

i give you authority charles h kraft

i give you authority charles h kraft. This phrase signifies a profound transfer of spiritual and practical power, a concept deeply explored within the teachings of Charles H. Kraft. Understanding this transfer is crucial for those seeking to grasp the dynamics of spiritual authority and its manifestations in everyday life and ministry. This article delves into the foundational principles behind "giving authority" as articulated by Kraft, examining its theological underpinnings, practical applications, and the implications for believers. We will explore how this authority is derived, how it is delegated, and the responsibilities that accompany it, providing a comprehensive overview for anyone interested in the spiritual leadership and power dynamics championed by Charles H. Kraft.

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Understanding the Concept of Spiritual Authority

Spiritual authority, as understood in the context of Charles H. Kraft's teachings, is not merely a position of leadership or influence. It is a divinely-ordained empowerment that enables individuals to act on behalf of God, impacting the spiritual realm and the lives of others. This authority is distinct from worldly power, as its source is God Himself and its purpose is aligned with His will. Kraft emphasizes that this is not about personal ambition but about fulfilling a God-given mandate and participating in His ongoing redemptive work. Understanding this fundamental difference is the first step in grasping the true meaning of "i give you authority."

The exercise of spiritual authority involves operating within the parameters of God's kingdom. This means that the authority granted is not absolute but is tethered to divine wisdom, love, and justice. When believers are given authority, they are empowered to bring about change, confront spiritual opposition, and bring healing and restoration. This can manifest in various forms, from leading a congregation to casting out demons, healing the sick, or even impacting societal structures through prayer and prophetic action. Kraft consistently points to biblical examples to illustrate the tangible nature of this God-given power.

Theological Roots of "Giving Authority"

The concept of God granting authority to His creation is deeply embedded in Scripture. From the initial mandate given to Adam and Eve to exercise

dominion over the earth, to the commissioning of the apostles by Jesus, the Bible is replete with instances of divine delegation. Jesus Himself declared, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me," and then, crucially, imparted a measure of this authority to His followers (Matthew 28:18). This establishes a theological framework where authority flows from God and is, in turn, distributed to those He chooses to empower for His purposes.

In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings all received specific forms of authority from God to lead and shepherd His people. These roles were not self-appointed but were recognized as divinely sanctioned. This precedent highlights that spiritual authority is always a matter of divine conferral. The phrase "I give you authority" echoes this pattern, signifying a direct bestowal from a higher power. Kraft draws upon these historical and theological precedents to ground his understanding of how spiritual authority is not earned through merit alone but is a gift given for service.

Jesus' Commissioning of the Disciples

A pivotal moment in understanding this transfer of authority is Jesus' commissioning of His disciples. In passages like Mark 6:7, Jesus sent out the twelve, giving them authority over evil spirits. Later, in Luke 10:1, He appointed seventy-two others and sent them out, stating, "I give you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." This direct empowerment from Jesus Himself serves as a foundational example of the principle of God granting authority to His agents. It wasn't just a matter of permission; it was an active impartation of power.

The Great Commission and Apostolic Authority

The Great Commission, as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, is another cornerstone. Jesus proclaims His absolute authority and then extends it to His followers: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." This implies an authority to teach, to disciple, and to act in His name. The apostles, in particular, exercised significant spiritual authority in the early church, founding churches, performing miracles, and shaping doctrine, all understood as being done with Christ's delegated authority.

How Authority is Granted by God

God grants authority through various means, and it is rarely arbitrary. While God is sovereign and can bestow authority as He wills, He often operates through established patterns and principles. The primary channels through which believers receive authority include direct impartation from the Holy Spirit, through the laying on of hands by those already in authority, and through specific divine appointments for particular tasks or ministries. Understanding these pathways is essential for discerning and receiving the authority God intends for us.

It is crucial to recognize that God's granting of authority is always for His purposes and for the advancement of His kingdom. It is never intended for personal aggrandizement or manipulation. The authority granted is a sacred trust, accompanied by immense responsibility. When we speak of "I give you authority," we are referring to this God-initiated empowerment, which is then exercised in accordance with His will and by His power.

Through the Holy Spirit's Impartation

The Holy Spirit is the immediate agent of God's power and authority in the lives of believers. The Spirit indwells believers, empowering them for service and equipping them with spiritual gifts, which are often expressions of divine authority. When the Spirit anoints a believer for a specific task, whether it be preaching, healing, deliverance, or leadership, a measure of God's authority is imparted. This internal unction and empowerment are direct results of the Spirit's work.

