

Authority In Prayer

Praying with Power and Purpose

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Relevance

Spiritual
Physical
Financial
Leadership
Relationships
Communication
Recreational
Technology
Business
Concepts

What You Will Learn

- Why Christians have authority in prayer to influence events in our world.
- How Christians can grow in authority.
- How Christians can apply their authority.

Recommendation

Don't' just read this recap. Read, study, and absorb the entire book, and then apply!

Abstract

Who's in charge of your personal world? You, God, or some outside influence? According to Dutch Sheets, the issue is *authority*, and God has given you authority over all aspects of your life under the umbrella of God's supreme authority. In this book, you'll learn the meaning of praying with authority as you grasp God's promises and power. Become an agent of change through prayer and impact not only your personal world but also the world around you as you partner with God and use the authority He's given you.

Focus

Take-Aways

- You absolutely can reign in life and be the overcomer God intends you to be, taking charge of your personal world and changing the world around you. You don't have to allow sin, Satan, or the circumstances of your life to weigh you down.
- Because God established and so honors the principle of authority, He will back you as you walk in the government

	he has delegated to you concerning your extended world – your home, family, business, and possessions. • God's plan is for you to partner with Him on the earth in broader realms of influence and authority. • God needs you to pray. Are you ready to use your God-given authority to further His kingdom?
The question	• Who's in charge? • It is at the heart of all conflict on earth. The question was born in the heart of Lucifer when he tried usurping God in heaven and it spread to earth when he passed the question on to Adam and Eve. • God doesn't intend that any outside force dominate you. He has given you jurisdiction over your life. • God has given you jurisdiction over your world – under His authority, of course. He wants you, no sin, demonic powers, negative circumstances, or any other outside force to govern it. • The question of who's in control is a governmental issue. Webster's defines govern as "to direct and control; to regulate by authority; to influence; to direct; to restrain; to steer or regulate the course of; to exercise authority; to maintain the superiority." • One of Scripture's primary themes is governmental authority. The primary biblical struggle is over the questions "Who will rule human kind?" and "Who will rule the world?" The answer to the first determines the answer to the second. • The more you learn to govern your world the way God intends, the more His cause prospers. • God wants to enable each of us to win over evil, governing our personal world in the now, every day, and in every circumstance. • Yet off we go to our church services, week after week, learning our lingo and getting our denial fix, all the while wondering whey the rest of society – and many of our children – think we live in a make-believe world of religion without reality, performance without power. • Something has to change, and it can. Our God is all-powerful, and everything He has said of us is true. His promises are indeed "yea, and in him Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20). We absolutely can reign in life and be the overcomer He intends us to be, taking charge of our personal world and changing the world around us. • God's plan is for you to partner with Him on the earth in broader realms of influence and authority. Jesus, the

sovereign King over the earth, wants to rule institutions, cultures, societies, and governments through you and your prayers. Your choice matters and your involvement is crucial.

The author

- Authority and power are not the same. Power is the strength or force needed to rule; authority is the right to do so.
- Authority without power to enforce it is meaningless; power exercised without authority is usurpation and is morally wrong.
- Satan didn't gain any power at the fall and didn't lose any at the cross. His power, or ability to use it, didn't change at either event; his authority or the right to use that power did.
- The King James translation uses the Greek words *dunamis* (power) and *exousia* (authority) interchangeably, which is unfortunate and creates confusion.
- This is more than a mere technicality. If Jesus stripped Satan of power, as some teach, then we no longer need to concern ourselves with him – he becomes a non-issue. Or if we Christians have been delivered from Satan's power, as some teach, then he can no longer affect or control us. We would be able to ignore him completely, which is precisely what many Christians do.
- If on the other hand, Jesus dealt with Satan's authority - the right to use his power – then we would need to deal with him as a usurper, a rebel, a thief that has no *right* to steal, kill, and destroy but *will* if not stopped (see John 10:10).
- If we have been delivered from Satan's authority and given a higher authority in Christ's name, then we must exercise that authority over the devil's works and power. When we do, Gods' awesome power will back up our authority. Luke 10:19 refers to this: "Behold, I have given you authority (*exousia*) to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over al the power (*dunamis*) of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you."
- **We can pray with authority, binding or tying Satan legally, and God will back us with His power. What will determine victory for us is understanding and exercising authority.**
- The root concept behind authority is authorship, not as in writing but as in origination or creation. One has authority over what one authors.
- Little wonder that Satan, through theories of macroevolution and other forms of humanist thinking, wants to dispel belief in God as creator, for if He is the author of all creation, the He has authority over all creation, including humans. If He

