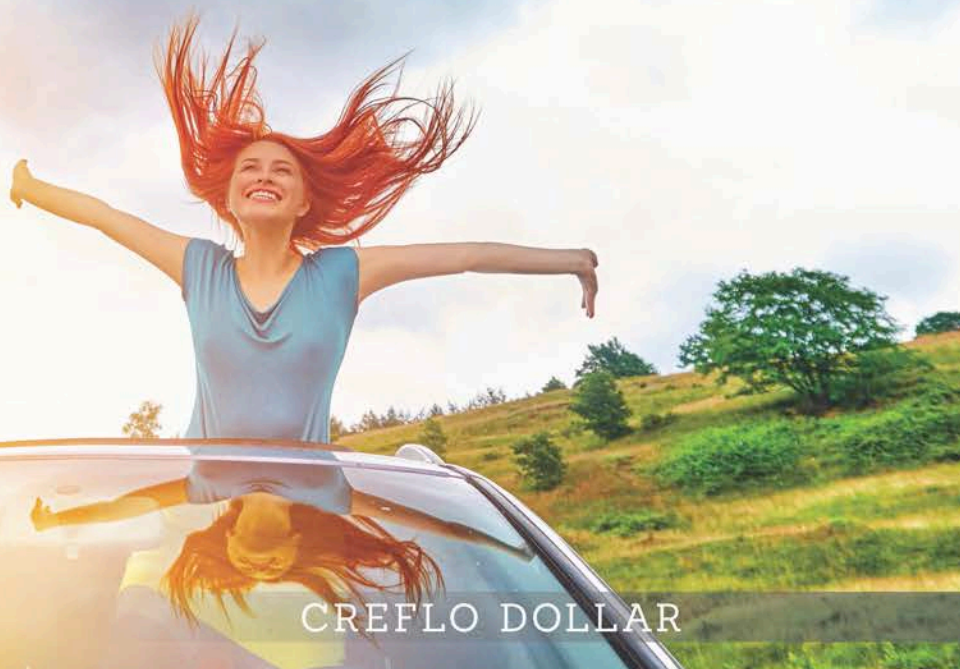


Praise Releases

Spiritual Authority



CREFLO DOLLAR

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ISBN:

Copyright © 2016 by Creflo Dollar

Published by:

Creflo Dollar Ministries

PO Box 490124

College Park, Georgia 30349

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CHAPTER 1

No More Powerless Religion

It is important for Believers to understand that power and spiritual authority are released when we praise God. I truly believe that praise is the “cure-all” for the challenges we face in life.

In Luke 10:19, Jesus said, “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

The word *authority* simply means to make use of power. God has supplied you with the power and your job is to make use of that power.

Philippians 2:10 says, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.” This means, in the name of Jesus, you have power over demonic forces! You have authority over the situations that originate or that may be influenced by demonic forces.

God gave us dominion and authority in Genesis 1:26, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the

fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

You must understand that you are accountable for what happens in your life and what happens in this earth. You can't blame the devil because you have the right to use God's power in this earth. You can't sit back like a religious Christian who thinks you're just a normal human being. No! You are a born-again Believer with access to the power of God. He gave you His power to be put under your authority.

It's been comfortable over the years to blame God or blame the devil when bad things happen. So, when people say, “Well, God is in control,” that's not entirely true. God took the control and put it into the hands of man for a while. So, it's in your hands! If God was in control then God would be to blame for all of the wars, terrorist attacks, sicknesses, famines and diseases in this world. But, God put that authority in your hands. So, with that authority you have to decide who you will authorize to work in your life. You can give God the authority to bless you, or you can give the devil the authority to destroy you. It's that simple.

So, how do you do that? Well, you have to watch what you're saying because your words will give authority

to God or to the devil. You have to watch your actions because your actions will open up a door for God or for the devil. You have this authority right now, so if you're going through hell in your life, you authorized it. But, the good news is that you can change it! You have to stop being a spiritual baby. Instead, you must rise up and say, "I have been authorized by God Almighty to use this power!"

You have to learn how to get angry. Anger is fine when you don't use it toward people. The Bible talks about how the anger of the Lord was kindled (Exodus 4:14; Numbers 11:1; Numbers 12:9; Deuteronomy 6:15). But, it was never kindled toward people. It was anger toward evil and ungodliness. Some of you have the devil riding your back right now. I'm telling you to cast him off! You need to get angry at the struggles that you're going through! Something needs to rise up on the inside of you. If you're tired of being broke you need to rise up in the name of Jesus and release your authority! Declare that you'll never lack for anything or be broke another day in your life! Allow a holy anger to rise up on the inside of you that causes you to no longer tolerate any junk in your life. Simply release your authority to stop it! Amen!

