

Hagin, Kenneth E.

The Believer's Authority

8. Exercising Authority

Hagin argues that because God raised believers up and seated them with Christ 'far above' all evil powers (Ephesians 1-2), the authority Christ won over the devil now belongs to the Church. The chapter's core comes from a 1952 vision in which Jesus told Hagin that He has delegated His authority on earth to believers, so it is the believer—not God—who must act against the devil. It closes by pressing Christians to grow past spiritual babyhood, reign 'as kings' in this life, and refuse a beggar/poverty mindset.

Key takeaways

- Positionally we are already seated with Christ above all principalities and powers, so we hold authority over the enemy.
- The New Testament never tells the Church to pray for God or Jesus to deal with the devil; the believer is commanded to resist him directly.
- The least member of the Body of Christ has as much authority over the devil as anyone else—authority is not about feelings or special status.

- Your authority is strongest in your own 'household'; you can hinder the devil in others' lives but can't always cast him out where you lack authority.
- Baby Christians can be carried on others' faith, but God expects them to grow up and exercise their own authority.
- Enforce Christ's already-won victory—resist the devil and he flees in terror; don't run from him.
- God's plan is to 'reign as kings in life' now—over sickness, poverty, and circumstances—not in poverty or defeat.

Passages worth keeping

“If you hadn't done something about that, I couldn't have.”

Jesus' words in the vision—the hinge of the whole chapter: authority on earth is delegated to the believer, so God acts through us.

“The believer is told to do something about the devil... The Church is to exercise the authority that belongs to it.”

States the practical thesis: resist, don't just pray for rescue.

How it connects

The whole argument turns on reading Ephesians as one letter: because chapter 2 seats us above the powers, the 'wrestling' of Ephesians 6:12 is fought from a position of victory. Ephesians 4:27 ('neither give place to the devil') and Luke 10:19 round out the four/five witnesses that authority already belongs to the believer.

Scripture referenced

- **Ephesians 2:6** -- We are raised up and seated together with Christ—the basis of our authority.
- **Ephesians 1:20-22** -- Christ (and we with Him) seated far above all powers; all things under His feet for the Church.
- **Mark 16:15-18** -- Signs following 'them that believe'—casting out devils is the believer's authority, not just leaders'.
- **James 4:7** -- 'Resist the devil, and he will flee from you'—the subject is 'you,' not Jesus.
- **1 Peter 5:8-9** -- The adversary prowls, but we are to resist him steadfast in faith.
- **Romans 5:17** -- We 'reign in life as kings' through Jesus Christ—now, not only in the next life.