

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

by Bayless Conley

Copyright © Answers with Bayless Conley

We're going to begin in the book of Hebrews 2:14, talking about Jesus. It says,

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

The devil had the power of death. Other translations say dominion or the authority of death, but Jesus destroyed him. The Greek word there means to render completely useless, to completely incapacitate. Jesus has made of no effect the devil who had the authority of death. All right? Who has it now? Well, of course, the one that defeated him has that authority. Revelation 1:18. Jesus said,

¹⁸ "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

Keys represent authority. Jesus said, "I was dead, but I'm alive. And that's never going to happen again. And now I have the keys." Friend, keys unlock things; keys lock things. Keys can permit entry; keys can prohibit entry. Keys represent authority, and Jesus said, "I now have the keys." Colossians puts it this way in Colossians 2:15,

¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

That is in the cross. Now, the Apostle Paul's favorite words for the powers of darkness and evil spirits are "principalities and powers." In Ephesians 6:12,

¹² "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age."

But friend, through His victory on the cross, Jesus defeated those principalities and those powers. He defeated them soundly. And I love the Easy English Bible; it actually makes it pretty easy to understand. Listen to it. Colossians 2:15,

¹⁵ On the cross, Christ took away the power of the bad spirits that have authority to rule people. He showed clearly that he himself has won against them. Now everyone can see that those bad spirits have no power.

Jesus has the authority now. Jesus has won the victory. Are you listening to me? After the resurrection, before He ascended into heaven, gathered with the disciples, in Matthew 28:18–19, He said this.

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

It says,

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority.”

Everybody say all authority. He said,

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

“Now all authority in heaven, all authority in earth I have,” and then He said, “You go, therefore.” There’s a very clear delegation of authority there. Mark’s account of this actually makes it a little clearer. Mark 16:15-18,

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents.

Literally, they will drive away serpents,

And if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

His authority has been delegated to us through the use of His name. “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me. You go, therefore, in My name. Cast out demons, lay hands on the sick.” We have been given that authority by Jesus Christ, and the authority is in His name.

I guess that’s a good thing to clap about. When I was in Bible school, I lived in an older apartment building. I think we had seven apartments on the upper floor where I lived, and there were seven below. One day I got a knock on the door. I opened the door, and there’s a guy standing there with a clipboard and a pen. And the moment I opened the door, something struck me as being very off about this man that was standing there. He says, “I’m doing such and such survey. Can I come in?” I said, “No.”

He said, “Well, this is really important. I need to do this survey. Can I come into your apartment?” I said, “No, you cannot come into my apartment.” He got really pushy and rude. He says, “I need to come into your apartment.” There was something just so off about him. I said, “In the name of Jesus. I said, no.” He went [hisses]. He hissed at me just like that. Then just like he did nothing, he says, “I need to come in.” I said, “In the name of Jesus. I said no.” And he went into a trance. It’s true. He stood there, didn’t bat an eye, didn’t move a muscle. It seemed like an eternity. I was like [just waiting], it was probably just a minute, but it seemed like a long time, and then he went, “Can I come in now?” I looked at him, I said, “I said in the name of Jesus, no, you may not come in,” and he went [hisses]. He hissed again. And he ran off at full speed down the corridor, ran down the stairs, and then ran down the street.

So, I go next door, in the apartment next door. And the next one—there were actually students that lived there—there was a couple in the apartment next door to me. I knocked on the door and said, “Hey, did some guy come by taking a survey?” They go, “Yes, we had him in and sat down for a cup of coffee with him.” I said, “You did?” They said, “Yes, he was really weird. We never did figure out what the survey was about.” I said, “But you invited him in, and you had

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

coffee with him?” They said, “Yes, he was here for like a half hour.” I said, “Well, you probably shouldn’t have let him in your apartment.” They go, “Why?” And I told them the story. They go, “Really?” I said, “Yes.”