We've been so religious; we say things like "Well, what about the grace of God?" Again, we shouldn't be angry at one another. We shouldn't have anger toward

humanity. But, think about it: if anger was bad, what was Jesus doing when He angrily lashed out and turned over tables in the temple (Matthew 21:12)? The difference was there was a motivation behind Jesus' anger. He was motivated by the fact that the people there were turning God's house into a "den of thieves" (Matthew 12:13).

You have to develop that same angry motivation which says "I'm not going to stay trapped in this wickedness! I'm not going to stay trapped in this mess! I have the authority given to me by God! I'm coming out of this! I'm not going to stay the same! Satan, you're not going to run my life anymore! I'm not going to tolerate this sickness! I'm not going to die of cancer! I'm tired of being scared! No more!"

Once you develop that kind of anger and you use it as motivation, you stand up to the devil and give him everything you have in the name of Jesus! That's radical, but it's what you have to begin to do in order to get rid of powerless religion! You have to get fed up enough to release your authority. You have to get fed up enough to speak against the things that are destroying your life and tell them to go! You have to get mad enough to speak to your emotions and take authority over depression! Begin to speak to yourself in psalms and hymns, and demand that the devil loose you in the name of Jesus!

There's a war going on and the devil is trying to deceive you and get you to continually turn your authority over to him. His objective is to dominate your life until you've been destroyed. Well, that's not going to happen! I'm about to show you how to use your praise to activate spiritual authority in your life.

CHAPTER 2

Increase Your Thanksgiving

No matter what's happening in your life, I want you to say this out loud right now: **It is well with me. It is well with my marriage. It is well with my family. It is well with my finances. It is well with my health. My God has perfected everything that concerns me and it is well with my soul. Amen.**

By speaking those words you release your authority. Those declarations are enough to grant God your permission to intervene in those situations in your life. However, the issue is, what will you say when you put this book down? Will you cancel out what you just said? That's the issue. What you speak empowers God to bless you or it empowers the enemy to destroy you.

Take a look at Colossians 2:6, 7 “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

This tells us that our faith will be established when we increase our thanksgiving. Faith is not strong without praising God and thanksgiving. So, when you're doing things by faith, and believing God for things by faith, you

should increase your thanksgiving. Increase your praise for God. Why? Because praise will help to establish your faith. You can't see what you're believing for yet, and you don't know when it's coming, but in the meantime, increase your thanksgiving. Start thanking God for the things that haven't materialized yet. Get your favorite tape and select your favorite psalm. Begin to thank God for everything! When you increase your thanksgiving, you release spiritual authority.

Now, you may be tempted to increase your “blame game,” your murmuring, and your complaining. But, when you do that guess who you empower? The devil. He's empowered to work on your behalf. This is not some “churchy” thing that I'm asking you to do. There's a reason why we praise God, and why we increase our thanksgiving. When we do, it releases spiritual authority and brings about manifestation in the areas that we're releasing thanksgiving in. I want you to practice doing this right now. Say this out loud:

Heavenly Father, I give You thanksgiving for my life and health. I give You thanksgiving for an abundance of favor. I give You thanksgiving that all of my needs are met, I'm out of debt, I have plenty more to put in store. I have favor with You and with men in the name of Jesus!

I'm not trying to get you hyped up. Thanksgiving is a threat to the enemy. When you increase your thanksgiving you will establish your faith. Your faith will never be what it can be without increasing your praise and thanksgiving. It's how you respond when things don't look well. It's how you respond when you get bad news. It's how you respond when you have no idea how things will work out. This takes training if you're someone who's prone to murmur and complain. Nothing changes when you complain and murmur because your focus is on the thing that you're murmuring and complaining about. But, if you'll increase your thanksgiving you will establish your faith. Always remember that it's thanksgiving that we're after.

Everyone is predicting that we're going to have crisis in this country. But, I'm not a crisis seeker! No matter what happens in this country, you and I are going to be alright. Why? Because the Lord is our Refuge and our Fortress! He's the God in Whom we trust! A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you! (Psalm 91:1-7). We've got to take some time and start thanking God! It's a powerful thing.

CHAPTER 3

Praise Is Power

In Psalm 8:2 we read, “Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.” And Matthew 21:16 says “And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?”

Praise is strength. It will paralyze the devil. When crazy things are going on in your life and you want to figure out how to stop them, praise the Lord! You’ll stop the devil in his tracks. Praise is still the avenger! Praise is power! Praise is strength! Praise is the ability to get the job done!

