

AUTHORITY

The Foundational Faith

Ibn Adam Al-Amin

July 2013



AUTHORITY

Praise the Lord God of all people and peace to all the sons of Adam, This booklet has been placed in your generous hands and includes the solid basis and explanation for us of the teaching and information about authority. These are discovery lessons from the Noble Book, i.e. the New Testament.

What is authority in the Noble New Testament? Let us discover most of the points and the important ones of them in this study. What does the Almighty God say to us about authority and who has it?

CHRIST

Christ's authority is from God. *"When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him asking for help: 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible anguish.' Jesus said to him, 'I will come and heal him.' But the centurion replied, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Instead, just say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I say to this one, "Go" and he goes, and to another "Come" and he comes, and to my slave "Do this" and he does it.' When Jesus heard this he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'I tell you the truth, I have not found such faith in anyone in Israel! I tell you, many will come from the east and west to share the banquet with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go; just as you believed, it will be done for you.' And the servant was healed at that hour."* (Matthew 8:5-13) (The Noble New Testament, a dynamic equivalent translation of the Word of God) (see Luke 7:1-10)

Authority is granted, i.e. given, not taken. Though Christ has the authority, He came to serve us. *"But Jesus called them and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions use their authority over them. It must not be this way among you! Instead whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'" (Matthew 20:25-28) (see Mark 10:42-45 and Luke 22:24-27)*

But some did not accept Christ's authority and his gift. *"Now after Jesus entered the temple courts, the chief priests and elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus answered them, 'I will also ask you one question. If you answer me then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Where did John's baptism come from? From heaven or from people?' They discussed this among themselves, saying, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will*

say, *“Then why did you not believe him?”* But if we say, *“From people,”* we fear the crowd, for they all consider John to be a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, *‘We don’t know.’* Then he said to them, *‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.’* (Matthew 21:23-27) (see Mark 11:27-33 and Luke 20:1-8)

And from the Gospel of Mark, *“The people there were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like the experts in the law. Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, ‘What do you want, Jesus the Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are! You are the Holy One of God!’ But Jesus rebuked him: ‘Silence! And come out of him!’ After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. They were all amazed so that they asked each other, ‘What is this? It is a new message! And it is presented with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him!’ So the news about him spread quickly throughout all the region around Galilee.”* (Mark 1:22-28) (see Luke 4:32-37)

And also, *“Now on one of those days, while he was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting nearby, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men showed up, carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They were trying to bring him in and place him before Jesus. But since they found no way to carry him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down on the stretcher through the roof tiles right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith he said, Friend, your sins are forgiven.’ Then the experts in the law and the Pharisees began to think to themselves, ‘Who is this man who is uttering blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ When Jesus perceived their hostile thoughts, he said to them, ‘Why are you raising objections within yourselves? Which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Stand up and walk”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,’ He said to the paralyzed man, ‘I tell you, stand up, take your stretcher and go home.’ Immediately he stood up before them, picked up the stretcher he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all, and they glorified God. They were filled with awe, saying, ‘We have seen incredible things today.’”* (Luke 5:17-26) (see Matthew 9:2-8 and Mark 2:1-12)

But what is the beginning of Christ? *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God. The Word was with God in the beginning... Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory, the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:1-2, 14)

Christ has God’s authority because He is the Spirit of God. The term ‘son’ means the authority of God and it is the Spirit of God in the fleshly body of Jesus Christ. God created His body by His Spirit to live and to dwell among us. *“‘For the One whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He does not give the Spirit sparingly. The Father loves the Son and has placed all things under His authority. The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. The one who rejects the Son will not see life, but God’s wrath remains on him.’”* (John 3:34-36)

In order for us to know more about who the Lord Jesus Christ is, the Bible also calls Him ‘Emmanuel’ which means ‘God is with us’ And ‘Jesus’ means ‘Savior’ or ‘Redeemer’ and

'Christ' means 'Chosen One'. "The birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was obviously pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a righteous man, and he did not want to disgrace her, he wanted to divorce her secretly. While he was thinking of this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: 'The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel,' which means 'God with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife, but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus." (Matthew 1:18-25)

So, why did God come to us in the flesh? To redeem us. **"For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also came through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."** (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

