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From the Desk of
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Dear Friends,

I've just returned from meetings at Unity Village where I serve on the Field Licensing Committee of the Association of Unity Churches International. It's always nice to visit Unity and touch base with old friends and co-workers at Silent Unity.

While settling into my seat on the plane for my return flight home, the safety information was being given to all passengers on board. One announcement got me to thinking about the word "authority."

"Due to federal regulations we are required to tell you that the flight doors are located at the front of the plane and no unauthorized personnel are allowed into the cockpit," said the flight attendant.

I started to think about the statement by the religious leaders to Jesus, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" (Matt 21:23)

Until Jesus arrived on the scene, the religious leaders had created regulations that locked the door to health and well-being. Unless the people followed a strict code of sacrificial exercises that helped fill the money coffers of the Temple they became "unauthorized personnel" and were denied forgiveness and access to God's healing power.

The leaders saw Jesus as a great threat to their control over the people because he was going around the countryside healing and forgiving people without following the "regulations" of the religious authorities. He challenged their regulations on a daily basis as he taught people how to go directly to God for all their needs. When challenged by the religious leaders Jesus responded, "*But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins.*" (Mark 2:10)

In effect Jesus was teaching and proving we all have the power and authority to heal, to bless, to forgive by this statement. The root meaning in Aramaic, the language of Jesus, for the term "Son of Man" means "human being" or "human nature." So Jesus was stating a simple and powerful truth for his day: *human beings have "authority on earth to forgive sins" and they do not need a "middle man" to do it for them.*

The story of the woman who was to be stoned to death for a violation of the "regulations" was asked by Jesus, "*Who remains to condemn you?*" "*No, one,*" she replies." Jesus then follows up with, "*Neither do I, go and sin no more.*"

Think about this: If Jesus was God's agent on earth, then he spoke for God. And if he spoke for God, he is saying that God does not condemn. God only asks that we quit making the mistakes in our lives that keep us from living a life of wholeness and well-being.

We have the authority to change what we do not like or want in our lives by believing we have the power to do so. I discovered this for myself over twenty years ago when these words resonated deep within me: "*The things I have done you will do also, and greater will you do*" (Jesus, John 14:12).

We all have equal access to the kingdom of God and all the good contained therein. The kingdom as stated in Luke 17:21 is within us and around us. The kingdom contains all the divine ideas, principles, and truths that we need to claim our authority as Jesus did.

As the late Unity minister, Ed Rabel use to say: Take Jesus at his word. He knew what he was saying, and he meant it absolutely. All people have been given authority to forgive and to heal. You have the authority – use it!

Abundant Blessings!
Rev. Chuck