Nehemiah 8:10 says, “Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Jerry Savelle preached a message 20 years ago entitled, “If He Can’t Steal Your Joy He Can’t Keep Your Goods.” The devil is out to steal your joy. How many times throughout the day do you allow something to steal

your joy? I'm telling you right now, Satan is after your joy. If he can get your joy he can get your strength, and if he gets your strength then he can have his way with you. In other words, you will be defeated. You cannot let him get your joy. You have to hold onto your joy no matter what's going on. Praise will help you keep your joy.

If you want to defeat your unseen enemy, you have to know how the system works. When the devil shows up, let joy arise! When joy arises, your enemies will be scattered! (Psalm 68:1).

Now, joy and happiness are not the same thing. Happiness is based on your condition in life: **joy is based on what you know**. Because of what you know, you have joy and joy will make you happy.

I travel a lot and I'm grateful for all the great services we have and the people we see healed and all of that. But, after a long stint on the road, I'm ready to go home to my wife. I mean, my wife is my buddy. One time recently I was about to leave New York, anxious to get home to my wife in Atlanta. I got to the airport and all of a sudden the air traffic control system goes down all over New York. No one can take off. I smiled and said to the devil, "Is this all you can do? This is not hurting me! I'm getting ready to go home, go to bed and get up in the morning. Hallelujah!"

That's what you have to do when the devil tries to steal your joy. You can't sit back and say, "Well, I don't know why that happened." It happened because you've got an enemy who comes to kill, steal, and destroy! Your response to him should be to rejoice in spite of what happened. Give God the praise! When you do, He will cause what was stolen from you to be returned. Don't sit there having a pity party because something bad happened to you. Stuff happens! Life happens! What you must do is shout with a voice of joy and praise! When you do that, God will make the devil return what he stole. When you find the thief, he has to restore sevenfold what he took from you (Proverbs 6:31). Hallelujah!

I declare over your life a sevenfold restoration right now! There's some stuff the devil owes you. Don't you dare let him get away with it! If he stole your car, then you've got one coming seven times better! If he stole your job, then you've got one coming seven times better! If he stole your husband, then you've got one coming seven times better! The joy of the Lord is your strength!

If you're sick and tired of being sick and tired—tired of not having a job, tired of being worried, tired of being depressed, tired of being rejected, tired of being emotional, tired of being hurt, and tired of being lonely, lift up your hands and give God praise! Shout unto God

with a voice of triumph! (Psalm 47:1). He will turn your situation around!

I declare that you are a praiser! You were created to praise God! (Isaiah 43:21). **No Christian is at his best without praise.** You should praise God when you're down! You should praise Him when you can't figure things out! You should praise Him when you don't know where the money is going to come from! If you're ready for God to perform some signs, wonders, and miracles in your life, start exerting praise! As long as you have breath in your body, praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:6). Praise is power!

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

CHAPTER 4

Release Your Faith for Spiritual Authority

I remember attending a healing conference at a church. While there, I noticed when I began to share with people what they needed to do to receive their healing that some of them got their eyes off of God and put their eyes on me as if I was going to give them something that Jesus hadn't already given them. I noticed that the manifestations of healing were not what they could have been. We'd witnessed many people being healed most of the week, but not on this particular night. I asked the Lord what was the difference between that night and the other nights. He said, **the difference is they came down.** Normally, I would only have about four or five people come down and minister to them, and have everybody else minister to one another. But, for some reason all the people who needed healing came down to the altar to me. They thought there was something special in coming to me instead of understanding what they needed to do. So, when I was praying for those people and trying to give them instructions, they didn't get it. The reason they didn't get it is because they didn't know how to release their faith in spiritual laws.

After that, I asked the Lord, “What is authority?” Here’s what the Lord said to me. He said, “**Authority is the right to use His power by enforcing spiritual law.**” Spiritual authority is making use of God’s power. We can’t ever forget that it’s God’s power. He has given us a right to make use of that power. Now, how do we make use of that power? **By enforcing spiritual law.** Let me explain.

Policemen are authorized to enforce the laws of the land. Christians have been given authorization to enforce the laws of the Spirit. So, the right to command is the right to use God’s power.

For example, there are laws that govern healing. As a born-again Believer, God has given you the power to be healed. You have to understand the laws that govern healing and enforce those laws in order to see the manifestation of your healing. God has also given you the power to get wealth. However, you must understand the laws that govern prosperity and then enforce those laws in order to see the manifestation of your prosperity. Now, this is where the grace of God comes into play. Grace has made everything you need available to you, but God’s will doesn’t automatically come to pass. You have to cooperate with spiritual laws.

For example, God’s grace has favored you with

authority in three realms: heaven, earth, and underneath the earth, which includes the demonic realm. Under the covenant of grace, you don't have a part as far as your performance is concerned. The only part you have under the grace of God is this: believe it! So, if grace says you're righteous, you're righteous. Believe it! If grace says you're redeemed, you're redeemed. Believe it! Whatever grace has made available, believe it! If grace has given you authority in heaven, earth, and under the earth, believe it! So, you don't need to *take* authority because it has already been given to you by God. God has put His power under your control. What you have to do is release your authority!

