

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:8 NLV*

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First Love Ministries, Inc.  
PRAYER STUDY #181  
**BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY**

*Then he called his twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

Luke 9:1

Old Testament: Dominion lost through the fall of Man

New Testament: Authority regained through the redemption of Christ

When we accept Christ, Colossians 1:13-14 tells us: *He has delivered us from the power [authority] of darkness and conveyed us in the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

God Gave Man Dominion Over All the Earth

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ...Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26, 28)*

Man was given dominion over the earth and over all the animals of the earth. But this dominion was only over the earth and implied that this dominion was under the dominion of God. This dominion, as stated above, was lost through the fall of Man. The fall allowed Satan the legal right to become the prince of this world (John 12:31, John 14:30, John 16:11).

Methods Satan Uses to Try to Subdue the Earth and Fool Mankind

1. **Disguises himself.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:13-14-*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

2. **Tries to create doubt.** Genesis 3:1-*Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"*
3. **Misuses scripture.** Matthew 4:6-7-*And said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and 'In their hands they shall bear You up, lest You dash Your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"*
4. **Schemes.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:10-11-*Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*
5. **Afflicts believers.** Luke 13:16-*"So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound-think of it-for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"*
6. **Undoes God's work.** Mark 4:15-*And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.*
7. **Tries to Make people turn away from God.** Job 2:4,5- *So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"*
8. **Instigates evil.** John 13:2-*And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him.*
9. **Tries to secure humankind's worship.** Luke 4:6-8-*And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3-4-*Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

## Jesus Gave Believers Authority Over the Spiritual Forces that Hinder This Dominion

*Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)*

*Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

The spiritual forces that hinder the dominion that God the Father has given to us include the forces of the kingdom of darkness and the forces of fallen man. These forces try to disrupt our emotional, physical and mental health and influence negatively things such as our health and our finances and possessions. Satan has wisely mapped out the earth and stationed a hierarchy of demonic powers over territories and ministries. These must be subdued if we are to have true spiritual victory over the kingdom of darkness.

### How Do We Walk in Our Authority

1. **Be sure you know Christ.** Ephesians 2: 1-*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Acts 19:13-16-Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded.*
2. **Believe.** Mark 11:24-*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*
3. **Walk in Obedience.** Acts 5:29-*But Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."*
4. **Listen to the Holy Spirit.** John 16:13-*However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not*

- ... speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*
5. **Pursue.** *Matthew 11:12- And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*
  6. **Know How to Use Your Weapons.** *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:4-For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.*
    - a. **Prayer and Fasting.** *Matthew 17:21-However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.*
    - b. **Praise.** *Psalm 22:3-But Thou art holy, O Thou who inhabitest the praise of Israel.*
    - c. **Worship.** *Revelation 19:10b ...Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*
    - d. **The Blood.** *Revelation 12:10-11-And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now is come salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*
    - e. **The Word.** *Psalm 107:20-He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destruction.*
    - f. **The Name.** *Psalm 44:5-Through Thee will we push down our enemies; through Thy name will we tread them under, who rise up against us.*
    - g. **The Anointing.** *1<sup>st</sup> John 18-20-Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us, but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth, & Isaiah 10:27-And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.*

Taking Authority Over the Serpentine Spirits  
(taken from John Parish's *The Goshen Factor*)

*They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Mark 16:18

(The Greek word translated “take up” in English means “to remove, to take away, to destroy, to put away, and do away with.” )

Although there are dozens of different species of snakes, the Word of God only speaks of three:

1. The asp, thought to be the modern cobra , blinds its victim by spitting a stinging solution into their eyes. It slithers then to its disable victim sinking its fangs deep into the prey. Its venom is very deadly and attacks the nervous system causing muscular paralysis, thus a good symbol of demons that blind and paralyze. Many believers are walking in spiritual blindness today because they do not know the Word and do not see the signs of the times, even though we are rushing to the events that will bring the end. They are losing all feeling for the things of God. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the only demon repellent available.
2. The viper or adder strikes without notice. It crawls into places where no one would suspect a serpent was hiding and where people were accustomed to gather. It hid in the sand. It would often strike a horse's heel, throwing the rider backward. This snake spirit throws the believer from his call, purpose and divine destiny. The viper's venom goes directly to the heart. According to Parish, “We are on the road to revival, but the adder is determined to strike and cause us to fall backward. The believer's authority to take up serpents gives us the ability to clear the path of hidden dangers like the military's mine sweepers remove hidden explosives. We can't fall backward at this late date. The enemy must not be permitted to gain an advantage over us. There is no time to slow down.”
3. The python is the spirit behind witchcraft and divination. The Biblical directive in Leviticus 19:26 to forbid “enchantments” literally means “do not hold conversations with serpents.” The python wraps itself around its victims and crushes the victim and then swallows the carcass. Python spirits are frequently behind controlling habits, such as addictions, and squeeze all the energy and emotions and life out of the soul. We must learn to recognize and do battle against all three of

these serpentine spirits so that we can walk in the dominion and authority which the Lord has given us.

### **Well Done, Well Done**

As performed by Kim Hopper

One step then two, then a million more  
Sunday morning you walked that old wood floor  
To life a song to Heaven, and you let the praises ring  
You let Him use your life and heard that choir sing

Well done, well done, dear faithful one  
Though the mountains were steep, now the race to run  
See the Father smile, Father and the Son  
Well done, well done, dear faithful one

When pain is deep, and grief is great  
And it's hard just to make it through the day  
Walk onwards soldier, follow gospel truth  
For that crown and that glory is waiting there for you

And one fine day, when time is through  
And you journey on to that land brand new  
To shout hallelujah, as you step through the gates  
And feel the Savior's heart, and hear that angel choir sing

Well done, well done, dear faithful one  
Though those mountains were steep, now your race is run  
See the Father smile, Father and Son  
Well done, well done  
Dear faithful one.