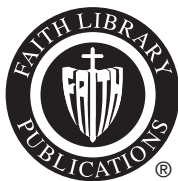


The Believer's Authority

Kenneth E. Hagin



Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

17 16 15 14 13 12 11

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ISBN-13: 978-0-89276-406-8

ISBN-10: 0-89276-406-6

(formerly ISBN-10: 0-89276-006-0)

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AKA Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Inc.

First edition 1967, Second edition 1986

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Printed in USA

In the U.S. write:

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P.O. Box 50126

Tulsa, OK 74150-0126

1-888-28-FAITH

www.rhema.org

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www.rhemacanada.org

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PREFACE



My Dad wrote this book in 1967. During the years, the important Bible truths in its pages have transformed the lives of many people.

After 1967, however, Dad gained even more light on the subject of spiritual authority. He often said he wished this book could contain these further insights.

In 1984, in honor of Dad's 50th anniversary in the ministry, we reedited this book and added the information he always wanted to include. We are delighted to share this expanded book with you, our loyal partners and friends.

Kenneth W. Hagai

FOREWORD



Back in the 1940s, I asked myself the question, “Do we have authority that we don’t know about—that we haven’t discovered—that we’re not using?”

I had had little glimpses of spiritual authority once in a while. Like others, I had stumbled upon it and had exercised it without knowing what I was doing. I wondered, “Is the Spirit of God trying to show me something?” So I began to study along this line, think along this line, feed along this line—and I began to see more and more light.

An article in *The Pentecostal Evangel* prompted my study on the words “power” and “authority.” Then I came across a wonderful pamphlet entitled *The Authority of the Believer* by John A. MacMillan, a missionary to China who later edited *The Alliance Weekly*. (His pamphlet was reissued several years ago and is available from Christian Publications, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.)

As a result of my studies, I concluded that we as a Church have authority on the earth that we’ve never yet realized—authority that we’re not using.

A few of us have barely gotten to the edge of that authority, but before Jesus comes again, there’s going to be a whole company of believers who will rise up with the authority that is theirs. They will know what is theirs, and they will do the work that God intended they should do.

Kenneth E. Hagin

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CHAPTER 1



THE PRAYERS OF PAUL

The authority of the believer is unveiled more fully in the Book of Ephesians than any other epistle written to the churches. Because this book is based on Ephesians, let me encourage you to read the first three chapters over and over again for several days.

You will notice there are Spirit-anointed prayers at the end of the first and third chapters. However, Paul didn't pray these prayers only for the Church at Ephesus. These prayers apply to us today just as much as they did to the believers at Ephesus, because they were given by the Holy Spirit.

EPHESIANS 1:16-20

- 16* [I] Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
- 17* That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 18* The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 19* And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the

dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. . . .

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

The turning point in my life came when I prayed these prayers for myself more than a thousand times. I started by reading them aloud, beginning with the first chapter. I personalized the prayers by saying “me” wherever Paul said “you.”

For example, reading Ephesians 3:14-17, I would say, “For this cause *I* bow my knees unto the Father of *my* Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant *me*, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in *my* heart by faith. . . .”

I spent much time praying these two prayers on my knees at the altar of the last church I pastored in East Texas. I kept my Bible open before me to these prayers and prayed them for myself several times a day. Sometimes I told my wife I was going next door to the church to pray and didn't want to be bothered

except in an emergency. Sometimes I stayed in prayer two or three days at a time.

I spent about six months praying this way during the winter of 1947–48. Then the first thing I was praying for started to happen. I had been praying for “the spirit of wisdom and revelation” (Eph. 1:17), and the spirit of revelation began to function! I began to see things in the Bible I had never seen before. It just began to open up to me.

I advanced more in spiritual growth and knowledge of the Word in those six months than I had in 14 years as a minister and in more than 16 years as a Christian.

That was one of the greatest spiritual discoveries I ever made.

I said to my wife, “What in the world have I been preaching? I was so ignorant of the Bible, it’s a wonder the deacons didn’t have to come by and tell me to get in out of the rain!”

We must have this spirit of wisdom and revelation of Christ and His Word if we are to grow. It is not going to be imparted to us through our intellect, either. The Holy Spirit must unveil it to us.

People often want to know how to pray for fellow Christians. If you start praying these Ephesian prayers for them, you’ll see results in their lives. I suggest you pray the prayers for yourself, too.

Years ago, I prayed these prayers twice a day, morning and evening, for a family member. He needed healing desperately, yet he couldn’t seem to grasp what the Bible teaches about divine healing.

When I prayed, I inserted this person's name in the prayers as I had previously inserted my own. Within 10 days, he wrote me, saying, "I'm beginning to see things I never saw before." (The minute you get scriptural, things happen.)

It was surprising how fast my kinfolks changed once I started praying for them scripturally. (I had been praying for some of them for years with no results.)

The Authority of the Believer

EPHESIANS 6:12

12 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.

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, 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. That's why God put teachers in the Church. That's why God gave us the Word: to tell us what's ours.

In the natural world, too, things can be ours, yet if we don't know about them, they won't do us any good.

I've told about the time I hid a \$20 bill in my billfold and forgot about it. Then I ran out of gasoline one day, started searching through my billfold, and found the \$20 bill. I couldn't say I didn't have it, because I had it all the time—I had carried it around for months right in my hip pocket. Because I didn't know what I had, I couldn't spend it, but it was just as much mine when I didn't know about it as it was when I did.

Years ago I read about a man who was found dead in the small, shabby room he rented for \$3 a week. He had been a familiar sight on the streets of Chicago for about 20 years, always dressed in rags and eating out of garbage cans.

When he wasn't seen for two or three days, concerned neighbors went to look for him and found him dead in bed. An autopsy

revealed that he had died of malnutrition, yet a money belt found around his waist contained more than \$23,000.

That man had lived in abject poverty, peddling newspapers for a living, yet he had money. He could have lived in the finest hotel in town instead of that little, run-down room. He could have eaten the best food instead of garbage. But he didn't use what belonged to him.

We need to know what belongs to us. Jesus said, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:32). In Hosea God says, "*My people [not sinners, not the world] are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . .*" (Hosea 4:6). People actually perish who wouldn't have to.