

*I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is
the upward call of God IN KING JESUS.* (Philippians 3:14)

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Authority: Life and Truth

And Yeshua came up to them and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” (Matthew 28:18 TLV [bold added])

Lately, I’ve been considering the subject of *authority*, based on a February 28, 2008 dream in which I received a [key of the Kingdom](#)—a two-sided key signifying *truth* and *life*. This key was also revealed to be an *eighth key*, meaning a *key of life*. In the exercise of this key, I have come to a new understanding of the concept of authority.

Many have written on the subject of authority, stressing the need to almost blindly subject or submit oneself to it, both in government and in the institutional “church” (of course, all based on scripture, as they see it). I’m not going to attempt to summarize the predominant views out there. To be straightforward, I find most of it dry and perfunctory—*conforming to the letter and not to the spirit*. Yes, there is truth in what others write about authority and scripture is used to support it; but it is often presented as some legal constraint put upon people for their own good, sometimes absent moral or ethical character.

Most have looked at authority through the lens of fallen man and have transposed this onto God and His Son. *Sinners in the hands of an angry God*, for example. It’s as if Jesus’ authority is based on some legalistic reading of the old covenant carried over to the new covenant, especially when it comes to the Kingdom of God. Stated another way, it’s as if the laws and rules laid out to Israel under the old covenant are still in place under the new, meaning it is God’s *perfect* intent that there must always be some legalistic authority over humanity to keep it in line. It becomes the heavy-hand of power and control over people. But is it? On a natural level, authority (as in, from one human over another human) can be justified as a necessary constraint on the fallen nature of mankind. However, on a spiritual level, when the new comes, as in the new creation, I submit that the concept of authority takes on an entirely different nature or meaning, and it’s not power and control over people. **Authority becomes the power and control of a new life!**

Authority as man has known it is fatally (literally) flawed! As we look out on the landscape of the history of humanity, we see all sorts of atrocities costing millions of lives that have been committed because people bowed to authority. The institutional “church” is not exempt from this indictment either, as abusive and destructive authority has been perpetrated upon the people, all in the name of God. Given this, I believe it is a mistake to stick one’s head in some proverbial scriptural sand (i.e., ignoring the abuses because we

think scripture says it's ok) and say absolute, unquestioning submission to fallen man's authority is God's will.

Children are taught to obey authority, as if the ones wielding it are like some all-knowing gods. So, most adults have learned to acquiesce, without question, to whoever has some level of authority over them, even if there is little to no logic or reason or benefit to what they demand. Some of it might even result in harm or danger. For those who do not think this is true, then they haven't been paying attention to what has been happening across the globe for the last year. As stressed many times of late, the entire globe has been experiencing the abuses of man's authority since early 2020, and growing evidence indicates millions have been and will continue to be affected by this tyranny.

Historically, we have seen the same thing happen in the *public (or, institutional) "church"*. Years ago, there was a teaching that the "pastor" was the "covering" for the local assembly; meaning whoever held the pulpit in the assembly was the spiritual authority (power and control) over the people. (An excellent book on this subject is *Who is Your Covering?* by Frank Viola.) Abuse and bondage come about through such teaching, for it puts a man between Christ and His people and stifles them from hearing, seeking, and knowing the Lord for themselves. Only the Lord knows how much of this is responsible for stunting the spiritual growth and hindering the testimony of His people.

John reminds us that we have a teacher resident within us. I keep stressing these verses, for they are paramount to the awakening of God's called and chosen people.

And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all are aware. I write not to you seeing that you are not acquainted with the truth, but that you are acquainted with it, and that no lie at all is of the truth. ... These things I write to you concerning those who are deceiving you. And the anointing which you obtained from Him is remaining in you, and you have no need that anyone may be teaching you, but as His anointing is teaching you concerning all, and is true, and is no lie, according as it teaches you also, remain in Him. (1 John 2:20-21; 26-27 CLV)

I'm leading to this: there is a divine law or principle that transcends the human concept of authority that we have known and lived under. The principle is called **divine life**! Life itself is the authority and God's Son is this life. Jesus declared: ***I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life***. He is divine life.

Divine life is organic life, meaning it springs up, based on its very nature, discovered in God's Son. Yes; it needs planting and watering, but God causes it to grow so that it springs up as a living part of His divine order. **Divine life and order are of the "much higher"**.

