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What is the difference between power and authority? Many think that these two terms are one and the same thing, but there exists a fine line of difference between power and authority.

These two are used to make people respond in the manner directed. Power is referred to as the capacity of an individual to influence the will or conduct of others. Authority is termed as the right possessed by a person to give the command to others.

Power is an entity or individual's ability to control or direct others, while authority is influence that is predicated on perceived legitimacy. Authority is based on the perceived legitimacy of the individual in power.

Power means the ability or potential of an individual to influence others and control their actions. It is a personal trait. Source: Knowledge and expertise. Power does not allow any hierarchy.

By the term power, we mean the personal capacity of an individual to influence others to do or not to do an act. It is independent and informal in nature derived from charisma and status. It is an acquired ability that comes from knowledge and expertise. It is the right to control others actions, decisions and performances.

Power is not hierarchical, i.e. it can flow in any direction like it can flow from superior to subordinate (downward) or junior to senior (upward), or between the persons working at the same level, but different departments of the same organization (horizontal), or between the persons working at different levels and departments of the same organization (diagonal). In this way, it is not confined to any boundaries. Moreover, the element of politics is usually attached to it.

The legal and formal right to give orders and commands, and take decisions is known as an Authority. It is a formal right, given to the high officials. Source: Position & office. Authority follows the hierarchy.

Authority is a legal and formal right to a person, who can take decisions, give orders and commands to others to perform a particular task. It is conferred to high officials, to accomplish the organization's objectives. It is hierarchical in nature, it flows downward, i.e. delegated from superior to the subordinate. In general, authority is exercised to get things done through others. It is attached to the position, i.e. any person who gets the position enjoys the authority attached to it, the higher the position, the higher would be his authority. As the authority lies in the designation, in the absence of authority, the position offered to the person would be of no use. Moreover, it is restricted to the organization only.

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with rejoicing, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.” Jude 1:24-25

Authority – What is authority? It’s not the same as power. I may use power to force you to act in a certain way, but that does not mean I had the authority to make you act that way. Authority is really about relationships. Authority can only be exercised over those who accept a relationship that either requires their submission or invites their submission. Authority is a two-way street.

Authority is something you are invested in. Giving the right to do can be given and taken.
Administration

Think of authority being the stop gap of power. Power is many things and can do much harm, but it must operate within its given authority.

God has authority over everything. Why? The first reason is that God is the Creator and therefore, by creative right, He exercises authority over what He creates. God also has the power over all His creation. But for now, He operates on the basis of authority, not power. He could simply clean up the whole creation. He could wipe out sin and sinful men (He did it once before) through the exercise of His power. He has the right to do that. But notice that the Biblical message is quite different. Instead of forcing His will on creation, God exercises His authority by inviting voluntary submission to His claim.

Jesus goes even further. Jesus deliberately sets aside His power and control to voluntarily express the authority of the Father. Jesus accepts the standard of God’s right to rule and He acts in accordance with God’s right to rule. He doesn’t try to make things happen on His own yet only under the instructions and standard of the Father. Jesus acts as the representative of someone else’s authority.

Where do you operate from? Want to know a really quick way to tell the difference? Power is all about control. Authority is all about submission. When I step into God’s worldview, I stop trying to control my environment. I look for the places where God has given me authority, not where I have the power to act on my own. And when I discover that authority is a gift, I realize that my authority depends entirely on what the giver allows. I stay within the bounds of my given authority because I am only a representative of the Ruler, not the Ruler.

🙏🙏🙏 When I forget that ability is about God’s authority, I get caught in control. Control can’t ever let go. Control is about me. Yet authority is about someone else. Authority requires a relationship with the Ruler.

“Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”
Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission, found in the very next verse, is not comprehensible unless we first settle the issue of authority. That’s why Jesus precedes His instruction about discipleship by declaring His authority. Let us not be confused. What Jesus says is not that He has the power to compel me to act according to His wishes. What He says is that He has the right to ask for my allegiance. And that right has been given to Him.

Jesus says that God the Father has given Him the ultimate entitlement: all authority. Jesus has every right to direct all creation. Jesus has the final say on everything, not just in heaven but also on earth. There is no one in a higher position, no one whose decision trumps His. Since this is the case, endorsed by God Himself, what Jesus says is the last word on any subject.

In the final analysis, the true ground of all authority is God. God has the first right of authority because He is the creator of all. God certainly has power over all His creation, yet with the use of the word *exousia*, the emphasis is not on power but on entitlement. *Exousia* is the word for permission. Jesus says that God the Father has given Him the ultimate entitlement: all authority. Jesus has every right to direct all creation. Jesus has the final say on everything, not just in heaven but also on earth. There is no one in a higher position, no one whose decision trumps His. Since this is the case, endorsed by God Himself, what Jesus says is the last word on any subject.