I went to the apartment next door, and there was a single gal there. I said, “Did a guy come—” “Oh, yes. He was taking a survey. I invited him in. He was weird.” I said, “Yes, weirder than you know.” That night, the police arrested him on the roof of my apartment, trying to break through the roof to get into my apartment. That evil spirit in him recognized the authority in the name of Jesus. There is power in His name. Now, I want to read a lengthy bit of Scripture. But it is so filled with truth, dealing with what we’re talking about. This delegated authority we have in His name. It’s from Acts 3, and I’m going to start in verse one (Acts 3:1-10). It says,

¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

that’s three o’clock,

² And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” ⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Now, Peter is having a Holy Spirit moment here. He and John had gone up many times to pray in the temple there. They would have seen this poor beggar there many times. He was laid daily at the gate of the temple. Jesus Himself would have passed by this beggar numerous times. Somebody says, “Why didn’t Jesus heal him?” Well, you’ll find if you read through the gospels Jesus did not heal everyone that He came to, but He did heal everyone that came to Him. That’s worth contemplating. That’s worth studying, my friend. Anyway, I have some thoughts about it, but we don’t have time right now. But here, in this moment, it says, “Peter fastened his gaze on him with John.”

That’s a very strong phrase in the Greek language. It doesn’t mean a casual look. It doesn’t mean he noticed him. It’s as if you’re looking at a crowd, and suddenly, someone stands out in stark relief against the crowd. Some of you know, it’s happened to you. You’ve been in the market, you’ve been here and there, and suddenly it’s like your eyes are riveted on someone. The Holy Spirit will use your eyes, my friend. This was a Holy Spirit moment. Peter suddenly—his eyes were fastened on this man, and it means he couldn’t make his gaze go anywhere else. He realized the Holy Spirit’s about to do something.

And I love the language. He said, “Silver and gold I do not have.” The word have there means—the Greek word means to “have on hand.” It didn’t mean he didn’t have any money; didn’t mean he didn’t have access to funds. It didn’t mean he wasn’t poor. He was going to a prayer meeting. There’s no point in carrying a bag of coins into the prayer meeting. Peter said, “Look,

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

I don't have any money with me, but what I do have—" Completely different Greek word. This word means to "have as a permanent possession." It's something that you have with you at all times. Something that you have access to at all times.

"I don't have any silver and gold with me. But what I do have is a permanent possession that belongs to me, and I have access to it at every moment. I'm giving that to you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth." What was Peter talking about that was his? It was the name of Jesus. He understood something about this delegated authority that Christ had given to the church. So everyone's running together, and there's a bunch of excitement. In verse 12-13,

¹² So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus."

Verse 16,

¹⁶ "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

His name, through faith in His name. Not just His name, but His name through faith in His name. Peter didn't say, "This is because I'm an apostle. This is because I'm one of the 12. This is because we've been up at the temple at the hour of prayer; we've been praying." No, he said, "It's not our power, not our godliness. This is not about us. This is about the Name that we've been given and about faith in the Name." The religious leaders are really upset. They call Peter and John on the carpet, and we come to the fourth chapter, verse 7. (Acts 4:7-12)

⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'

Now listen, verse 12,

¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The Name has been given, and there is not salvation in any other name. Now, we certainly know that the cleansing from sin and restoration of favor with God comes through the name of Jesus. Thank God there's no other name that brings salvation. But, you know what they were talking about was healing. Peter said, "Look, if we're examined this day, if you're going to judge us regarding the good deed done to the helpless man, by what means he's made whole"—it's a Greek word, *sozo*, made whole. "You want to know by what means he's been made whole, *sozo*?" He said, "It's by the name of Jesus because there's no other name under heaven given whereby we must be *sozo*, healed."

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

That was the subject under discussion. That was the way that those religious leaders would've understood it. My friend, I'm telling you, there is healing power in the name of Jesus. There is saving power. There is delivering power. There is healing power in the name of Jesus. And it has been given; it has been given to the church. "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me. You go, therefore, in My name." But again, Peter said "It's His name through faith in His name." How does faith come? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We read in Mark 16:17 Jesus said,

¹⁷ "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons,"

et cetera. Now you may know this, you may not, but the New Testament was all written in capital case, Greek letters. The chapter breaks, the verse designations, and the punctuation all added by the translators. Thank God for it. It'd be pretty tough reading without that. Now, the Word absolutely inspired. The punctuation, not always. Let's just move a colon. Jesus said, "These signs will follow those that believe—And as we read it—: In my name, they'll cast out demons." And this is certainly true. But I believe this is the way it should be read. "These signs shall follow those that believe in my name: they'll cast out demons, they'll speak with new tongues. They'll lay hands on this sick, and they will recover."