is not the creator, then authority over the earth and all it contains is up for grabs.

- Establishing the fact that Christ is creator and owner of all is critical if we are to truly pray with authority and legislate through intercession. Why? There are probably more, but here are four reasons:
  1. Only those who have authority can delegate it. If Christ doesn't have complete dominion over the earth, He can't give it to us.
  2. Understanding Christ's ownership and authority over all the earth brings great faith to fulfill our callings and assignments, including of course our personal world.
  3. Without Christ's true ownership of and authority over the earth, the final outcome of this battle for earth could be in doubt.
  4. We must submit to Christ's authority before He will delegate His authority to us.

You can't give what you don't have

- Only those who have authority can delegate it. If Christ doesn't truly possess all authority, then He cannot give you the absolute right to rule your world. That would mean that at times you can only be a victim. It implies that Satan, other people, or circumstances can have the right to trump your authority, dictating whether or not you'll be an overcomer in any given situation.
- The Author wrote the ending to your story, and no one but you has the authority to alter it.
- You can change His ending if you like, for the Author authorized you to write as well. He gave you, and only you, the right to rewrite the ending to your story.
- The word translated as "purpose" in the New Testament (see 2 Timothy 19; Romans 8:28) comes from the Greek term *prothesis*, which means to set forth the purpose of something in advance.
- Our English word prosthesis also comes from *prothesis*; prosthesis is an artificial body part, intended to restore lost usefulness.
- As a Christian, you can't be broken beyond God's creative ability to restore.
- Don't ever accept defeat again. Yes, there are conditions to each of God's promises, but only we have the authority to determine whether or not we will meet those conditions. Therefore, only we have the right to determine whether we receive the fulfillment of every promise.

Belief and faith are the same

- If we're not absolutely convinced that Christ has all authority, we will experience trouble walking in faith.
- If we are convinced, He can use us to release that authority

	through governmental intercession.
The end is certain	• The war has never been about who will win ultimate control of the earth – its' about who will be on the winning side with Him. • Those who walk in this revelation have a victorious mindset and walk in greater authority, rejecting a defeatist mindset that believe we must simply hold on as best we can while everything around us falls apart. • In this world you will have trouble," but take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33) • As intercessors, knowing the final outcome makes all the difference.
Power comes from submission	• We can never take charge of our personal world in a way God can bless until we do so under His lordship or authority. • Believe in His authority and believe in His plan. He is waiting to move you to higher authority than you ever dreamed possible, enabling you to take charge of situations through authoritative prayer.
The assignment	• Normal is relative. So is restoration. We cannot return to normalcy until we know what it was. We, the body of Christ, speak often of restored authority, but we will never fully understand what Jesus restored to us if we don't know what we lost. • God never does anything without purpose or intent. Since He knows the end from the beginning, He never has to ad-lib or figure things out as he moves along. "I know the plans that I have for you . . . to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) • We, the human race, are the reason God made the earth. It was created to be our home and domain. • The Creator was so excited about all this that after six days of creation He planned a day of celebration. The word translated "rested" in Genesis 2:2 also means "celebrate" and could be translated as such. Have you ever wondered why God needed rest? He celebrated! • Then came our assignment. God's original intent was that this creation would be governed through humans. Interestingly, the Hebrews term for dirt or soil is *adamah*, from the same root as Adam. God formed *adam* (humans) out of the dust from the *adamah* (ground – see Genesis 2:7). We are made from the same material as our home! • He was making the point that this first *adam* was the beginning of an entire race of *adams*. • What God intended for Adam He intended for all adams, including authority over the earthly realms.

