

# DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

## LESSON 58

### THE SOURCE OF CHRISTIAN AUTHORITY

1. The Holy Spirit is given to the Apostles, and to us
2. There is the same kind of formula as we have seen in previous passages. This one gives the authority to people to forgive sins. The authority is only related to the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is not a blanket permission, however the permission is not given to one specific class of people

*“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, ‘Jesus be cursed,’ and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”*

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1. This passage tells us why we have power, where we get it from and how we are to use the power
2. What would you like to use such power for if you had the authority?

The New International Version of the Bible is used throughout

*“Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. These were his instructions: ‘Take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.’ They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed with oil many people who were ill and healed them”*

Mark 6:7-13

1. Jesus sends His Apostles out to preach to people to show them how to repent.
2. The Apostles were equipped to drive out demons and heal sick people
3. Does the authority make them dominant people? Describe how you think they might behave

*“They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and*

*blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'*

*Matthew 16:14-19*

1. Jesus gives His Apostles authority to make decisions on earth on behalf of heaven
2. Jesus gave this authority when His Apostles recognised exactly who Jesus was
3. Who revealed all of this to the Apostles? How do you think you could get permission to make decisions on behalf of heaven?

*If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that "every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 'Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in*

*my name, there am I with them.'*

*Matthew 18:17-20*

1. These words outline how we should solve personal problems among church members
2. Jesus outlines how we should solve problems
3. Again Jesus gives authority to the Apostles, and us, so long as we follow God's way of doing things
4. Why do you think God gives this authority?

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

1. Jesus again gives authority to His Apostles, and us
2. The authority is defined and is given a purpose
3. The authority is accompanied by a promise for Jesus to remain with us
4. How could you exert this authority?

*"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'*

*John 20:21-23*