

Using Our Authority As The Church

Jesus said in Matthew 18:18, **Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 14:12-14

¹²**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.** ¹³**And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** ¹⁴**If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**

These scriptures (*among others in the New Testament*), are authority scriptures. They are scriptures that we use to take authority over the devil and circumstances in this life. Everything that Jesus was able to do when He was physically on this earth, faith in His Name will do today. A lot of things that we are confronted with in life don't need to be prayed about — we just need to take authority over them.

I remember when I was in Bible school, and every month, my mother would send me \$100 in cash through the mail. It got so that I was really depending on and looking for it, which isn't always the best thing, because depending on something else can get our eyes off the Lord. But anyway, her gift of love was greatly appreciated and needed! A period of time when by - like three months - that I hadn't received her letter of support. It is an awkward situation, because you don't want to ask a person if they have already sent it out or not. So, it somehow finally was brought up, and she let me know that she always sent the letters out of the same post office on the same date, every month. I went down to my post office and had them research it, and because it was cash that was sent, you can imagine how my mind was thinking.

While I was down at the post office, I realized that I was just wasting my time filing the report. This situation had nothing to do with the post office: it all had to do with the devil hindering my blessings. My financial trials had been so severe that \$100 a month could make the difference between financial life and financial death. I was doing my best to trust God and to look to Him, believing Him that my bills are paid. There at the post office, I realized that this was just the devil, and I needed to take authority over him. So I said, *"Satan, you can't have my money; you can't keep my mail from coming to me, for I forbid it, in Jesus' Name. I command you to loose my money and my mail, for it is written that whatever I bind on earth is bound in heaven"* (Matthew 18:18). *(Little did I realize at the time that some 23 years later, I would be using the same principles and telling Satan he can't keep the mail from coming to my ministry).*

That's one of the great benefits and blessings about being taught the Word of faith: once you learn the principles of faith, you'll use them all your life. The circumstances may be different, but it's still the devil who tries to hold up the mail, or anything else from coming to you. *Somebody has got to rise up and use their authority as a believer in order for the life-threatening situation to change.* I just kept praising

and thanking God that every one of my financial needs was met; that Satan was bound from my finances, and that the letters were not lost and that I had them, in Jesus' Name.

One day, when I came home from Bible school (*and by this time, I had virtually forgotten all about them*), there were the "missing" letters in my mailbox! This proves we always prevail when we use our authority in Jesus' Name. We're over-comers, and we're conquerors, because we are children of God and we have the Name that's above every name.

In 1979, I graduated from Bible school and moved to New England. That summer, as well as the previous summer, New England was losing its foliage because of gypsy moths. It was so severe that particular summer, because the leaves were being eaten up by these insects. People were so concerned that there would be no fall foliage left when it was time for the leaves to turn color. There were so many of those insects, that you could actually hear them devouring the leaves! It got so that you couldn't even sit out on the lawn under the trees. In my travels, I even noticed they were eating their way into Pennsylvania and northern New York.

At that time, I didn't know God had moved me to New England; I thought I was just visiting. So, the gypsy moths really didn't concern me that much. One of the reasons was that I had just gotten out of Bible school and my ministry was in its infancy. Because of this, I was spending so much of my time preparing for my meetings, as well as spending extra time in study and in prayer. Besides, I was living with other people and they weren't *my* trees; they were *theirs*.

But in my travels preaching and teaching around New England, I made a statement. (There are people I know today who would remember it, because they were in those early meetings.) I said, "*You folks who are concerned about the gypsy moths and what they're doing to your trees, all you need to do is curse them and take authority over them, in Jesus' Name.*" I read to them: Genesis 1: 26-28 ²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth

and Mark 4: 35-41 ³⁵And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, **Let us pass over unto the other side.** ³⁶And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. ³⁷And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. ³⁸And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? ³⁹And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰And he said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?** ⁴¹And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Mark 11:12-16

I also read the scriptures I gave you at the top of the page.

You have to realize that at the time, this was a very serious matter. First of all, many people visit New England in the fall to see the foliage; it's a tourist attraction. People literally come from all over the world just to see the leaves. Most New Englanders pride themselves on the beauty of New England in the fall. So you can see, these little critters were becoming a really big problem, and they became a major problem with the average New England property owner. Today, you can even still see the stains, where people painted sticky stuff on the tree trunks to trap the caterpillars as they crawled up the tree to eat

the leaves. If you had painted every tree in New England (*you couldn't, but if you could have*), you couldn't have stopped them from eating up the leaves.

So after that meeting, the people went, and started speaking to the gypsy moths and cursing them and telling them to die and leave their trees alone. The next year, the trees were healthy and back to normal! This is all because a few people began to use their authority in Jesus' Name. God didn't send me to New England to save the trees - and thank God for the trees. But He did send me to New England to teach His people the Word of faith, and the trees were just part of it. This year, at the end of March, the Lord commissioned me to go to all the world with the Word of faith: He sent me first to reach New York City and America, and then the world. The Lord said He wanted me to teach His people that they have authority.

Here, in America, as well as around the world, we have a bigger problem than just gypsy moths. We have anthrax. The body of Christ needs to rise up and use her authority and curse it and command it to leave, in Jesus' Name. The body of Christ has to tell Satan he can't put this on our nation. And, just as the gypsy moths could not prevail, neither will the anthrax, nor any other plague, for we have to stand together as the body of Christ and rebuke the devil, in Jesus' Name.

We have the authority; we have the power, but most of all, we have the *responsibility*. So, instead of just absorbing yourself in worldly news and becoming bewildered and paralyzed with fear, stand up in Jesus' Name, and rebuke the plague and make it leave your nation!

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

Your partner in faith,

Brother Rich

Remember, *God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers* (3 John 2).