In Christ, God came to the world in flesh to carry our afflictions and erase the shame of our sin. We, sons of flesh, are sinners since we were young and if he had not come to us we would remain in a life of darkness and corruption. He saved us by His holy hand of flesh. Even though He was like us He did not commit even one sin so He conquered and was victorious over the corrupt body by His death and resurrection in the body. **"Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death He could destroy the one who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death... Therefore He had to be made like His brothers and sisters in every respect, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. For since He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted."** (Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-18)

You conquer death by faith in Him and He gave us eternal life and opened the door of a holy life. Christ suffered in the body in order for us to live a righteous life by faith in Him. **"For to this you were called, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving an example for you to follow in his steps. He committed no sin nor was deceit found in his mouth. When he was maligned, he did not answer back; when he suffered, he threatened no retaliation, but committed himself to God who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. By his wounds you were healed."** (1 Peter 2:21-24)

And, **"For just as the Father has life in Himself, thus He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and He has granted the Son authority to execute judgment"** (John 5:26-27)

And, **"If anyone wants to do God's will, he will know about my teaching, whether it is from God or whether I speak from My own authority. The person who speaks on his own authority desires to receive honor for himself; the one who desires the honor of the one who sent him is a man of integrity, and there is no unrighteousness in him."** (John 7:17-18)

When the death of Christ on the cross was near He said to His disciples that He had the authority to save His life and it was not under human authority. But He chose death for our benefit. “***This is why the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life, so that I may take it back again. No one takes it away from Me, but I lay it down of My own free will. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it back again. This commandment I received from My Father.***” (John 10:17-18)

And, “***For I have not spoken from My own authority, but the Father himself who sent Me has commanded Me what I should say and what I should speak.***” (John 12:49)

Christ explains to us that the Spirit of God has been given to Him to speak to us and guide us. “***But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own authority, but will speak whatever He hears, and will tell you what is to come.***” (John 16:13)

Christ has authority to give eternal life to all people. “***When Jesus had finished saying these things, He looked upward to heaven and said, ‘Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that your Son may glorify You, just as You have given Him authority over all humanity, so that He may give eternal life to everyone You have given him. Now this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You sent.’***” (John 17:1-3)

Christ has the authority of the final judgment. “***For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; then when Christ comes, those who belong to him. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he has brought to an end all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be eliminated is death.***” (1 Corinthians 15:22-26)

CHRIST GAVE HIS AUTHORITY TO THE BELIEVERS

Christ gave His authority to His followers. “***Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits so they could cast them out and heal every kind of disease and sickness... ‘As you go, preach this message: “The kingdom of heaven is near!” Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.’***” (Matthew 10:1, 7-8) (see also Mark 3:13-15 and 6:7-13 and Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-20)

Christ did not permit His followers to be proud about His authority. “***Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names stand written in heaven.***” (Luke 10:20)

And, “***He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; they will pick up snakes with their hands, and***

whatever poison they drink will not harm them; they will place their hands on the sick and they will be well.’ After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. They went out and proclaimed everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through the accompanying signs.” (Mark 16:15-20)

And Christ is with us to the end of time. *“Then Jesus came up and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20) (see also Acts 1:8)*

As foundation for defense of the truth, Paul wrote that Christ is the Head and Leader above all authority. *“Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him all the fullness of deity lives in bodily form, and you have been filled in him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:8-10)*

It is impossible for us to keep our resolve every moment, except that we are hold securely on the true Vine and listen to the Holy Spirit of God.

It is impossible to keep on the true Vine except that we rely on Christ to assume it for us and do it, because our strength and our desire and our intention and our feelings end in failure.

It is impossible to let Christ do it for us, except that we believe in our death and resurrection with Him by faith because Christ is our new life. As it is written, *“Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1-3)*

And Christ says, *“I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He takes away every branch that does not bear fruit in me. He prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will bear more fruit. You are clean already because of the word that I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me, and I in him, bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown out like a branch, and dries up; and such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and are burned up. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you. My Father is honored by this, that you bear much fruit and show that you are my disciples. Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; remain in my love. If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete. My commandment is this, to love one another just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that one lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I*

have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. This I command you, to love one another.” (John 15:1-17)

Lastly, regarding our faith in Christ, let us read from (Ephesians 1:17-22), *“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in your growing knowledge of him, since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength. This power he exercised in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms far above every rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And God put all things under Christ's feet, and he gave him to the church as head over all things.”*

And, from (Luke 12:4-5), *“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more they can do. But I will warn you whom you should fear: Fear the one who, after the killing, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!”*

Amen