

Stephens, GregSpeak the Word

7. Authorized and Empowered: Just Like Jesus

This chapter argues that Jesus ministered on earth not as God flexing divine power, but as a sinless Man walking in the authority God first gave Adam. It builds a working distinction between authority and power, then shows through Gospel examples—and the Roman centurion—how born-again, Spirit-baptized believers carry that same authority today.

Key takeaways

- Jesus laid aside His divine privileges and operated as a Man under the Father's authority, always crediting the Father, never claiming the works as His own.
- Authority (Greek *exousia*) is the right to command; power (*dunamis*) is the dynamic force that backs it. The KJV blurs them by translating both as 'power.'
- Kenneth Copeland's picture: the new birth gives you Jesus' authority; the Baptism in the Holy Spirit adds God's explosive power—badge plus tank, not badge alone.

- Because Jesus worked as a Spirit-baptized Man, His works (storm, synagogue demon, the Gadara demoniac) are a pattern of what believers can do, not proof He was uniquely superhuman.
- Demons—and Jesus Himself—need a physical body to act on earth; the body is the 'badge' of earthly authority.
- The centurion showed 'great faith' simply by understanding chain of command: a representative under authority is obeyed as if the sender himself spoke.
- You act as Jesus' representative, so Satan sees Christ and all heaven standing behind you; intimidation is just fear, Satan's operating system, expelled by God's love.
- Your worthiness to minister rests on Christ's performance, not your own; repent when you stumble and keep exercising your authority.

Passages worth keeping

“You already had the authority of a born-again believer, but through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit you were endued with the explosive, dynamic, creative power of Almighty God.”

States the chapter's central authority-plus-power thesis.

“If you understand and operate in authority, that is great Faith.”

The point Jesus draws from the centurion, linking authority to faith.

How it connects

The chapter ties directly to the earlier theme of Adam's forfeited dominion: Jesus recovers and models that delegated authority so believers, indwelt by Him, can enforce God's will over sickness, storms, and demonic power.

Scripture referenced

- **Matthew 7:28-29** -- Jesus taught 'as one having authority'—the key word *mashal/exousia*.
- **Philippians 2:7** -- Jesus stripped Himself of divine privileges to live as a man.
- **Matthew 28:18 / Acts 1:8** -- Contrast used to distinguish authority (*exousia*) from power (*dunamis*).
- **John 14:12** -- Believers will do the works Jesus did, and greater.
- **Luke 7:2-10** -- The centurion's understanding of authority is called 'great faith.'
- **2 Timothy 1:7** -- God gave a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind—not fear—overcoming intimidation.