Peter said, "It's His name through faith in His name." These signs will follow those who believe in His name, who put faith in His name. Listen to me. If you will feed along these lines, if you will study along these lines. If you will reflect and see what the Scripture has to say. Prayerfully, carefully, bask in the Word along these lines, it will dawn upon your heart. Faith will come.

Faith in the name of Jesus comes when you read about what that Name can do. When you understand how He got His name, when you understand that it has been delegated and given to the church. And it's not by your godliness; it's not by your own power. It's not by your church attendance, though attending church is a good thing. It's not because you gave in the offering. It's not because you put extra time in prayer, though all those things are important. But it's through the Name and faith in the Name. And my friends, faith comes by hearing. Life will change when that truth dawns upon you.

Now people get a great name a couple of different ways. Some people inherit a great name. Other people, they make a great name through what they do, through what they achieve. Jesus got His name both ways. Let me read to you from Hebrews 1:3-4, speaking about Christ,

³ Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Jesus got His name through inheritance. Our boys, our daughter, our four grandsons, they've all inherited the name, Conley. There may not be a lot of benefit to that, but there's some benefits. I remember one time we were going on a family vacation. We were actually all flying somewhere. I've got a lot of status with a couple of different airlines because of the amount of time I have spent in airplanes over the last 35 years. We're there, and the gal says, "Mr. Conley, your luggage is free, of course. But all these other nine suitcases"—It was nine of us going—she says, "It's going to be \$30 a piece for the other suitcases." I said, "Well, you know what? You

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

see all these nine people here, every one of them is named Conley. I want you to put all their luggage under my name.” They said, “Yes, sir, all of this luggage is free.”

There’s a little benefit here and there to having inherited my name. But there’s a lot of benefit to this name of Jesus that he inherited. If you want to measure the influence and the authority of that name, you’d have to measure God Himself. For you read in verse eight of the same chapter, it says, (Hebrews 1:8),

⁸ But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

Jesus got His name through inheritance. Again, to measure the vast authority and influence of the name, you’ve got to measure God. He also got His name through conquest. Philippians puts it this way, chapter 2:8–10,

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus...

Other translations say when the name of Jesus is spoken,

every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.

Through His sacrifice, Christ won our redemption. He defeated the powers of darkness, and He won His name through conquest. Now, when His name is spoken, it has authority in three worlds, heaven, earth, and the underworld. Be they angels, be they demons; they all recognize what Christ has done through Calvary. They all recognize the authority that is in His name. When the name of Jesus is spoken, beings in heaven, earth, and under the earth, they bow. When it is spoken, not out of habit, not religiously, not out of fear, but when it’s spoken in faith. It’s His name through faith in His name. Remember He has given it to us.

Do you remember when Moses met God at the burning bush? Moses got a rod. God says, “Throw it down.” He throws it down, it turns into a snake. Moses runs away; you would too. God said, “Come back, Moses.” He says, “Take it by the tail.” He did and it turned into a rod again. God said, “All right, with this rod, you’re going to work signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. All the miracles are going to be worked with this rod.” It says Moses left with a rod of God in his hand. From that moment on, it was called the rod of God.

It represented the authority that God gave Moses. Everything from turning the Nile River into blood, to everything else was worked through the authority that rod represented. They’re delivered from Egypt; everybody’s celebrating. All the Israelites get to the edge of the Red Sea. Meanwhile, Pharaohs’ changed his mind. His heart gets hard. He gets 600 chariots, all of his captains, all of his army, and they go chasing Israel. They’re going to take them back into captivity. The Israelites turn around, they got the Red Sea here, and they see Pharaoh and his army coming, and they start complaining. Saying, “Moses, weren’t there enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out here to die?”

Now, we’re not told what Moses said to God. It may have just been his heart speaking to God, perhaps his lips. But we know he said something because God said to Moses at that moment,

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

“Why do you cry to Me? Stretch out your rod and divide the sea. Moses, I’ve already given you authority. Use it, and My power will back it up.” Moses stretched out his rod, and God’s power backed it up. He needed to use his authority.

