

The Body of Christ Today

Did you ever stop to think about why God gave us His Word, the Bible? It's not for historical purposes; it's to reveal His will to us. Jesus said in John 6:63, **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

Matthew 12:37

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Mark 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Proverbs 6:2

Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Romans 10:9, 10

9That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

James 3:5-11

5Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter?

Our authority over the devil and circumstances is released with the words of our mouth. The ultimate authority is God's Word coming out of our mouth, which, according to Ephesians 6:17, is the sword of the spirit (**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**).

As believers, we are to rule and reign *in this life, on this earth*, in the Name of Jesus. We are to see to it that God's will is enforced on this earth. When God's people speak His Word in the Name of Jesus, God is able to confirm His Word with signs following, as we read in Mark 16:20:

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Most of us, when we came to God for salvation through Jesus Christ, were clueless, and even totally ignorant of our spiritual authority in this world. One of the reasons that the world has little or no respect for Christianity is that they think we are ‘*just another religion*’ among many religions. This is because we haven’t demonstrated the power of God in this life to any great degree. As a result, people as a whole generally don’t see any reason to become born-again.

God could have raptured us as soon as we became born-again, and just as he took Enoch and Elijah up, he could have taken us up. But He didn’t, because He wants us to occupy this earth. He wants us to evangelize this world. But, while we’re here on this earth, He also wants us to rule and reign in Christ Jesus, for Jesus said in Mark 16:15-18:

15...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

John 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.

Romans 5:17

For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

We have to see to it that no plague comes nigh our dwelling. Did you ever notice that when Jesus was here on this earth in a physical body, He was never afflicted, sick, defeated, conquered, or afraid? He was the only body of Christ then on this earth. Through the new birth, we are the body of Christ on this earth today. Jesus is the head of the body, and we are the body, as we read in Ephesians 1:20-23:

20Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 5:23-24, 30, 32

23For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. 30For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 32This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. 13For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14For the body is not one member, but many. 15If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling? 18But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19And if they were all one member, where *were* the body? 20But now *are they* many members, yet but one body. 21And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23And those *members* of the body, which we think to

be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness. 24For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked: 25That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. 26And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Everything that Jesus did when He was on this earth, we are to do today, in His Name. When a life-threatening storm came to Jesus and His disciples in Mark 4:35-41, Jesus took authority over the situation. He told us in Matthew 18:18, that whatever we bind on earth is bound in heaven. He showed us in the Gospels how to use our authority, as we read in Matthew 4:1-11: **1Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4But he answered and said, *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* 5Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7Jesus said unto him, *It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.* 8Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10Then saith Jesus unto him, *Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.* 11Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.**

Jesus' life and ministry was God's will in action. He is our perfect example of how the body of Christ should be today: bold, authoritative, compassionate, humble, obedient and pleasing to God. When Jesus spoke the written Word of God and rebuked Satan, as well as evil spirits and storms, He was using authority and the scriptures that were already available to people on this earth. The religious leaders, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees were angry and asked, "*Who gave you authority to do these things that you do?*"

Mark 11:27, 28:

20And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. 22And Jesus answering saith unto them, *Have faith in God. 23For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. 27And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, 28And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?*

And when He cast devils of people and healed the sick, they said the only reason He could do this was that He was the devil, or that He had a demon, as we read in Matthew 12:22-29:

22Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. 23And all the people were amazed, and

said, Is not this the son of David? 24But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. 25And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: 26And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? 27And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast *them* out? therefore they shall be your judges. 28But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 29Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.**

The written Word of God that Jesus used to come against the devil was already here on this earth, available to mankind. All of the religious leaders of that day definitely had access to the scrolls. But none of them that we know of was getting results with the Word of God. They were too caught up with religious traditions to be concerned about setting humanity free.

We, as the body of Christ, are on this earth to do a work for God. We are not to idly stand by and watch Satan destroy our nation and *hope* that the government will catch the bad guys. We are to rise up in the midst of the storm of fear and worry to exercise our authority and rebuke the plague of anthrax and the spirit of terrorism and tell Satan he cannot have our nation, in Jesus' Name, for is written, **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** (Matthew 18:18).

When the church does this, the world will see that the God of the born-again Christians is the One Who has the power to stop the plague. ***And to God be all the glory for saving America, in Jesus' Name!***

I want to encourage you to mark all these scriptures in your Bible, as well as meditate on them and share them with others and begin to exercise your authority every day over every circumstance and situation. 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).