This claim should shake us to the bone. What Jesus says allows no exception, no condition, no alteration. There are no arguments or alternatives to His direction. Yet now the most amazing fact emerges: Jesus is entitled to our full absolute submission but He does not compel it. He asks for it. He asks us to voluntarily choose to acknowledge His entitlement over all creation. He could enforce this right. He could snap His fingers and bring ten thousand angels to battle in order to make us follow His will. But He doesn’t. He asks! Incredible! The One who is the final authority, the final judge, the ultimate ruler does not come to us in power and might and overwhelming, crushing force. He paints a completely different picture of rule. It is the rule of the servant, the power of submission. Force simply is not part of the equation. God asks, “Please”.

The lesson is very deep. How do you and I exercise authority? Do we pull out the rules and push our power or do we see Jesus, triumphant in total submission? Do we force our “rights” or do we surrender to Him? Are we controlling or serving?

Authority under Christ can only occur when we first acknowledge this verse: all of it belongs to Him.



“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, the excellency of the power being from God and not from ourselves.” 2 Corinthians 4:7

And now, in the glow of this glorious light and with unveiled faces we discover this treasure where it was hidden all along, in these frail skin-suits made of clay. We did not invent ourselves; we are God’s idea to begin with and the dynamic of His doing and amazing engineering. (The word translated earthen vessel or clay jar is the word *ostrakinos* from *ostrakon* “oyster”. It is a great visual picture of how we carry a very valuable pearl within us. The cosmetic value of the clay pot can never compete with the treasure it holds. There is so much more to you than what meets the eye. “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in an agricultural field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys the entire field.” [Matthew 13:44] In order to redeem our minds from the lies that we believed about us, God invested all that he has in the redeeming of our original value. See 1 Peter 1:18,19. He rescued the life of our design. Our inner life hosts this treasure. Jesus said in John 7:37,38, In your realizing that I am what the Scriptures are all about, you will discover uniquely for yourself, face to face with me, that I am what you are all about and rivers of living waters will gush out of your innermost being.”)

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us,”
Ephesians 3:20

We celebrate Elohim who supercharges us powerfully from within. Our biggest request or most amazing dream cannot match the extravagant proportion of their thoughts towards us. (Now to him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

“Never doubt God’s mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination. He will outdo them all, for His miraculous power constantly energizes you.
TPT

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases.” Luke 9:1

Then he summoned the twelve together and gave them power and an understanding of their Source in their I am-ness [authority] over all demons and to heal all diseases. Jesus’ strategy emerges here; the thronging of the crowds are getting more intense and the needs of the people are massive - He already took the three Exodus-fishermen, Peter James and John with Him into Jairus’ home, now he calls all twelve together to equip them to do what He does and thus be more effective in his mission.

“Look, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. And nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 10:19

- Imagine if God healed someone's cancer through you as you laid your hands on and prayed over them.
- Imagine if, when you found the last loved one you lost, God brought them back to life through you. They weren't dead anymore, but breathing, talking, and smiling, again.
- Imagine if, when you touched someone with skin disease, God washed away the sores and rashes, the irritation and the pain.
- Imagine if God used your voice to dispatch the demons harassing and tormenting someone.

Can you imagine something more exhilarating than being used by God to miraculously intervene

Satan's end draws near. His power and influence teeter on the brink of extinction. In a matter of months, Jesus would go to the cross, where God “disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” (Colossians 2:15). Jesus saw Satan falling from his makeshift Wizard-of-Oz throne over this world. And some of the most powerful signs of Satan's demise are the victories, large and small, we experience in ministry. Jesus has given His Spirit to be with us — in us — upon us- entrusting us with authority in His name even over Satan, empowering us to move mountains in ministry.

Upon and Within

✨✨✨✨ Jesus didn't stop there, with the disciples' power and authority over evil. He went on. “Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).

✨✨✨✨ As thrilling as it might be to be used by God in ministry, though, Jesus promises an even greater pleasure. We will not find our deepest joy in the work of our own hands in this age, even in the sanctified things we do for Jesus and His fame. No, God penned our deepest joy in a different ink and another world, in a book that promises us life long after all our ministry in this life is a sweet, but faint memory. No, Jesus is not rebuking all joy in ministry, but in the kind of joy in ministry that eclipses joy in Jesus. Beware of loving God more for what he does through you than for Who He is.

See, I have given you authority to trample upon serpents and scorpions and every powerful symbolic disguise of the enemy. nothing shall by any means nullify your authentic identity! Your likeness is secured in Me.

([1] & [3] Not only is Jesus the fulfillment of the prophetic word in Genesis 3:15, of the seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head [3Ophis - the mindset of accusation based upon the deception of an inferior identity] but, he has transferred this same exousia [I-am-ness] to his followers. I have given you, δεδωκα dedoka is a Perfect, Active Indicative Tense, which makes this gift irreversible! The word, eksousia is often translated as authority - it's components ek [out of/source] plus eimi [I am], point to our source as our authentic I-am-ness.

[2] To trample upon, 2patein epanoo - έξουσίαν τοῦ πατεῖν ἐπάνω ὄφεων [3Ophis] καὶ σκορπίων [scorpions] καὶ ἐπὶ πᾶσαν τὴν δύναμιν τοῦ ἐχθροῦ [every definition of hateful hostility], καὶ οὐδὲν ὑμᾶς οὐ μὴ ἀδικήσῃ.