The contest	• This is why Genesis 1:26 says God made "man" (adam) in His image and than said "let *them* rule." All adams, the entire human race, were given authority over the earth. • Psalm 115:16 confirms God's original intent concerning human-kind's dominion mandate: "The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has given to the sons of men." This verse's "given" comes from a Hebrew word that can mean ownership but also means "to give in the sense of an assignment"; it means "to put in charge of." • God didn't give away ownership of the earth, but He did assign humans the responsibility of governing or stewarding it, starting with our private world and continuing to our extended and universal ones. • Why would He do such a thing? Because He wanted a family, born of His very nature, made in His image and likeness, filled with His own breath, with whom He could share His plans. • It's obvious from Scripture that God works on the earth through humans, not independently of them. • God told Adam in Genesis 2:15 to "keep" the garden. This word is elsewhere translated as *watchman* and means "to guard or protect." Adam, as God's government on earth, was responsible to protect it – no doubt from the serpent, since as yet there was nothing else to protect it from. • *Radah*, used in Genesis means "to subjugate, to subdue, to cause to rule, to reign or to take possession of." That's what we humans are to do on earth! God's ultimate intention is for you to rule your personal world and to partner with His other kids in ruling the world around you. You are a government official. • I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel. (Genesis 3:15) • When God said He would crush Satan's head, He was not referring to his physical head but to his *headship* or authority. The Hebrew word *rosh* – also translated elsewhere in Scripture as chief, leader, captain, and ruler – can refer to a literal head, but it also means first in rank or authority, in much the same way we use it today in regard to a head of state or the head of a corporation. God was acknowledging what had just occurred – Satan had succeeded in taking earth's headship from Adam. But God was also stating that He already had a plan to take it back. • Notice, woman does not have a seed. The seed God referred to by "her seed" in Genesis 3:15 was referring to Christ.

	• Christ not only took our place in death but He also conquered it. • He became the new human head over the earth. Authority over the earth was now sage in the hands of a human that could never lose it again – Jesus. • Ephesians 1:22 says all things have been placed in subjection to Him who is the "head over all things." Colossians 2:10 says, "He is the head over all rule and authority." • At this point, remember what this does and doesn't mean. This act dealt with Satan's authority, not his power. • In Matthew 28:16-20, after the cross and resurrection, Jesus made His declaration of victory: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (v 18). Again, authority is *exousia*, the same work translated "domain" at Christ's temptation when Satan used it regarding his authority. • **Though he still fights, Satan's doom is sure, his fate is sealed; Adam's lost authority is now safe in the hands of the last Adam. Now we can pray with true authority, knowing that Christ wants to release His kingdom rule through us.** • **The Father's original plan is now reinstated – He is governing the earth through his children.**
The ekklesia	• When Jesus used the word "church" (Greek: ekklesia), the disciples weren't hindered by our contemporary preconceived ideas as to what it meant. To us today it is (1) a worship service; (2) a building used by Christians; (3) a local congregation of Christians; or (4) for those who tend toward a more literal meaning, the people of God, "called out" from the world. • To the Greeks in Christ's day an *ekklesia* was an assembly of people set apart to govern the affairs of a state or nation – in essence, a parliament or congress. To the Romans, it was a group of people sent into a conquered region to alter the culture until it became like Rome. • When Jesus said He would build His church, he was without question speaking of a body of people that would legislate spiritually for Him, extending His kingdom government (rule) over the earth. • He would give to His *ekklesia* "keys" (Matthew 16:19), which also bring to mind authority. Keys lock or unlock, in order to close or open, doors and gates. Christ's church would have keys (authority) to lock the gates (government) of hell and release the gates (government) of heaven. • The church of Christ is not supposed to be a group of