You talk to some people and go, “What are you doing?” They say, “I’m just praying God will rebuke the devil.” You may as well stop because He’s not going to. Jesus has already stripped the devil of all of his authority. The Bible says in James 4:7, “Submit yourself to God. You resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Don’t pray for God to rebuke the devil; He’s not going to do it. Jesus has already won the victory. He says, “Now, you resist the devil.” How do I do that? By the authority of the name of Jesus. I think sometimes, we’re like this guy. He’s got a wagon full of dynamite, and he’s trundling down the road. And with this wagon full of dynamite, he comes across an obstacle. A tree has fallen in the road. We grumble, and we cry, and we pray, and nothing happens.

We start making doctrines about trees falling across the road. How God is sovereign, and there’s nothing that we can do about it. When all the while, we got a wagon full of dynamite, all the dynamite we need to blow the tree out of the road. But we forget about the wagon. We forget about what’s been delivered to us. Listen, there’s explosive power in the name of Jesus.

I have a friend who came out of a similar background as me. Some of you’ll be able to relate to this. We get thoroughly saved, but we got a lot of renewing to do up here. Our thinking really needs to change. Sometimes, some of those old habits, old way of thinking, stuff that just wants to hang on even though you’re thoroughly saved on the inside. That’s why we’re transformed as we renew our mind. We need to grow in Christ.

Anyway, he’s come to the Lord, and to me, he’s a bit like Lazarus. Jesus said, “Lazarus, come forth.” Lazarus comes out to the grave, but he’s bound in grave clothes. Thoroughly alive inside, but he’s still got the grave clothes that are binding him. That may describe some of you here today, some of you listening. Thoroughly saved, you know it. But you got some of the grave clothes from the old life that are trying to restrict you, maybe in your thinking, in some of your habits, and some of your attitudes.

Anyway, my friend, similar background of mine, gets saved. He begins to realize that God’s given him authority, that he’s been given the name of Jesus. He’s actually working a graveyard shift in a 7-Eleven. He said, “Bayless, I just had it. I’m just done. The devils’ curled up in my life. I’m just through. I’m going to do something about it.”

Nobody’s in the store. He said, “I got my back to the door, and I just started dealing with the devil.” He said, “Devil, in the name of Jesus Christ, out with you. I’m not going to think this way anymore. I’m breaking your power over my life. I’m not going to do these things anymore. I’m a new creature in Christ Jesus. Now you get out of my life! You get out of my family! You get out of my finances in the name of Jesus!” He started getting louder and louder. He is just saying, “I’m through. I’ve had it. This is not going to ruin my life anymore. I am changed. I’ve been delivered from the power of darkness. I’m in the Kingdom of God’s Son. He has all authority. I have that authority.” He’s just going for it. He’s getting louder and louder.

All of a sudden, behind him, he hears ding, ding, ding. Someone opened the door and came in the 7-Eleven, and he wheels around, and he says, “What do you want?” They said, “Milk.” He

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

said, “It’s over there.” Now, it’s not our volume, but it’s our faith in that name. Sometimes, you just need to say, “Enough. Enough.”

Listen, God will put up with it as long as you’ll put up with it. He’s delegated the authority to you. Some of you just need to say, “Enough is enough. Devil, you’re not going to curl up in my attitude anymore. You’re not going to curl up in my emotions. You’re not going to curl up in my children. You’re not going to curl up in my finances or my family. Enough is enough.” Use the authority of that name. I know there’s some here, you have a family history of violence. Family history of divorce, of infidelity, family history of depression, of whatever, it can stop with you. That name has authority in three worlds, and it has been given to you. You got a wagon full of dynamite. What are you going to do with it? Listen to this. Matthew 16, Jesus is speaking to the disciples. Verse 15–18,

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Now when He asked them, “Who do you say I am?” Peter had a revelation from God. The Father gave this revelation to Peter that, “Jesus, You’re not just a man. You’re not just a good leader. You’re the Son of God. You are the Son of God.” Jesus said, “Peter, God gave you that revelation. You didn’t get that anywhere else. That came from God.” Then Jesus said, “You’re Peter.” Actually, the word Peter means “rock, but it means a chip of stone, a little chip of stone.” Jesus said, “You’re Peter, you’re a little chip of stone. On this rock—” completely different word. That word means “a massive stone, a monolith, a Gibraltar, this immovable stone.”

