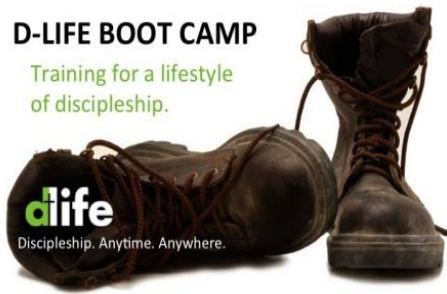


## D-LIFE BOOT CAMP

Training for a lifestyle  
of discipleship.



# Keeping it Real

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Dale L. Crawley Sr.

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20*

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Rev. Deborah Crawley, Teacher  
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## THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

***"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (EPHESIANS 6:12)**

Thank God we have authority over such evil spirits through Jesus Christ. We need to understand what Paul said here in the light of what he wrote in previous chapters. We need to realize that we have authority through Christ. Our combat with the devil always should be with the consciousness that we have authority over him because he is a defeated foe—the Lord Jesus Christ defeated him for us.

However, the authority of the believer is an aspect of the Christian walk that few believers know much about. Some think that authority over the devil belongs to only a **few chosen people** to whom God has given special power. It doesn't; it belongs to all the children of God!

We receive this authority when we are born again. As we are **made new** creatures in Christ Jesus, we inherit the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we can use it in prayer against the enemy.

But the devil doesn't want Christians to learn about the authority of the believer. He wants to continue to defeat us anytime he wants. That's why he will do everything he can to keep Christians from learning the truth about authority; he will fight us more on this subject than anything else. He knows that when we learn the truth, his heyday will be over. We will dominate him, enjoying the authority that is rightfully ours.

Ephesians 1:3 reads, ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us [the whole Church] with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."*** The American Standard Version renders **"all spiritual blessings"** as **"every spiritual blessing."** This means every spiritual blessing there is. In Christ,

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all spiritual blessings belong to us. Authority belongs to us whether we realize it or not. But just knowing this isn't enough. **It's knowledge acted upon** that brings results! It's a tragedy for Christians to go through life and never find out what belongs to them.

Did you ever stop to think about it: Salvation belongs to the sinner. Jesus already has bought the salvation of the worst sinner, just as He did for us. That's the reason he told us to **go tell the Good News**; go tell sinners they're reconciled to God.

But we've never really told them that. We've told them God's mad at them and is counting up everything they've done wrong. Yet the Bible says God isn't holding anything against the sinner! God says He has cancelled it out.

That's what so awful: The poor sinner, not knowing this, will have to go to hell even though all of his debts are cancelled! Second Corinthians 5:19 will tell you that.

There's no sin problem. Jesus settled that. There's just a sinner problem. Get the sinner to Jesus, and that cures the problem. Yes, that's a little different from what people have been taught, but it's what the Bible says.

The sinner doesn't know what belongs to him, so it won't do him any good. By the same token, if Christians don't know the things that belong to them, they won't do them any good. They need to find out about what belongs to them.

## What is Authority?

The translators of the King James Version translated many words consistently, but not the Greek words for "power" and "authority."

For example, in the King James Version, Jesus says in Luke 10:19, ***"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."***

Although the word "power" is used twice in this verse, two different words are found in the original Greek. What Jesus actually said was, ***"I have given you AUTHORITY to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the POWER of the enemy. . . ."*** In speaking about "serpents and scorpions," Jesus is talking about the power of the devil—demons, evil spirits, and all his cohorts. We need to realize that we've got authority over them!

Does the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ have (or need) any less authority today than it had in the first century? It would be preposterous to think so, wouldn't it?

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The value of our authority rests on the power that is behind that authority. God himself is the power behind our authority! The devil and his forces are obliged to recognize our authority!

The believer who thoroughly understands that the power of God is backing him can exercise his authority and face the enemy fearlessly.

**What is authority? Authority is delegated power.**

Ephesians 6:10 says, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” Many people read that verse and think the Lord is telling them to be strong in themselves. But the Scripture doesn’t say a word about begin strong in yourself. It says to be strong in the Lord.

“I don’t know whether I can make it or not,” people say.

Certainly you can make it. Don’t even think about it. Be strong in the Lord. Be strong in the power of His might, not your power or might.

First John 4:4 says, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

“He that is in the world” is Satan, the god of this world and the head of principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world.

**But the power that’s in you is greater than the power that’s in the world, because the power that backs our authority is greater than that which backs our enemies.**

## **Breaking the Power of the Devil**

We see in Ephesians 6:12 that “. . . ***we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places***” [a marginal note calls them “wicked spirits in the heavenlies”].

The Word of God teaches us that these evil spirits are fallen angels who have been dethroned by the Lord Jesus Christ. Our contact with these demons should be with the knowledge that Jesus defeated them, spoiled them, put them to nought (Col. 2:15). **And now that Jesus has dethroned them, we can reign over them!**

Adam’s Treason

Originally, God made the earth and the fullness thereof, giving Adam dominion over all

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the works of His hands. In other words, Adam was the god of this world. Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan, and Satan, through Adam, became the god of this world. Adam didn't have the moral right to commit treason, but he had the legal right to do so.

Now Satan has a right to be here and be the god of this world until "Adam's lease" runs out. Satan had the right to rule over us until we became new creatures and got into the Body of Christ, as we see in Colossians 1: "Giving thanks unto the Father . . . Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son . . ." (vv. 12–13).

That's why Satan has no right to rule us or dominate us. Yet the average Christian has more faith in Satan's authority and power than in God's!

The Bible not only talks about the first man Adam, but also about the second Adam, Jesus Christ, who became our Substitute. In First Corinthians 15:45, He's called "the last Adam," and in the 47th verse He's called "the second man." All that Jesus did He did for us.

Our trouble is that we relegate everything to the future! Most church people believe we will exercise our spiritual authority sometime in the Millennium. If that is so, why does the Bible say Satan will be bound during the Millennium? There won't be any need to exercise authority then, because there will be nothing here that will hurt or destroy.

## Authority Now

It's now, when there is something that will hurt and destroy, that we have authority. But many people believe we can't have much of anything now. They think Satan's running everything down here. We must remember, however, that although we are in the world, we are not of the world. Satan's running a lot of what is here on earth, but he's not running believers. He's not running the Church. He's not dominating us. We can dominate him. We have authority over him as we walk in faith in our assignment!

Jesus said, ***"Behold, I give unto you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the power of the enemy: and nothing [nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing] shall by any means hurt you"*** (Luke 10:19).

Does the Church in this century have less authority than it did right after Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and seating at the Father's right hand? DISCUSS

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We need to build these truths into our lives by meditating and feeding upon them until they become a part of our consciousness. Naturally speaking, we eat certain foods every day because doctors tell us we need certain vitamins, minerals, etc., to build strong bodies. There are spiritual “vitamins” and “minerals,” so to speak, we need to take every day, too, to be healthy Christians.

## EXERCISING AUTHORITY

Matthew 28:18

Mark 16:15-18

Colossians 1:13

James 4:7

Ephesians 4:27

We’ve permitted certain things to happen in our lives, some knowingly, and some unknowingly. **Not knowing our authority**—not knowing what we could do—we have done nothing, and we actually have permitted the devil to keep on doing whatever he wanted to. We need to realize this. Let’s wake up. We may have to change our way of praying and get after the devil.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