Through Ordination and Laying On of Hands

Another significant way authority is formally recognized and transferred is through spiritual leadership and the laying on of hands. In many traditions, this process, known as ordination or commissioning, signifies God's endorsement of an individual for ministry. When seasoned leaders, who themselves operate in God-given authority, lay hands on someone, it is understood as a conduit for the impartation of spiritual authority and grace for a particular calling. This practice is seen throughout the New Testament as a means of validating and empowering leaders.

Through Divine Appointment and Calling

God directly calls and appoints individuals for specific roles and ministries. This calling often comes with an inherent sense of divine authority. While not always accompanied by a formal ceremony, this appointment is recognized by the confirmation of the Spirit and the fruits of the ministry. When God has clearly designated someone for a task, He equips them with the necessary authority to accomplish it, even if the understanding of that authority develops over time.

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Authority

The Holy Spirit is not merely a passive observer but is the active facilitator of all God-given authority. Jesus Himself promised the disciples that the Spirit would empower them (Acts 1:8) and guide them into all truth (John 16:13). This guidance is not abstract; it involves empowering believers to operate effectively in the spiritual realm and to exercise authority in alignment with God's character and purposes. Without the Spirit's power, any attempt to wield spiritual authority would be futile and potentially dangerous.

The Spirit's role is to empower, equip, and direct believers in their use of authority. He enables them to discern spiritual realities, to speak God's word with boldness, and to perform works that glorify God. The phrase "I give you authority" is intrinsically linked to the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, who is the source of that supernatural capability. The Spirit ensures that the authority exercised is consistent with God's loving and redemptive nature.

Empowerment for Ministry

The Holy Spirit equips believers with the power to minister effectively. This includes the ability to preach the Gospel with conviction, to pray for the sick with expectation, and to minister deliverance to those who are oppressed. This empowerment is not a natural ability but a supernatural endowment from God, enabling individuals to do things they could not do in their own strength.

Discernment and Wisdom

Operating in spiritual authority requires wisdom and discernment. The Holy Spirit provides believers with the capacity to discern between spirits, to understand God's will, and to make wise decisions. This ability to discern is crucial for exercising authority appropriately and effectively, ensuring that actions are aligned with God's kingdom principles rather than human agendas.

Confirmation and Validation

The Holy Spirit also plays a role in confirming and validating the authority that God has granted. This confirmation can come through answered prayer, visible manifestations of God's power, and the positive impact on people's lives. When God's authority is at work, there is typically a tangible confirmation of His presence and approval.

Practical Applications of Granted Authority

The authority granted by God has numerous practical applications in the lives of believers and in the wider world. It is not an abstract theological concept but a tangible force that can bring about real change. Kraft often illustrates these applications through various ministries, including healing, deliverance, prophetic ministry, and leadership. Understanding these practical dimensions helps solidify the reality and importance of "I give you authority."

When believers operate in God-given authority, they are instruments of His grace and power. This can involve confronting spiritual opposition, bringing healing to the broken, and establishing righteousness in various spheres of life. The application of this authority is always aimed at advancing God's kingdom and bringing glory to His name. It requires faith, obedience, and

reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Healing and Deliverance Ministries

One of the most evident applications of spiritual authority is in the areas of healing and deliverance. Believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can pray for the sick and see them recover, and they can confront and cast out demonic forces that oppress individuals. This is a direct manifestation of the authority Jesus delegated to His followers.

Prophetic Utterance and Guidance

Spiritual authority also extends to prophetic ministry. This involves hearing from God and speaking His word with clarity and conviction. This prophetic voice can provide guidance, encouragement, and correction, helping individuals and communities discern God's will and walk in obedience. The authority here lies in speaking God's truth with divine backing.

Leadership and Discipleship

Within the church and in other Christian contexts, spiritual authority is essential for effective leadership and discipleship. Leaders are called to shepherd, teach, and guide believers, exercising their authority in a manner that reflects Christ's servant leadership. This authority empowers them to make decisions, set direction, and foster spiritual growth.

Confronting Injustice and Evil

Believers are also called to use their God-given authority to confront injustice and evil in the world. This can involve praying against oppressive systems, speaking out against sin, and working towards righteousness. The authority exercised is not human might but the power of God working through His people to bring His justice and truth to bear.

The Responsibilities of Exercising Authority

With spiritual authority comes immense responsibility. It is not a license for unchecked power but a sacred trust that demands accountability, humility, and integrity. Those who are given authority are accountable to God for how they wield it. This includes ensuring that their actions are consistent with God's character and that the authority is used for the benefit of others, not for personal gain.

Charles H. Kraft consistently emphasizes that spiritual authority must be exercised with love, compassion, and a deep respect for the free will of individuals. Misusing or abusing this authority can have detrimental

consequences, both for the individual exercising it and for those affected. Therefore, understanding the responsibilities associated with "i give you authority" is as crucial as understanding how it is granted.