Is this not what authority is meant to accomplish? Order! This far exceeds the concept of government and authority that we have seen manifested in man's fallen world. What we have known and been taught of authority, through upbringing and scripture, is something transient/temporary. **It has been a very necessary thing for the old man, but it passes away in the new man.** Yes; it still lingers like the stench of death but soon it will be no more, for the reality of the new creation is rising up in the midst of the crumbling of man's institutional structures with their built-in concept of authority as power and control.

So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 CLV)

Are we to believe that Jesus' authority in heaven and on earth is modeled after man's authority or what Israel was commanded to submit to and failed at, except it is now a cleaned-up version? Hardly! Asked another way: Is authority, as experienced by mankind for the last 6,000 years, simply a type (example) of the authority exercised by Jesus, only He does it righteously? Again, hardly! Jesus' authority is not only based on life but *in* life.

Authority is life, and life is authority. This is the lesson I learned through the key.

What happens when divine life manifests in its fullness? The answer is discovered in Christ's complement, His body—a perfected body fully connected to its one head, where each part of the body has importance and knows its functional place as the head directs! The head exudes pure life to the body and this life springs up organically without some legalistic structure that takes command over other parts. Hebrews gives us the principle regarding the house of Israel, whose house we are. Of course, the old referred to here (era of Moses) fully passed away in 70 AD.

For this is the covenant which I shall be covenanting with the house of Israel after those days, the Lord is saying: "Imparting My laws to their comprehension, on their hearts, also, shall I be inscribing them, and I shall be to them for a God, and they shall be to Me for a people." And by no means should each be teaching his fellow citizen, and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord!' For all shall be acquainted with Me, from their little to their great... In saying "new, He has made the former old. Now that which is growing old and decrepit is near its disappearance." (Hebrews 8:10-13 CLV)

In my experience, understanding organic life is a challenge to many, especially those who have been brought up in the institutional "church" setting. People are so caught up in legalistic and hierarchical structures of authority that they cannot grasp the meaning of organic life. They generally argue that the "church" must be organized (often, just like the world organizes). So, when they hear the word *organic*, they process it as *organization* based on man's concept, whether there is life in it or not. Their concept of authority is also wrapped up in their worldly view of the "church" as an organization, not a spiritual

organism. I have personally experienced this reaction and it came from a pastor who could not comprehend the concept of organic life, no matter how I explained it to him.

Many like him are living by the old, not the new! However, once one truly sees and experiences the new, there is no going back to the old. How can one go back to something that God has done away with? Only the Lord knows why, but the “church” as many know it has never fully come out of the old. At best, it is a hybrid of old and new; however, it seems there is more old than new in it.

By the way; I know some of the counter arguments to what is being presented that won't be replayed here, except to offer one example that goes like this: *If we don't organize, there will be no order and control over the people.* Just so you know; this is how another pastor retorted as I attempted to explain organic life. What he really meant, without saying it, was: *I can't trust the people under me to discern and follow the leading of the spirit of the Lord.* I wonder how John would respond.

If Jesus truly is the Life and all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him, then it must follow that authority is based on and in His life that naturally springs up from within, not forced from without; and then, when it springs up from within each of the many, each part of the many knows its place and acts accordingly so that the many bring the greatest glory to God. This is organic life, and this is the manifestation of authority coming from the life of the head. Is this not the meaning of Christ heading up all things in Himself?

I submit that the Kingdom of God, especially that which will manifest in the next age, will be based in this principle of organic life. I realize this probably raises many questions such as: *Aren't there going to be kings and lords and rulers over cities?* The problem with a question like this is that it focuses on title—consequently, on some organizational structure—and not on the life of the Lord Jesus. Start with life and everything else falls into place, regardless of title, position, vocation, or organization. Always start with the Life.

To conclude: I started by mentioning the dream of the key of truth and life. It is through this key I discovered that the life of our Lord is authority. A key represents authority to act or have power over something. What I've learned is to exercise life in every situation, for **life is the key; it is the authority over every situation. Life itself is the power and control.**

One more point: the other side of the key, which for me signifies *truth*, is also authority, for **Jesus is the Truth!** So, if we want to know the true nature of authority, we must know the one who is the Truth and the Life; then we will know true authority as God has always intended it to be. What we will discover is that authority is not simply a concept; it is ultimately the person of King Jesus! Selah!