



### Authority in Action

Having understood what authority is and how to use it in life, here are 4 examples of different situations I found myself in where the use of authority was considered.

#### **Situation #1**

Since kicking out a Jezebel from our house church in a NSW country town in the 1980s for being a false prophet and a spiritual assassin<sup>1</sup>, the woman and her family kept harassing me for the next 25 years. I had moved to Canberra, but phone calls, letters, visits to my place of employment and visits to my home sporadically occurred. On one of her visits to our home I returned to find her inside with her husband. In reply to her SMS request to speak to me earlier in the day I had text-messaged her and told her not to come. She had played the Christian ‘card’ – you don’t stop fellowshiping with another Christian – and caused my wife to let her in against my instructions. She had no respect for authority as she believed she had God’s authority which trumped any other.

Once in her presence in the lounge room I asked her why she had come. She said she had a message from God for me. I asked her to leave because I didn’t want to hear it. She refused. I told her again to leave, to which she said, “You’ll have to carry me out or the police will have to remove me”. I immediately picked up the phone and rang the police. They removed her, while still protesting that she had a message from God that she had to deliver to me.

**Authority:** I had authority as the owner of the house to ask them to leave. The law backed me on that. She refused to comply with my authority so I had to rely on a higher authority, one which was authorized to use force if required.

#### **Situation #2**

During one of our Community meetings in our home a casual attendee lost control of themselves because he was offended with us. He stood up and started shouting obscenities at us. I immediately stood up and faced the man, about 3m from him. I held up my hand and asked him to stop. I spoke gently but firmly to him and asked him to stop. Very soon he stopped and sat down. We didn’t want him to leave because he had been rejected by numerous Christian groups and he needed our support.

**Authority:** I used my apostolic authority to face what was causing him to use expletives and would not allow it or him to gain the upper-hand. My authority as the owner of the house may have also influenced him to comply.

#### **Situation #3**

My wife and I were at a person’s home where 4 married couples were having dinner. The topic got onto ‘putting down’ an aged dog when one of the men stated killing a dog was murder. He said it in a very heated way because of his religious adherence to Eastern Mysticism and reincarnation. The conversation went down hill from there, and along with other personal affronts between 3 of the couples, the evening ended up in an altercation. There was much shouting and demands to leave the house by the host before the original offended person and his wife left.

My wife and I did not take part in these unseemly proceedings. We sat quietly, kept our composure, and spent the time observing and assessing. (NOTE: This is not all the details of the incident to protect the parties involved.)

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1 – See [canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Christians-Who-Are-Assassins.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Christians-Who-Are-Assassins.pdf)



**Authority:** I had no authority in someone else's home, so I remained detached. I did not raise my voice, nor force the offenders to leave in any way.

### Situation #4

I had been visiting a friend's home where he was running a Christian meeting. I was there as an observer and was not part of the organisation's structure. A woman turned up for the first time and from the moment she came through the front door she hardly stopped speaking. She divulged information about herself that wasn't warranted and proceeded to offer spiritual instruction to those in the room. The leader asked us all to begin praying and to focus on a man there who needed healing. After a short period of prayer, the leader said the Lord had told him to do something for the sick man. He took off the man's shoes and started rubbing his feet with 'spiritual' oil. Within no time the woman in question moved over to the feet, anointing them, and enthusiastically commanded that we needed to wash his feet. She called for water and began rubbing the man's feet and legs. She did this over the top of the leader who was quietly rubbing in oil.

The situation required the woman to be spoken to and put in her place, but the leader didn't because he said that she was "a spiritual woman". The conversation during the meeting drifted to learning Hebrew and attending Shabbat (Sabbath meal), all of which totally destroyed any oversight by Holy Spirit.

During all this I remained seated and observed what was going on.

**Authority:** I did not use my apostolic authority as a senior elder in the Kingdom. I was in someone else's home and they were the leader. I submitted to their leading and allowed what happened to expose what was really going on.

**Know when to and when not to use your authority. Do not usurp authority.**

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