What You Already Carry

Authority, faith and extra grace

All authority belongs to Jesus, and He gives it in His Name. Faith is trusting Him. A gift is His extra grace for a particular assignment. All three come from Him.

Here is what is true of every Christian in this room, whether you believe it or not. You have been given authority. You have the Name of Jesus as your warrant and the Holy Spirit as your power to back it up. It is delegated authority, and it came with everything needed to execute justice on the earth. And then, some Christians are given extra grace in a particular area.

1 Three Words to Keep Distinct

AUTHORITY exousia

What it is: the delegated right to act
How it's given: by commission, one mandate to all
Who has it: all believers, uniform
Depends on my believing it? No, it's true either way

FAITH pistis

What it is: believing I actually have that right
How it's given: my agreement with what He said
Who has it: every believer can; not everyone does
Depends on my believing it? Yes, that's what it is

EXTRA GRACE charisma

What it is: added grace for a specific ministry or assignment
How it's given: by apportionment, measured out individually
Who has it: some believers, varied measure
Depends on my believing it? No, He distributes as He wills

2 The Authority: Already Given

> Look, **I have given you authority** to tread on snakes and scorpions and on the full force of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you.
>
> LUKE 10:19, NET

"I have given": the perfect tense, a completed grant still in force. Whether the disciples felt powerful or not, they possessed authorization from the highest authority in the universe. Jesus also told them, *"Freely you received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8): it rests on receipt, not endowment.

He *"seated us together with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus"* (Ephesians 2:6). **Authority is a consequence of location, not a reward for achievement.** So it does not rise and fall with how I feel.

3 Sons of God: Why You Carry It

Last week, Session 2: These fallen divine beings, originally appointed to administer the nations justly, had instead led them into idolatry, receiving worship intended for God alone. Jesus removed their right.

At Babel the nations were divided *"according to the number of the heavenly assembly"* (Deuteronomy 32:8). Then God called Abraham: *"All the nations will be blessed in you"* (Galatians 3:8).

> Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his descendant. Scripture does not say, "and to the descendants," referring to many, but "and to your descendant," **referring to one, who is Christ**.
>
> GALATIANS 3:16, NET

> For in Christ Jesus **you are all sons of God** through faith. … And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, **heirs according to the promise**.
>
> GALATIANS 3:26, 29, NET

NET's *descendant* is the Greek *sperma*, seed: one seed, Christ, and everyone in Him. Our restored authority is rooted in our renewed identity as spiritual beings, God's sons and daughters, representing His rule and reign on earth.

MICHAEL HEISER, NAKED BIBLE PODCAST 94 AND 177

Babel and Abraham	At Babel God handed the nations over to the sons of God (Deuteronomy 32:8-9), then started over with Abraham to win them back.
A new family	The Watchers produced corrupt offspring. Christ produces legitimate sons of God who take their place: *"believers are the reconstituted Divine Council."*
Hebrews 2	The world to come is not put under angels. *"We displace the fallen elohim sons of God."* The powers' authority is now illegitimate, and the Great Commission is setting captives free.

Hebrews says the same: *"he did not put the world to come, about which we are speaking, under the control of angels"* (2:5). He is *"bringing many sons to glory"* and *"is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters"* (2:10-11). In Christ, redeemed humanity is positioned even higher than the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3, Hebrews 2:5-9), fulfilling God's original intention that humans would be His primary representatives governing creation.

Our identity and authority as "sons of God" is fundamentally spiritual, empowering us to reclaim humanity's original intended position: to represent and extend God's rule on earth.

4 The Name and the Power

The Name is the warrant

An officer doesn't enforce on personal credibility, he enforces on the authority named on the warrant. So the weakest believer here and the most seasoned carry the same warrant. The Name is not a formula I can borrow. It belongs to those who belong to Him.

ACTS 3:6, 16 · ACTS 19:13-16

The Spirit is the power

Authority is the right; power is the force behind it. *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"* Authority can function effectively even when power isn't visibly manifested.

ACTS 1:8 · JTD P.178

The authority is the right. The Name is the warrant. The Spirit is the power. One God, and all three came in the box.

5 True Whether You Believe It or Not

"their unfaithfulness will not nullify God's faithfulness" (Romans 3:3). A legal fact about my standing, not a feeling about my capability. The seam between the first two words: the authority is a fact, it doesn't depend on my believing it. Faith is my agreement with that fact, that part is up to me.

Unbelief doesn't empty the account. It just means you never write the check. The wiring is in the house whether or not I believe in electricity. Unbelief leaves the switch off, it doesn't tear out the wiring.

