 14 says, "Stand your ground." We get to stand, therefore, until we get what we are standing there for. Stand, stand, stand, stand until we are the last ones standing.

Standing Does Not Mean Fighting. Standing means we have already won, knowing that Jesus gave us the victory. We don't fight for victory; we stand and resist in the victory Jesus won for us. We stand on the truth that by the stripes of Jesus, we were healed. We don't have to persuade God to heal us.

God gave us a spirit of power (2 Timothy 1:7). We have been endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). We have power and authority over all the power of the enemy (Mark 3:15; Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1, 10:19).

Having said all this, Jesus has all authority and power. John 3:35 says, "The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands."

John 5:26–27 says,
"The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man."

1 Peter 3:22

"Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority."

Hebrews 1:3–4

"The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names."

1 Corinthians 15:27

"For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under his authority," that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.)"

Our Authority Is Found in The Indwelling Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:10 says, "So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority." Our authority is found in the indwelling Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26-29). "God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 3:10).

We must be students of God's Word. God has given us power way back in the first Chapter of the Bible.

Epilogue

We must be students of God's Word. God has given us power way back in the first Chapter of the Bible. When God gives us power, He gives us the authority so we can release the power to do it. God promised the Israelites in Deuteronomy 28:8 that He would bless the work of their hands, so we have a role to play.

1 John 3:8; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14, and more speak of Jesus overcoming sin and death. Jesus did not stop at Bethlehem. He revealed the true nature of His Father God and went to Calvary. Through His death, He destroyed, defeated, and broke the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil. We don't need to plead with God to turn His heart toward us. We don't need to ask God to bless us. We don't need to plead for mercy and forgiveness. His heart is already toward us because He loves us. His Grace, blessing, mercy, healing, forgiveness, and love were poured out on the cross. "It is finished.

We must tell people the truth because it's the truth that will set them free. (John 8:32.) People must hear the good news.

It is not all about doing "spiritual warfare," binding demons, and begging God. It's us standing up, preaching the Gospel, and telling people the truth that they are overcomers and victorious.

The idiom, "The devil made me do it", is wrong because Satan is defeated, and he cannot make you do anything. All he can do is lie to you. Then, if you believe his lie, you empower him to accomplish his will. But he can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation. The truth is that the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has more power than the devil. His only power is deception. We don't have any power over what people say, but we do have power over what we hear. We don't have to swallow it or believe it.

Titus 2:14–15

"He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds. You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say."

Maintain, occupy, resist, stand your ground and enforce the victory.

Much love,
Colleen