



## Perfecting Power

# Living in the Power

**Power and Authority**  
Once we know what God has given us through the Messiah we will never again fear the enemy!

### A. Caution: High Voltage Ahead

The subject of 'authority' 'power' and 'dominion' are among the most misused and misunderstood concepts in the Church today. Popular terms like "Dominion Theology" and "Kingdom Now" fail to bring the full balance of 'power' that God has revealed in His Word and made available to the child of God.

### B. New Testament Power and Authority

There are four Greek words in the New Testament that are translated either power, authority, strength or might. The two primary words are:

1. **Dunamis:** Most often translated 'power' and it means the ability to do something. Literally, the manifested power of doing something! *Acts 1:8*
2. **Exousia:** Translated as 'power' or 'authority' and means the legal right or privilege to do something. *Luke 10:19*

### C. Old Testament Power and Authority

In the Old Testament there are several words that mean 'power' in the sense of strength but only two words that are translated as rule, authority, dominion or power. Both words have 'mostly' identical meaning based on the context of a passage.

1. **Radah and Masal:** Usually translated as 'rule' or 'dominion and means to 'have the right to exercise dominion or rule over something.' *Gen 1:16 [Masal]; 1:26 [Radah]*

### D. The Battle for Authority-Rule

After the creation—"God the creator" gave 'dominion' (managing rule) over the entire earth to mankind through Adam and Eve. Almost immediately—that dominion was challenged and lost!

#### 1. God given dominion *Gen 1:26*

God's purpose in giving mankind His image is that they might rule the created order on behalf of the heavenly King.

#### 2. The Dominion is lost *Gen 3*

a. God given free choice *Gen 3:2*

b. The deception *Gen 3:5* "God created you in His image and wants you to become like Him but has kept you from the one thing that will make you like Him."

c. What was at stake? Even though Satan wanted to be like God—he knew he could not defeat God in a head-to-head battle. He saw that God had made man in God's image and given them something that he did not have—dominion and rule. *Eph 2:1-3*

### E. Authority Restored (See Sidebar)

#### Authority Restored

##### 1. Satan Tempts Jesus

Satan attempts to get Jesus to come under his authority saying:

*"I will give You the glory of these kingdoms and authority [Exousia] over them, because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to You if You will worship me."*

*Lk 4:6-7 NLT*

##### 2. Satan's Power Broken

When Jesus revealed Himself to Paul (*Acts 26:18*) he explained what ministry Paul would have. He was going to go forth to:

*"...open their eyes [Jews and Gentiles], in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power [Exousia-rule, authority, dominion] of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."*

##### 3. Apostolic Power Given

When Jesus sends the apostles to minister—He gives them what was lost in the Garden of Eden.

*"Behold, I give you the authority [Exousia] to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power [Dunamis] of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

God has given us the [Exousia] legal right-authority over all the manifested works-power [Dunamis] of the enemy!

##### 4. Full Power Restored

The risen Jesus receives on behalf of mankind the restoration of authority. And then sends us forth to use it.

*"I have been given all authority [Exousia] in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go..."*

*Matthew 28:18-20*