

Hagin, Kenneth E.The Believer's Authority

11. Authority Over Demon Spirits, Not Human Wills

Hagin teaches that a believer's spiritual authority over demons is real but limited by other people's free will. You can command demons in your own life, your family, and anyone on your premises or in your presence—but you cannot force deliverance on someone who does not want it. Effective ministry also requires the Holy Spirit's guidance, not just the spoken Word alone.

Key takeaways

- You have authority over demons in your own life and family, but not over another person's will—if they want to keep the spirit (or the sin), they can.
- Having a demon in the body (oppression) is not the same as being possessed (fully taken over, spirit, soul, and body).
- Deliverance and healing need both the Word AND the Spirit—word of knowledge or discerning of spirits shows when a demon is involved and when to act. Paul waited many days to cast out the divination spirit because he had to wait for that manifestation.

- People lose healing received in high-faith meetings because they never learn to hold it by exercising their own authority once they're on their own.
- Some physical conditions won't respond to prayer because an evil spirit must be dealt with first—the Bible distinguishes casting out demons from healing.
- The responsibility is yours: resist the devil yourself instead of waiting for God or someone else to do it. Take authority over fear, doubt, and anger (the spirit behind it, not the person's will).
- Trying a method because it worked for someone else fails—faith only works when God's Word is built into your own spirit.

Passages worth keeping

“You'll only defeat the devil when you've got a foundation of God's Word and you act upon it.”

Authority works only when the Word is real in you, not borrowed from another's experience.

“She doesn't want to be delivered. As long as she wants to hear these voices, she's going to hear them.”

The chapter's core point—free will blocks deliverance no minister can override.

How it connects

The chapter ties Christ's own deliverance ministry (done by the Spirit) to the believer's calling: authority is delegated, but it stops at another person's free will—the same boundary God Himself honors.

Scripture referenced

- **Acts 16:17-18** -- Paul waited many days before casting out the spirit of divination—waiting for the Spirit's manifestation.
- **Matthew 12:24-28** -- Jesus cast out demons by the Spirit of God, not by word alone.
- **1 Peter 5:9** -- Resist Satan steadfast in the faith—faith rooted in the Word.
- **2 Timothy 1:7** -- Fear is a spirit; God gave power, love, and a sound mind instead.
- **James 4:7** -- We are to resist the devil ourselves—the authority and responsibility are ours.
- **Matthew 18:18** -- Whatever you bind or loose on earth is bound or loosed in heaven—exercise your authority.