	harmless, irrelevant, mind-your-own-business worshipers who gather once a week, tucked away from anything public, just to practice their particular mode of religion. This is, of course what many unbelievers think is appropriate. We frequently hear/see statements from the media, political leaders, and others that religious beliefs should be kept "private" or that they "have no place in the public arena," and especially that they "have no place in government." • Since we (1) have not understood what it means to be an *ekklesia*, (2) don't understand our spiritual weapons and the invisible spirit realm where they operate, and (3) know we cannot force Christ and His ways on people, our conclusion often has been to assume that we can make very little difference in our world. The prevailing mindset has been to simply place all hope for changes in God's sovereignty – a belief that when He wants and chooses to, He will change a particular situation to be in accord with His will. • If this concept of God's sovereignty were true, it would mean that places, cultures, and lives are messed up, that suffering is occurring and that people are going to hell simply because God isn't yet motivated enough to do anything about it.
The dynasty	• Most Christians, though they may or may not think of it as priestly activity, realize that we send worship and prayer from earth to heaven. But most of us completely miss God's plan concerning our kingly anointing of representing Christ. We are not only priests, we're a "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). • Both the priestly and kingly dimensions of prayer can be seen through what we call "the Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9 – 13): o The prayer begins with praise, an obvious example of priestly intercession. o The prayer then shifts to kingly intercession with imperatives: "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The verbs "come" and "be" are both in command form in Greek. In other words, we are not only to request His kingdom rule and will – we are to decree them into situations for Him. Kingly, governmental intercession, bringing heaven to earth. o The prayer shifts back to priestly petitioning asking for provision, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation. • This pattern can also be seen in several psalms, Psalm 24 being a prime example.
The voice	• Kingly intercession is released through decrees. With them we "legislate" God's will on earth.

The sword

- Prophesying is more than foretelling – predicting the future. It is also forthtelling – speaking forth the plans and will of God for the present and the future.
- Kingly intercession is something you need to do from room to room in your house!
- We become the voice of God in the earth, decreeing His decrees for Him. Job 22:25 says, "You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; and light will shine on your ways."
- God's word is called a seed (1 Peter 1:23), and when we sow it into a situation, we are sprinkling the seeds through which He causes His will to spring up.
- The power of God's inspired words is extraordinary. He rules through words – and so must we. In fact, you will never truly rule your world until you learn the force of words.
- You too are a part of God's government on the earth, and He desires His will and purposes through you. You are a member of His church – the *ekklesia* – and as such have authority to insist on His will and stop the plans of hell.
- Isaiah 48 speaks of God's words and the creative power of this partnership between Him and His people. Look especially at verses 6-7:

  > You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it? I proclaim to you new things from this time, even hidden things which you have not known. They are created now and not long ago; and before today you have not heard them, lest you should say, "Behold, I knew them."

- Ezekiel 37 is a striking biblical example of God ruling and creating through the decrees of a person. God's method of restoration was for Ezekiel to prophesy or decree to them:

  > Again He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.' Thus says the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. . . ."

- God was giving the orders. Ezekiel was partnering with Him, functioning as His voice on the earth. In verse 14, God says, "I, the Lord, have spoken and done it." He refers to the prophet's words as His own.
- Jeremiah's ministry is another vivid portrayal of God releasing His words through a person.
- In order to be effective, the content of our decrees must be

