



## Using Authority

To use authority a person needs to be authorized by a higher authority or a greater power. For example the Ethiopian eunuch was “of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians”<sup>1</sup>.

To use genuine authority a person must present proof of the power that backs them. This is why a police officer wears a badge in a prominent position and a plain-clothes detective shows their credentials when first connecting with another person. A biblical example is Saul of Tarsus, who was given papers by the chief priests showing his authority to capture and imprison the followers of ‘The Way’.<sup>2</sup>

The authority of a person can also be spoken out: e.g. “The teacher said...” or “Dad said...”. This is an appeal to a higher power for the purpose of causing another person to cease and desist. In England in 1829, the Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, formed the first police force with officers known as ‘Bobbies’. They would shout, “Stop in the name of the law” when they were apprehending a criminal suspect.

A person who is confronted by a person making demands, or who sees someone doing something wrong, can ask who gave them permission (authority). For example: The religious leaders asked Jesus, “Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Or who is he who gave you this authority?”<sup>3</sup>

Some people use force to back their authority. This is definitely required in police work when dissidents refuse to comply. It is required in the workplace when there is non-compliance. It is required in the classroom and at home when there is rebellion. In a godly community or organisation, aggressive force should not be required and should not be displayed. We know that some people in authority regularly use force to get their way because of some deficiency in their emotional or mental balance. This is not the way Kingdom sons are to operate.

There are people who ‘carry’ their authority and don’t have to prove anything to anyone. They walk and talk with their authority and everyone complies. This type of person can be humble, loving and gracious, and their authority still remains tangible. This is the way authority is to be used in the Kingdom among believers and when supervising in society.

Only authority used legally, with authorization, is genuine. A person cannot authorize themselves. Unauthorized activity is illegal, treason, lying, deception, etc. depending on what authority is being assumed. Such activity is punished by higher powers such as the king, the law, the boss, etc.

Presumption of authority is just as illegal and is punishable to the same extent as usurping it. One must know what authority they are authorized to use and to stay within the bounds of that authorisation. Mistakes and supposition are not cause for escaping punishment for misusing authority.

Appeal to your own power is not authority – that’s called wielding power.

**SELF-TEST:** In which of these situations do you have authority?

1. Telling your neighbour how to treat his wife – NO
2. Picking flowers out of your neighbour’s garden – NO, unless given permission
3. Pruning the saplings along the edge of the road – NO, it’s illegal
4. Advising the mechanic what to do to your friend’s car – NO, unless given permission
5. Chasing someone out of your neighbour’s front yard – Depends on your relationship with your neighbour

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1 – Acts 8:27 (NKJV)

2 – Acts 8:3; 9:14; 26:12

3 – Luke 20:2



In the Kingdom we must know how to use our authority properly. This is the reason for this series of teaching.

When required, sons must step out in faith, ‘step up’ and use authority when needed. There is no shirking of responsibility in the Kingdom. Fear which causes sons to dodge using their authority when required is not righteous – i.e. it’s not something Father sanctions.

From another perspective, when you’re not in a situation where you need to use authority, the pressure’s off, so relax. For example: with Community oversight, apostolic elders, bosses at work, father in the home, teacher in the classroom. Learn to rest. Learn to trust those who are in charge so you can maintain your peace and rest. It usually takes effort to trust those in authority to do their job properly because most of us like to be in-charge.

**WARNING: Just because the Bible says we have authority<sup>4</sup>, it doesn’t mean we use it in our own way or for our own purposes. This is ‘dead’ wrong.**

**\*\*\*Stay tuned as we move into spiritual authority in the Kingdom\*\*\***

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13-8-2018  
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