He said, “Peter, you’re a chip of stone. But on this stone, on this massive stone, on this Gibraltar, I will build my church.” All right, what is this massive stone? This Gibraltar, this rock that the church is built on? It’s built on the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God. The church is made up of those that that has been revealed in their hearts, and they embrace it. Attending church does not make you part of God’s family. Having your name on a church roll will not get you into heaven. It does not make you part of God’s family. You must have a revelation from the Holy Spirit that Jesus is not just a good man that died as a token for His fellow man. He’s not just someone who showed us the way. He wasn’t just a good leader, but He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

That’s the rock the church is built upon. Then He said, “And the gates of hell won’t prevail against the church.” Now, some people will think that, “Alright, if the devil and hell attacks, then I can defend.” No. Gates don’t attack anything. Gates are for defensive purposes. The picture Jesus is painting, the church is the one on the move. The church is the one taking the offensive. The church is the one using authority. We’re plundering hell and populating heaven. We’re setting the captives free in Jesus’ name. There’s nothing that the gates of hell can do about it. Listen to the next thing that Jesus said. It’s so wonderful. Verse 19.

Matthew 16:19, He said,

¹⁹ “And I will give you...”

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

Not you, Peter, but you, the church.

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

The other gospel writer said, “I give you the keys to the kingdom of God.” Now, keys, what do they represent? Authority. Jesus said, “I give you the keys.” Whatever you bind, heaven’s going to back it up. Whatever you loose, heaven’s going to back it up. The NLT translation says, “Whatever you forbid, heaven’s going to back it up. Be it forbidden in heaven. Whatever you permit, heaven will permit it.” Another translation says, “Whatever you lock or whatever you unlock.” The authority has been given to the church. To those that have the revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. My friend, He’s given authority to you in His precious name. Peter had that Holy Spirit moment there at the Beautiful gate with the lame man.

Janet and I were newlyweds living in a little apartment in Banning, California. I was an assistant pastor at a small church right there in the area. Our neighbors’ next door were Gloria and Juan. Didn’t know them really well, but nice couple. One day, we got a knock at the door, and Gloria is there at the door. She said, “Bayless, can I use your phone?” I said, “Sure.”

Now, for you younger people, mobile phones had not been invented. There was no such thing as a personal computer. In fact, the smallest computer was about as big as from here to the little podium there. Those were computers. They were just massive things. When she asked to use the phone, it meant a thing hanging on the wall with a rotary dial. Now the new ones, they had push buttons, but I think ours was rotary. I said, “Sure, Gloria.” She comes in like this. She’s only about 30. She goes, “Thank you.” It took her about 10 minutes to get to the phone. I go, “Gloria, what happened?” She said, “I injured my back. It hurts so bad.”

Anyway, she gets to the phone, makes her call in the other room, and she says, “Thanks a lot.” She’s walking out, and I have one of those Holy Spirit moments like Peter did at the Beautiful gate. But unlike Peter, I didn’t do anything. She leaves, and about 10 minutes later, I hear her going into the door of her apartment. I felt so convicted. I thought, “Bayless, here you are. You knew God was speaking to you. You’re a pastor, for goodness’ sake. You did nothing.” I prayed, and I felt like the moment had not evaporated. I said, “God, thank You.”

I went over to her door. I knocked. Not 10 minutes later, she opened it. I said, “Hey. I don’t know if you know it or not, but Janet and I, we’re Christians and we believe the Bible. And in the Bible, it says that Christians, believers will lay hands on the sick, and they’ll recover. I just felt like God wanted me to lay hands on you and pray for you to heal your back.” She bursts into tears and starts sobbing, sobbing. She’s crying so hard she kind of can’t catch her breath. I didn’t see that coming. I said, “Gloria, you okay?” She said, “Well, Bayless.” Says, “Juan, he went down to Mexico two weeks ago. He was supposed to be back in two days, and I don’t know where he is, and I haven’t heard from him.”

