

## What is the authority of the believer?

Jesus did not leave behind a powerless church when He ascended back to heaven. To the contrary, He imparted divine authority to those who follow Him, along with Holy Spirit power to accomplish great things for Him on this earth. Acts 1:8

Let's do some groundbreaking first; Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 11:6, Mark 9:23

The authority of the believer rests on the believer's commission, and willingness to serve the Lord. John 14:16-26, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, Titus 2:15

Mark 13:34,

In the context above, Jesus was speaking to His disciples about the time between His first and second coming. He said He was going to "*leave his house*" — that is, return to heaven. And He gave to each of His servants on earth work to do and the authority to get it done. For this entire Church Age, Jesus has given spiritual authority to those believers on earth who follow Him and serve Him.

When we are in God's will, we can move with confidence that we are doing what is right and that the Holy Spirit's power is at work within and through us. Acts 16:16-18, 1 John 5:14-15, Romans 8:16, James 5:13-16

Before we start listing the things that fall under the authority of the believer, we must first acknowledge that, first and foremost, the believer is under authority. John 19:11, Mark 16:15-20

Unfortunately, in too many churches today the saints are not taught that *they*, not just the pastor, are called and empowered to do the work of the ministry. Luke 9:1-2; 10:17-19

John 14:12 What works had Jesus been doing? Healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing the lepers, casting out devils, proclaiming the kingdom of God, and more. Who else can do these works, and "even greater"? — the answer: "whoever believes in [Jesus]".

Not just His twelve apostles, not just pastors and church leaders, but whoever believes in Him! You can share the Gospel, confirmed with powerful signs, because Jesus has delegated this authority to believers in Him.

And the believer's authority is not restricted by our own natural limitations. Remember, it is God's authority given through Jesus to us. Matthew 7:19-20