[4] 4The triple negative here is extremely strong, ouden [nothing] ou [no] mē [not]. Thus, nothing will ever have what it takes to nullify your authentic identity! Our shared likeness is forever!

[5] The word often translated, unrighteous, or hurt, 5adike, from a, negative and dikay, two parties in sync with one another; shared likeness - thus, adike means to be out of sync. The word, adikēsay, ἀδικήσῃ is an Aorist Subjunctive of adikeō - the emphatic negative subjunctive [the Aorist Subjunctive with the double negative ou me] expresses the impossibility of something - a definite outcome that will happen as a result of another stated action. It also communicates unbroken continuance. Thus, these enemies of your shared likeness will not ever have the previous, continual undermining effect on you. "The Egyptians you see today, you will never see again!" Exodus 14:13.)

Power is through prayer

Authority is the capacity to bring it to pass

Power is the rules and regulations

Right to do ... authority comes from a level up

Jesus told us to heal the sick not to pray for the sick

He never gave us power over men: it is over Spirit, sickness, creatures of the earth

Power is Holy Spirit Himself: sit upon them

Authority within from Jesus

If we do not know The Spirit we will not be able to discern spirit.

He is the Water and the Well. No other place to get living water. He trains us to be hungry. We don't even know that we are hungry. You have to start somewhere and change your palate to mature. Train my spirit and soul.

If I do not have love and the love of Christ I have nothing.

“that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance among the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He performed in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principalities, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him the head over all things for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all things in all ways.”Ephesians 1:18-23

We co-labor

We do it in His name: His name gives us authority:

The Amen

Do you want to measure the mind and muscle of God? Consider the force which He unleashed in Jesus Christ when He raised Him from the dead and forever seated Him enthroned as His executive authority in the realm of the heavens. Jesus is God’s right hand of power. He was raised up from the deepest dungeons of human despair to the highest region of heavenly bliss. (Ephesians 2:5,6 & 4:8,9.)

Authority is how you render that power.

Commander vs beggar

It transcends

Acts 3:1-18

1 Corinthians 12

1 Corinthians 13 is the what we operate in power and authority



“For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Become fully acquainted with his gift in you, there is nothing timid about it; the dynamic of a mind liberated in the spirit of love is fearless and unstoppable.

Power – God gives me dunamis. And what does “power” mean to me? It means ability, capacity, vigor, strength and will. The basis of our words “dynamite” and “dynamic” come from this Greek root. Explosive ability is usually what we think.

Hayil is used to describe strength, wealth or an army. This is influence, whether financially, numerically or militarily. By the way, the same word is used to describe judging righteously. Another alternative is lo hassiyr. This means not lacking, not being deficient or not having poor quality. Not exactly concepts that we naturally associate with power, but obviously part of the Hebrew view of life. Then there's yatsa, a verb that means to go out and come in, or to cause to go out and come in. This verb also carries the idea of bringing forth vegetation and feelings. There is still 'alah (to ascend, to take away, to offer) and tsava(to wage war, to muster for war, to serve). Quite a range. Apparently the Hebrew idea of being able covers a much larger context than our thinking about power.

These ideas are played out in Hebrew culture. Strength finds a home with the general idea of influence. It isn't limited to physical prowess. It is found wherever someone has influence over another, no matter what the basis for that influence. Power is also tied to sufficiency. In a culture where subsistence was a daily issue, power meant not lacking food, shelter and the basics of life. On this scale, everyone reading these words is powerful. Hebrew also connects power with the ability to come and go. Ancient cultures were very familiar with slavery, vassal treaties and limitations of movement. We may have forgotten these issues but most of the world has not. Power means being able to move at your own will. It also means being able to express your own feelings, something that you only did with potentially disastrous consequences in a world dominated by emperors and kings. The connection to war is obvious, but maybe not quite so apparent is the connection to 'alah (to ascend, to take away). This is a verb of sacrifices and offering. What is power if it is not the ability to remove guilt. A sacrifice is power in the most important sense.

Now apply these to Paul's remark to Timothy. Suddenly the concept of power expands significantly. Suddenly we see that our privileged lives of sufficiency, political freedom, influence and expression of feelings are power. We discover one other, most important, element. The ability to have our guilt removed through sacrifice is the ultimate expression of power. You never knew you were so well equipped.

"He gives power to the faint, and to those who have no might He increases strength." Isaiah 40:29



The word power is 'oz in Hebrew. The word is spelled Ayin for spiritual seeing and insight and Zayin which represents a weapon. Having spiritual insight into the power or strength of God's desire for intimacy with us is a powerful weapon

Can mean strength as well

The gifts of Christ and the Holy Spirit are for the unification and building up of the church. Until we mature in both faith and love, we are settling for only a portion of what's ours. The gifts are the conduit in which we operate power and authority through.