Genesis 1:27-28 says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

I want you to pay close attention to verse 28 that says, "And God blessed them." The definition of the word blessed means **empowered to prosper**. Right there, you see that when God blesses you, He empowers you. Just like Adam and Eve, God has empowered you to *be*

fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth, subdue it, and have dominion over the entire earth and everything in it.

Now, this power and authority you've been given comes with responsibility. For example, you may be asking God for healing but you're not doing what the Word says. You're not cooperating. Both parties—you and God—are equally important. In Mark 11:23, Jesus said "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Jesus said **speak to the mountain**. There are Christians who don't do that. They pray to God about the mountain, but He told them to speak to the mountain. That's a spiritual law. That's why I said with the power and authority come responsibility. Whenever you find out that God has given you the power to do something, you must discover your responsibility to enforce the spiritual law that governs that thing.

Listen, God is not dropping healing, prosperity, deliverance, or any of the finished works of Jesus Christ, out of the sky! We must cooperate with the spiritual laws that govern these things. I'm going to use a very carnal

illustration to prove what I just shared with you.

If you're childless and desire to have a baby, God has given you the power to **be fruitful and procreate**. Creation of human life is within God's **power**, but He has put it under your **control**. Because mankind has the power to procreate, when they do their part they're going to have a baby. God doesn't just supernaturally drop children out of heaven. If you want the results you have to do the right things to cooperate with the laws that govern how to conceive and give birth to children. The law of conception is a sexual relationship. That's a law! God has done everything. He's given you His divine power and everything that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

If you want to operate in spiritual authority it's going to take more than shouting and screaming. Speaking to your mountains is a spiritual law. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" (Proverbs 18:21). That's a spiritual law! So, you have to understand the spiritual laws that govern the use of your tongue. You can't expect to receive anything that grace has made available if you speak against it.

Since God has given you the authority to get healed, delivered, to prosper and so on, you have to release your authority. Some people think that God should just do

those things. In fact, that's what religion wants you to think. But, He's not going to do that. He would violate everything He stands for if He did. Why? Because He's given man authority and dominion on this earth. There are people who die every day and had no idea they could have done something about the situation. We have to find out what's under our authority and control and start using it the way God intended.

Why is it that some people get healed and some don't? Why is it that some people prosper and some don't? Why is it that some people get delivered and some don't? Do you think it's because God is a respecter of persons? He has already told us that He is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). But, guess what He is a respecter of? Faith. He respects faith. Faith in God and His promises comes from knowing the Word of God. If you're ignorant of the Word and the laws that govern the Spirit, what are you going to enforce? It's never that the Word doesn't work; most of time it's that people don't know enough Word in order to work it!

The Word is your way in and the Word is your way out. Everything that's going to happen in your life is going to happen by using your God-given authority to enforce the Word. If you don't know the Word, you're going to be subject to what happens on this planet, instead of walking in authority on this planet. You're going to be subject to

the fear of terrorism, hijackings, and all the other terrible acts going on in the world. You don't have to subject yourself to any of that. Instead, use your authority. Under the lordship of Jesus Christ, you can lay hold of what the Word has already made available to you.

The Bible says if you keep seeking you're going to find (Luke 11:9). What you don't know, ask God. Depend on Him and He'll show you what you need to know in order to enforce His spiritual laws. It is not God's will for us to not know how to enforce them and see the manifestation. Miracles should be happening in your house! If you're broke now, you should know what to do to prosper. It is time for the Body of Christ to represent Him better! Broke Believers is not a testimony! So, keep seeking and searching. Get in the Word and when you find a spiritual law, use your authority to enforce it in your life. You don't have to be defeated by the devil for one split second if you'll use your authority to enforce the laws of the Spirit. You may be just one day away from your breakthrough! So, don't allow the devil to get inside your head and try to talk you out of using your authority like he did Adam and Eve. Get in the Word, stay in the Word, and learn how to give God praise.

Are you ready for God to do some wonders in your life? If so, *Praise Releases Spiritual Authority* will teach you how to cooperate with spiritual laws and get powerful results in your life! Creflo Dollar explains:

- Why power is released when you exert praise
- How continual praise will establish and cement your faith
- The role thanksgiving plays in releasing spiritual authority
- Why praise is strength that paralyzes the devil
- Why speaking the Word equips you to dominate in this physical world

Additionally, *Praise Releases Spiritual Authority* unveils how to use your God-given power to receive a sevenfold harvest of everything that has been stolen from you!



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