Accountability to God

Every exercise of spiritual authority is ultimately accountable to God. Believers are stewards of the authority God has placed in their hands and will give an account for their stewardship. This calls for constant reliance on God's wisdom and a willingness to submit to His will in all things.

Servanthood and Humility

True spiritual authority is characterized by servanthood and humility, not by arrogance or domination. Jesus Himself exemplified this, stating that He did not come to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). Those who operate in authority are called to follow His example, prioritizing the needs of others above their own.

Integrity and Purity of Motive

Exercising authority with integrity and purity of motive is paramount. The authority granted by God is to be used for His glory and the building up of His kingdom. Any selfish ambition, manipulation, or desire for personal power corrupts the exercise of this authority and grieves the Holy Spirit.

Respect for Others

Spiritual authority should always be exercised with respect for the dignity and freedom of others. It is not about coercing people but about leading them with love and truth. This means respecting their choices, even when they differ from our own, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.

Common Misconceptions About Spiritual Authority

Several common misconceptions can hinder a proper understanding and application of spiritual authority. One prevalent error is the belief that spiritual authority is earned through personal merit or spiritual achievement alone. While dedication and faithfulness are important, the ultimate source of authority is God, and it is granted as a gift. The phrase "i give you authority" emphasizes this divine conferral, moving beyond human striving.

Another misconception is the conflation of spiritual authority with forceful domination or the suppression of others. True spiritual authority is rooted in love and service, not in coercion. Furthermore, some may mistakenly believe that spiritual authority is limited to visible leaders or clergy,

overlooking the authority God grants to all believers for specific purposes and in various contexts. Understanding these distinctions is key to a balanced perspective.

Authority as Earned vs. Granted

A frequent error is the idea that spiritual authority is solely the result of personal spiritual attainment or a perfect track record. While character and obedience are vital, the foundational principle is that authority is divinely granted. It is a gift of grace, empowering individuals to fulfill God's purposes, rather than a reward for flawless performance.

Authority as Domination

There is a mistaken notion that spiritual authority implies a right to dominate or control others. This is contrary to the biblical model of Christ's servant leadership. Genuine authority seeks to empower, equip, and love, not to exert undue influence or manipulate individuals for personal benefit.

Authority Limited to Formal Roles

Some assume that spiritual authority is exclusively vested in ordained ministers or those in formal leadership positions. However, God grants authority to various believers for different ministries and callings. Every believer can be empowered by the Holy Spirit to exercise authority in specific situations, such as intercessory prayer, spiritual warfare, or sharing the Gospel.

The Absence of Spiritual Warfare

A dangerous misconception is the idea that once authority is granted, spiritual opposition ceases. In reality, the exercise of God-given authority often provokes spiritual resistance. Understanding this helps believers remain vigilant and rely on God's power rather than becoming complacent.

FAQ

Q: What does it mean when Charles H. Kraft says "i give you authority"?

A: When Charles H. Kraft or any spiritual leader speaks of "i give you authority," it refers to the divine impartation of spiritual power and permission to act in God's name and by His Spirit. It signifies a delegation from God, enabling believers to fulfill spiritual mandates, confront spiritual opposition, and bring about His will in the earth.

Q: Is spiritual authority the same as worldly power?

A: No, spiritual authority is distinct from worldly power. Worldly power is often derived from human position, influence, or force. Spiritual authority, however, originates from God, is exercised through the Holy Spirit, and is aimed at furthering God's kingdom, bringing healing, and advancing righteousness, rather than personal gain or control.

Q: How does one receive spiritual authority?

A: Spiritual authority is primarily granted by God. It can be received through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, direct impartation from God for specific ministries, through prayer and the laying on of hands by recognized spiritual leaders, and by responding to a divine calling and confirmation.

Q: What are the responsibilities that come with spiritual authority?

A: Exercising spiritual authority comes with significant responsibilities, including accountability to God, operating in humility and servanthood, maintaining integrity and purity of motive, and treating others with respect and love. It requires careful stewardship of the divine empowerment.

Q: Can spiritual authority be misused?

A: Yes, spiritual authority can be misused if it is not exercised with the right motives and in alignment with God's will. Misuse can involve manipulation, domination, personal ambition, or acting outside of divine guidance, leading to negative consequences.

Q: Is spiritual authority something that can be lost?

A: While God grants authority, its effective operation is often linked to a believer's continued obedience, faith, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. Persistent disobedience or rebellion against God's principles can grieve the Spirit and hinder the full manifestation of the authority God has granted.

Q: What is the role of faith in exercising spiritual authority?

A: Faith is absolutely essential for exercising spiritual authority. Believers must have faith that God has indeed granted them authority and that His power is available to them. Faith empowers them to act in obedience to God's commands and to expect His intervention and results.

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