

July 2010

Dear Friend,

Some Christians are living in defeat simply because they don't know, as believers in Jesus Christ, God has given them authority over every work of the enemy. You and I don't have to let the devil push us around because God has armed us with His Word, and we are dangerous to the enemy's destructive plans. As believers God has given us authority to overthrow the plans of the enemy, but we need to know how to use it.

Luke 10:19 tells us, *"Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and (Physical and mental strength and ability) over all the power that the enemy (possesses): and nothing shall in any way harm you."*

Although God has given us the authority, it is still up to us to choose to believe the Word of God more than we believe our feelings. God has given us power and authority, so even though the enemy may have power, he does not have the authority unless we give it to him. It is one thing to have power and another thing to have the authority to use it. Also, when the verse says "nothing shall in any way harm you" it doesn't mean that nothing will come against us, but it does mean we are more than conquerors. (See Romans 8:37)

If you and I really believe God's Word, even before we encounter a problem, we can have assurance we will be able to conquer it. The enemy comes against us many different ways. It was an eye-opener for me because I had been a religious person who went to church and followed the rules and regulations. I did have a love for God and had accepted Christ as my Savior, still I didn't know anything about who I was in Christ, or that the devil is a real entity or that I could reign with Christ. Because I didn't know these truths, I just thought everything that happened to me was either God, circumstances or whatever. I needed to realize some of the things that came against me were actually the enemy trying to defeat me. One way we can be attacked is by believing the lie we are not pleasing God.

Every now and then I will ask people, "If you could ask God any question you wanted, what would it be?" A common response was. "How will I know if I'm doing enough good works?" It seems one of people's concerns is whether God is pleased with them.

Another way you and I can be attacked is through hopeless and negative thoughts. We can be assured if we feel either of these, it is not from God. If we feel like there is no hope or we are looking at what is negative about ourselves, or about others, we are under attack. The enemy wants us to focus on what is wrong with the people in our lives: what we don't like about them, what they aren't doing for us, or what they're not giving us.

On the other hand, God wants us to focus on believing the best and what is right and good. As we focus on these things, we have authority to pray about the things that aren't so right and invite God to get involved and do something about it.

These are just a couple of the different ways the enemy comes against us. Before you and I can even hope to have authority over him, we have to be able to recognize him as a troublemaker and a deceiver. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you and I have authority. I don't know about you, but I like authority and I don't like weakness and acting like a wimp. Plus, I don't think anyone wants to be under something all the time and feel like they are always at the bottom of everything. So how do we start taking our place of authority?

1. By speaking the Word of God rather than talking about our circumstances.
2. By choosing to speak the Word of God instead of saying what we think or feel.

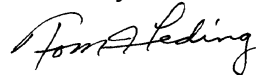
When I really started to become a serious student of the Word of God, I didn't have any understanding of who I was in Christ. Then I began to learn when I received Christ as my Savior, I was actually made right with God by the blood of Christ. This means I now have right standing with God and I don't have to feel badly about myself all the time. It also means I have been given authority over the enemy in Jesus' Name and I have the blood of Jesus to cleanse and protect me.

At first I went through a period of time when I knew in my mind God had given me authority, but because it was only head knowledge, I walked around trying to take authority over everything, saying, "I take authority over you and over the devil," and whatever else at the time I thought needed taken authority over. Then one day the Lord said to me, "Why don't you just walk in your authority instead of trying to take authority? For example, when I walk into my office at Tom Leding Ministries, everyone knows who I am. I know I am the President. They know I am the President, so I don't have to walk in and say, "Okay, now here I am. I take authority!" Why not? Because when I walk in, I already know who I am just like I know, and my employees know, who I am.

We have to come to a point where our head knowledge of who we are in Christ becomes a revelation to our spirit. Then we start noticing things begin to get a lot easier. There comes a time in our relationship with Christ when we know that we know that we know we can walk in His Authority. Then even when we go through a trial, we have authority. If we keep doing what we know to do, which is to obey, love and praise God, then things will start turning around in our favor. Having authority does not mean you and I will never experience a trial. It means we will come out victorious on the other side of it. What we do, say, think and how we behave while we are going through the trial is largely what will determine how long we are going to be in it. God has such a full, free, large and wonderful life for us, but we have to know who we are in Christ.

The "in Christ" is the key and religious people get really uncomfortable when we talk about righteousness (who we are in Christ) because they would much rather talk about how much of a sinner we are. I know we all sin, but I also know we have a brand-new identity of being the righteousness of God in Christ. It can't just be head knowledge. It has to be in our heart. We can learn who we are in Christ and how to use the authority that has been given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's desire is to work through each one of us to show Himself strong!

Your Prayer Partner,



Dr. Tom Leding

Has God changed your life in any way through Tom Leding Ministries? Whether it was a radio or TV broadcast, monthly letter, audio or video teaching, our website or a meeting, we would love to hear your story. Send an email to: tomleding@yahoo.com or mail your story to Tom Leding Ministries, 4412 S Harvard Ave, Tulsa, OK 74135.