Then she talked about something else that was going on and something else. And says, “My back, I’m in such pain.” And here I felt even worse now. She’s living this far away from me, a couple of pieces of drywall, some two-by-fours, and some insulation. She’s living on the other side of it, and her world is falling apart, and I don’t have a clue. I think some of you here; there’s somebody who lives on the other side of the wall. Or you hear them pattering around upstairs above you, or they live over the fence, and their world is falling apart, and you have the answer.

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

When she stopped crying, I said, “Well, Gloria, I’m going to pray for you. Okay? I’m going to put my hands on your head and pray.” She said, “Okay.” So, I prayed that she would get news about Juan and prayed about the other things. I prayed that she’d be healed in Jesus’ name. Nothing visible happened at all. I said, “Okay, Gloria, I’ll see you later.” I went back to our apartment. The next day, there was a vigorous knock on our door. I opened the door; it’s Gloria. She said, “Bayless, Bayless! This morning I heard from a friend from Juan; he’s on his way home.” She said, “And look!” She said, “All the pain’s gone.” She said, “It’s a miracle! It’s a miracle! I’m healed!”

Then she says, “Will you come over to my place and tell me about Jesus?” I said, “Sure.” I grabbed my Bible. I sit across her coffee table. I share the plan of salvation from the Scriptures. I said, “Gloria, would you like to get saved?” She starts crying all over again. She said, “Yes.” I take her hand. I led her in the sinner’s prayer; she was gloriously saved. Somebody says, “Well if I saw a miracle like that, I’d believe.” No, you wouldn’t. No, you wouldn’t.

In Acts 3, when that lame man—lame from birth, everybody knew him—when they realized he’d been healed, it says, “They were filled with wonder and amazement, not faith.” It didn’t produce faith in them at all. It filled them with wonder and amazement. It was only after Peter preached that they got saved. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Listen, Gloria was filled with wonder and amazement, but she needed to hear a clear presentation of the gospel in order to have faith to be saved. We still need to share the Word of God. Thank God for the power of God, and thank God for the Word of God. I, for one, feel that we are on the cusp of a revival that is going to combine both of those things.

Solid, sane biblical teaching of the Scriptures, as well as a mighty move and demonstrations of the power of God. We need both of them. God has never changed His mind about His church operating that way. There’s power in the Name. Power in the Name for prayer. Jesus said, “Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He’ll give it to you.” There’s power in the Name for dealing with demons. He said, “In My name, cast out demons.” There’s power in His name for healing. The whole church gathered in Acts 4, and they prayed, “God, stretch out Your hand to heal. That signs and wonders be done through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

There’s power in His name through praise. The Scripture says, “Praise the name of the Lord. For His name alone is exalted.” There’s power in His name for salvation. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. In all of these things, faith must be behind it. His name is not some good luck charm or some talisman to ward off evil. It’s not something to be casually or mindlessly stuck onto the end of a prayer. “Oh, yes, in Jesus’ name.” We pray over our food, “Oh, yes. In Jesus’ name.” I know with some, that’s about all. And they really have no understanding of what’s been invested in that name.

I have been doing some reading about the Apache Scouts. It was a unit in the US Army that served from 1850 through the end of the 1800s. I was reading about one Apache scout in particular. He had served the army faithfully for several decades. When he retired, they gave him a full pension that he could draw on for the remainder of his life, and they gave him a railroad pass. With this railroad pass, he could ride any railroad in the US for free, compliments of the US Army. They found him some years later dead, absolutely penniless. He’d never drawn on his pension one time, and there was no record that he had ever ridden on the railroad.

But around his neck was a little leather pouch. And inside was stuffed those documents that gave him the authority to draw that pension, gave him the authority to ride the railroad. But he

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

never understood what they were. To him, it was a talisman that he wore for good luck and to ward off evil. It was obvious that he had clutched it many times because it was well-worn and grimy. I think it's a picture of some in the church; that's kind of what the name of Jesus is to them. "Oh, yes, in the name of Jesus." They've not realized that there's authority in that name. We've been delegated to use that authority.