6 What It Is For, and What It Is Not For

We weren't handed authority so we'd feel powerful. We were deputized into a mission already in progress, His. *"Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you"* (John 20:21). So: what was His mission? Justice. Jesus went around *"healing all who were oppressed by the devil"* (Acts 10:38). Sickness and torment are framed as oppression, not misfortune. Deliverance is what justice looks like when it reaches a bound human being. **So we are enforcement, not litigation.**

What it is not for. Scripture remains notably silent about authority over geopolitical structures, weather systems, or unqualified control of territories. Importantly, believers never receive authority over others' wills or choices. Spiritual authority promotes freedom, never control or coercion.

7 And Then, Extra Grace

"grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift" (Ephesians 4:7). Same grace. Different measures. The Spirit gives *"distributing as he decides to each person"* (1 Corinthians 12:11). **Gifting adds grace, not authority. Nobody here has more authority than you. Some have more grace in an area.** The guardrail runs both ways: a gifted person carries no extra jurisdiction to throw around, and my lack of a gift removes none from me.

Every believer has the right to minister deliverance based on their position in Christ rather than special calling or exceptional gifting. Is there a "gift of deliverance"? There may well be. **A gift raises measure, precision, and consistency. It never creates an exclusive right.**

8 Faith: Unmixed, Not Large

> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why couldn't we cast it out?" He told them, "It was because of your little faith. I tell you the truth, **if you have faith the size of a mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you."
>
> MATTHEW 17:19-20, NET

The paradox: the diagnosis is "little faith"; the prescription is the smallest thing in the garden. So "little faith" can't mean an insufficient quantity, it names a defective kind. "Double-minded" = *dipsychos*, literally two-souled. Not half-empty. Two. James 4:8: *"make your hearts pure, you double-minded"*. The cure is stated in the language of purity, not of volume.

Abraham *"was fully convinced that what God promised he was also able to do"* (Romans 4:21). Undivided faith is not denial of the facts, it's refusing to let the facts become a second thing I'm trusting. **His faith was not large. It was unmixed.**

WHEN NOTHING VISIBLE HAPPENS, WALK THE THREE COLUMNS IN ORDER

Was it the authority?	Never. That question is closed.
Was it the gift?	Possibly. I may have lacked the precision a word of knowledge or discerning of spirits gives. A reason to ask for more grace, not to stop.
Was it divided faith?	Maybe, and the remedy is purification, not effort.
Or none of the three?	Often. Timing, the Father's wisdom, something not disclosed.

9 What Wounds Touch, and What They Can't

AUTHORITY	Nothing. It is positional and cannot be diminished. A wounded believer has the same jurisdiction as a whole one.
FAITH	This is where it bites hardest. Wounds are usually where the rival belief comes from, "not me, not for this." Rarely bad theology; usually an old injury talking.
POWER	This is where the flow is affected. The Spirit is grieved and quenched, and the devil is given ground to work with. (Ephesians 4:27, 30)

My authority is whole, the current is the Spirit, and what wounds add is resistance.

10 For Your Freedom This Week

Ask yourself. Do I actually believe I have been given authority, or have I been waiting to feel qualified?

_____

Ask Him. Where is my faith divided rather than small, what is the second thing I'm trusting alongside His promise?

_____

Be honest. *"I believe; help my unbelief!"* (Mark 9:24). The enemy of faith is pretense, not honesty. Admitting the mixture is where purity begins.

Read. Read Luke 10:1-20 slowly. Notice what Jesus gives, and what He warns about afterward. Read James 1:5-8 with 4:8. Ask Him to purify your faith, not to enlarge it.

Step out. Take one small step of authority, pray over something you would normally hand off.

Give it back. "Lord, this temple is Yours. Use it for Your glory and Your Kingdom."

GET THE MANUAL ON YOUR PHONE OR IPAD

Freedom Pathways, free. Scan the code, or go to **battletogether.com/pdfs/freedom-pathways.pdf**.

This week: read Chapter 3, The Authority and Identity of the Believer. **Go deeper:** *Jesus the Deliverer*, chapter 8, The Believer's Authority in Christ. Naked Bible Podcast 177 (Hebrews 2) and 94 (Galatians 3-4). **Missed Session 2?** Watch it at **battletogether.com/walk-in-freedom**.

Want prayer one on one? Request a Freedom Session at **battletogether.com/schedule-freedom-session**. In person or online.

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Together in Battle · Cody Persell · Ministry Mondays at River Church Family · Monday, November 23, 2026

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