The heavens	what God wants. • We are God's plan! He is waiting for the church to be the church – functioning as His parliamentary council, legislating His will through Spirit-led decrees, frustrating the councils of hell. He is waiting for us to command His will over the lives of individuals and declare that they will not be destroyed by Satan's schemes. If you're a Christian, you're a part of this great governing body. Don't wait any longer to begin extending God's rule into the earth. • We have been given everything we need in order to operate in heavenly places; Christ has been given all authority in this realm; we have been seated there with Him in that position of authority; through us, from our position there with Christ, God intends to deal with the kingdom of darkness (read the following verses in this order, as if it were one continuous passage – Ephesians 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). • Most people, including Christians, give little thought to the unseen world governing the one we see. Many, especially in cultures that emphasize higher education and intellectualism, are actually cynical of this arena. • The more we learn to function in the invisible spiritual realm, recognizing and applying its governing principles, the more we can partner with God, positively impact our world, avoid the snares and influence of the evil one, and enjoy the blessing of our salvation. • If we are going to be truly effective in prayer, especially governmental intercession, we must acknowledge, understand, and learn to influence the spiritual realm. We must move beyond our fear of what others think, and agree with Scripture. • We are inconsistent if we confess to be Bible-believing followers of Christ and yet refuse to acknowledge and deal with the invisible kingdom of darkness. Failure in this area has rendered us largely impotent. • Exodus 17 demonstrates the invisible war in Joshua's leading the Israelite troops into battle against the Amalekites. God told Moses to go up on the mountain overlooking the battlefield with the rod He had given him to hold it aloft. Moses' arms became weary and he was not longer able to hold up the rod, the battle would turn against Israel. The soldiers were not watching Moses while engaged in conflict. • From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. (Matthew 11:12) • There is often a temporary season of disarray or disorder

The room

during a transition.

- Revelation, spontaneous and specific understanding or strategy for current situations, must be interpreted in the larger context of wisdom, a general understanding of God's ways, purposes, and principles learned over time.
- The words "veiled" (*kalupto*) in 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and "revelation" (*apokalupsis*) in Ephesians 1:17-18) come from the same root. The basic concept of *kalupto* is to hide or conceal something by covering or veiling it. Adding the prefix *apo* means to undo or reverse that process, giving us the concept of revelation. Simply stated, revelation is when God lifts the veil created by sin from our hearts and allows us to receive insight or understanding directly from Him.
- Wisdom is formulated based upon the truth learned in the past; revelation, on the other hand, produces present truth and makes our wisdom relevant.
- Revelation brings current strategy for current situations; wisdom enables the implementation of that strategy with skill.
- Wisdom generates consistency and balance; revelation prohibits stagnation.
- Kingly, governmental intercession is absolutely linked to revelation. We can never be confident we are operating in God-given authority if we are not certain we are functioning according to His will and strategy.
- **Our greatest lack in prayer is not allowing the Spirit to help us.**
- God speaks to us in many ways. Regardless of His chosen method, hearing from God is not optional if we are to be overcomers in life.

The interruption

- In Matthew 16:18, Jesus speaks of building and warring by revelation. The context is that Peter has just received a powerful revelation of Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus commended him and said "Upon this rock I will build My church."

> I tell you, you are peter [Petros, masculine, a large piece of rock), and on this rock [petra, feminine, a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it – or be strong to its detriment, of hold out against it.

- Jesus (1) was talking about spiritual warfare and (2) was not saying He would build His church on Peter, but upon the rock of revelation.
- Jesus then made His promise of giving us the keys, or

	authority, with which to bind and loose the invisible realm called "heavenly places." • 1 Chronicles 12:32 tells us, "Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command." The word "times" in this verse is a Hebrew word (*kairos*) meaning strategic or opportune time. These were men of revelation, and it was this revelation of the times that brought them knowledge of what to do. • The prophetic anointing – the ability to understand the times – had to do with war. For us to be effective in our spiritual war, we too must have an ability to discern the times. • See 1 Kings 3:9; Daniel 1:17, 20; 8:15-16; 9:22; 10:1; Proverbs 3:5 • God is not saying we should abandon wisdom or common sense. He is telling us not to rely on our own human discernment of what to do. • Paul told Timothy to "fight the good fight" by using the "prophecies previously made concerning you" (1 Timothy 1:18). David warred against the Philistines by receiving divine revelation (2 Samuel 5:23-25). Elijah overcame jezebel through God-given revelation and strategy (1 Kings 17-18). • **If Israel had to listen for God's strategy from heaven in order to win their battles, isn't it reasonable that we will need to do the same in our spiritual warfare?** • The Scriptures actually equate a lack of revelation to judgment. In Luke 12:54-56 and 19:41-44, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Jerusalem's religious community for not being able to understand or discern the times. In verse 42, Christ also said that a part of their judgment was a further loss of revelation.
The levels	• It is a common misconception that all Christians have the same amount of authority in Christ's name. We do not. There are several principles that will determine varying degrees of spiritual authority we operate in as followers of Jesus. • The first principle that determines our level of authority in prayer is simply our relationship to Christ – our salvation. • Everyone has equal authority to access the Father in Jesus' name. • While we all have equal access to our heavenly Father in Christ's name, there are factors that can alter this. They have to do with our obedience to His Word and our freedom from sin.