Again, Peter said, "It's not our own godliness; it is not our own power. It's His name." Through faith in His name and the name has been given to the church. You have the beautiful, powerful, matchless name of Jesus at your disposal, dear believer. All of the authority that's behind it has been given to you. Listen to this verse, 1 John 3:23,

²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

Other translations say that we should put our faith in His name. Now, you realize that verse of Scripture is written to Christians. We're commanded; this is a commandment. We need to love one another. This is also His command, to people that have already believed in His name for salvation. Here's His command that you believe and put faith in the name of His Son. Faith comes by hearing, hearing through the Word of God. I think we've lived far below our privileges, far below the authority that's been granted to us. I want to encourage you, dear friend, spend time soaking in the Word, learn about the name of Jesus. It will explode inside of you. When that happens, things will explode on the outside as well.

God wants to use you to do exploits in His name. "These signs will follow those who believe in My name." Let's put faith in His precious name. The most important thing, I think we all know this, no argument, is getting free from sin and coming into a relationship with God. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. They're brought into a relationship with God. It's what your heart has cried out for your whole life. If people would've seen me back in the years before I gave my life to Jesus, people would've never suspected that I was looking for the truth.

Most people thought I was just a hopeless drunk, somebody that is very excessive in substance abuse, somebody that knows how to start but has no idea how to stop. Hopeless. In my heart of hearts, I was looking for the truth. I was just looking in all the wrong places. It wasn't until a 12-year-old boy told me about Jesus Christ in a park one day. First one to ever share the gospel with me was a 12-year-old. I was well in my 20s and in a heap of trouble. Thank God for the day that boy shared Christ with me. It was the beginning of a journey where I ended up in a street mission where I gave my life to Jesus. Everything changed.

Now, granted, I had a few grave clothes hanging on me after I got saved. I had to begin to renew my mind. As the Scripture says, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." That means what God has put on the inside, you work it out, and you do that as you feed upon the Word of God and put it into practice. I just say all that, whether you're out on the plaza, whether you're sitting in a pub in Manchester, England right now, wherever you might be, you are loved by God. Jesus Christ paid an awfully high price to redeem you, my friend. He shed His own precious blood to bring you into a relationship with God.

You may be here by yourself today. Perhaps you've come with a friend. You may be like me, been looking for the truth, but in all the wrong places. You know what? Jesus is the end of that journey, and He's also the beginning of a new and amazing journey. I just want to tell you, once you say yes to Jesus, you better put your seatbelt on and put your crash helmet on, because it's

Things God Gives Us in Abundance (Part 1—Authority)

a wild ride. There is nothing tame about the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He is absolutely wild and dangerous, but He is good.

Most of the time, we'll have people stand to their feet that want to pray and accept Christ, or we may have people lift a hand and pray. I just feel like I just want to lead you in a simple prayer. If you are here, and maybe you've been down a lot of dead ends, you've dug a lot of dry wells looking for the truth, friend, Jesus is your answer.

If you're a prodigal son, you know the truth, and you're away from God. I know there's a few prodigals in here. In fact, I feel like I'm talking to a preacher's kid right now. You're away from God. You know the truth. Listen, God's not mad at you, but prodigal son, it's time to come home. Prodigal daughter, it's time to come home. Time to give your all to Jesus.

I'm going to lead you in a simple prayer. If you'll tie your heart around the words and just speak them sincerely to God, it's going to be a prayer of turning away from doing life your way; that's called repentance and saying, "Yes" to life His way. And then, by His Holy Spirit, He changes you on the inside. Again, all I can do is give you the words. You can put a heart of faith behind them. Can we pray together? If it helps you to close your eyes, out on the plaza as well in here, you can close them right now. It's up to you. Just pray with me. Say,

Oh God, I come to You. I humble my heart before You. I know I cannot save myself. I cannot fix the problem of my heart. Only You can do that. I bring You my heart, all of it. I bring You my life, all of it. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died on the cross to pay for my sins. I turn away from those sins, and I say, 'Yes' to Jesus Christ, the risen Savior. Jesus, I ask You now, come into my life. I confess You as my Lord. All I am and all I have, I put in Your hands, Jesus. From this moment forward, I'll follow You. Amen.

Copyright © Answers with Bayless Conley