The degrees	• Revelation 2:26-27 says, “He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he shall rule.” • The second principle regarding our level of authority is the principle of concentric expansion. • Much like a target with larger and larger circles around the bull’s-eye. • As the circles expand outward, our personal authority decreases. • Many spiritual principles and guidelines seem foolish to our natural minds (1 Corinthians 2:14). • No one has more authority to pray for you or lay hold of God’s promises for you than *you*! • We have authority to pray not only for ourselves but also for those for whom we are a covering (family, etc.) • A third principle to connection with our level of authority in prayer is our understanding of God and His word. • Hosea 4:6 says that we as God’s people can be destroyed for lack of knowledge. • Paul told his spiritual son Timothy to “take hold of the eternal life to which you were called” (1 Timothy 6:12). Timothy was already saved and therefore had received eternal life. Why then would he be told to “take hold” of it? The covenantal provisions promised to us in Christ do not automatically come to us just because we are Christians. We must learn to exercise our authority, release our faith, and seize these provisions – which is the literal meaning of the Greek word translated “take hold of.” • The fourth principle that will determine our authority level is our connection to and identification with God’s heart. • God gives authority to those who think the way He things and want what He wants. • If He knows we will do what He wants, and not our own thing, He can trust us with more responsibility and greater authority. • The fifth principle determining our level of authority is our ability to listen to God and discern His will. Delegated authority has everything to do with representation. We receive authority from the one we represent. Obviously, we must know what he/she expects or desires of us. • A sixth principle regarding our level of authority in prayer is the decisions of others. • For example, sin in that person’s life or an unresolved issue between him and God may affect how much authority you have to lay hold of a biblical promise for him. • The seventh principle determining our level of authority in

The gains	prayer is our assignment. • A good example is the scope of U.S. citizenship. Every U.S. citizen has the exact same constitutional rights, with the same freedoms, liberties, and protections. However, if a U.S. citizen is appointed as an ambassador to another nation, he will possess authority that the average U.S. citizen does not have. • When God gives an assignment he delegates the necessary authority to fulfill that assignment. • Paul was confident that he possessed much spiritual authority in Corinth. • The word Paul used in 2 Corinthians 10:13-18 for "measure" is *metron*, which means "a limited portion." • He then spoke of his "sphere" of authority. This term, *kannon*, means a sphere of rule, a boundary, a sphere of activity. Paul acknowledged he did not possess the same authority elsewhere as he did at Corinth. • **There is a reciprocal level of humility that must accompany our confidence. No matter how much authority any of us possesses spiritually, we must always remember that it is delegated to us through Christ.** • Prayer and the exercise of true biblical authority have the power to create justice in the earth. • For every person, every people, every nation, and in every age, Satan tries to alter God's timing and plans. • How? Obviously not by changing God's mind. He does so by seeking to affect us in such a way that we are not able, or choose not, to cooperate with God's purpose. • We can and will win this war. • God has given America a great destiny. And He has given the church stewardship of this nation that ultimately belongs to Him. Don't sit on the sidelines. Join the cause and become a history-making king-priest, a governmental, heavenly minded, volunteer soldier for King Jesus. • It is time!

About The Author(s)

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