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# SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY



WATCHMAN NEE

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*Watchman Nee, Stephen Kaung (Translator)*

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The chapters in this volume on the nature of Spiritual Authority are drawn from a series of messages delivered by the great Chinese preacher-teacher, Watchman Nee, during a training period for Christian workers in China in 1948.

## **Spiritual Authority Details**

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## **From Reader Review Spiritual Authority for online ebook**

### **Wendy says**

A classic work with basic principles that all Christian's should learn and apply in their day to day living. This book, like each one of his books, communicates key principles on a basic level so anyone can grasp wisdom and understanding.

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### **David says**

The power of real prayer, the understanding who we are in Christ, and the action of perseverance!

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### **Sarah says**

I think that this is a subject to many Christians ignore. We want to hear about why we can do what we want, not about who we should obey. Nee reminds us of what is important and who we are to serve.

While the language of the books was a bit archaic, I easily read it. My big issue was with this book was the author tried so hard to make his point, that sometimes he twisted scripture to do it. While there is plenty of biblical basis for what he was saying, he went a little overboard trying to prove it. There were also a couple of minor points that he made that I felt were not backed-up in scripture.

Overall, I felt the book was good book. It is a subject that I think more christians need to be reminded of, including me.

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### **Dwight says**

When talking about obedience, one can easily fall into the trap of legalism. This book avoids that.

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### **Eunhye says**

I thank God for his writing: I picked this up to learn about his life --- [Watchman Nee became a Christian in mainland China in 1920 at the age of seventeen and began writing in the same year. Throughout the nearly thirty years of his ministry, Watchman Nee was clearly manifested as a unique gift from the Lord to His Body for His move in this age. In 1952 he was imprisoned for his faith; he remained in prison until his death in 1972. His words remain an abundant source of spiritual revelation and supply to Christians throughout the world.]

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### **Susan says**

A great explanation of spiritual authority, both directly from God and indirectly through the people He places over us. It's basically impossible not to feel convicted about something while you read Watchman Nee. He's not afraid to call you out.

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### **Paul says**

Amazing - how to grow in spiritual authority by finding it, and submitting to it, in every situation of life.

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### **Shiloh says**

This book wasn't what I expected, but I was pleasantly surprised. Admittedly, my mind often wondered while reading and I would have to go back and re-read a lot. It wasn't because the material was too complex, but maybe just not engrossing. That said, I still loved it, and would highly recommend it. It was filled with so much humility and foundational Christian principles. It wasn't about our authority in Christ, but God's authority and how we need to submit to his established authority.

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### **Anita Dix-McLaughlin says**

You can not be in authority unless you can be under authority. This book gives much to consider, so spiritually rich. A must read for all Christian leaders.

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### **Stephanie says**

This book has radically helped me to define my worldview. Rebellion is such a problem with me, but this book tenderly exposed the issue and how the cross deals with it so severely. I'm so grateful for it!

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### **James Seawel says**

I don't know whether to re-read this book and truly receive what was offered or to put it down in favor of the nearest feel-good Christian book. It was not a pleasurable experience reading this book as I was continually convicted. I argued with the author and God throughout, but I can say this book opened my eyes in areas I knew not that they were closed. Don't read this book for a pick-me-up, but only if you're ready for a challenge to go deeper with God. I'm glad I read it, probably will re-read it or at least review it. Even after I've put it down, it continues to speak to me, challenge me, convict me.

My 5 stars are for a deep, clear message that stirred my soul, not for an enjoyable, uplifting read. I do, however, believe that in time I will be able to see this book as uplifting, but right now it's a much-needed

nuisance.

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### **Joshua says**

(1) You cannot be a subject to the authority of God and Satan. Either you are subjected to one or the other. You cannot exercise authority over Satan if you are not fully subjected Christ's authority.

(2) He who has met authority deals purely with authority, and not with man. He does not see a man, but the authority vested in the man. We do not obey man, but God's authority in that man. That is how we learn what authority is in the first place.

(3) Obedience to God's will is the greatest demand of the Bible. (1 Sam. 15:22; Matt. 7:21). Obedience to authority requires subjection to authority. That is what living in the Spirit is – living in subjection to the will of the Father, not according to your own will. "...being thus restrained by God we can begin to be used by him."

(4) Taking up your cross is not primary; doing the will of the Father is primary. Even Christ did not want to take up the cross, and therefore did. Rather, he wanted to do the will of the Father, and was therefore willing to take up the cross if that was the Father's will. In the same way, we are not called to sacrifice; we are called to fulfill God's purpose. If we are doing the former and not the later, then Satan is being glorified through out sacrifices.

(5) Nadab and Abihu offering strange fire (Lev. 10). Aaron's authoritative, ordained offerings and "strange fire" are the same to outward appearance. Aaron's sons had seen Aaron offer fire, and thought they could merely copy what he did. But one was under the authority of Aaron, the other was offered in rebellion, not under the covering of authority. It was a counterfeit, similar only in outward appearance. Therefore it was not accepted by God. All worship and service to the Lord must be done on God's terms and in his will; not out of our choosing, but through discerning what the will of God is.

(6) On the church as God's delegated authority:

Through the church the nations become God's kingdom.

"The church occupies the place between the kingdom found in the person of the Lord Jesus and the further extension of that kingdom to be found when the world becomes the kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ."

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### **Brian Bennett says**

The authority of God is absolute. As a created being, my role is obedience. Instead of living in the freedom of obedience with God, humanity chose to live in rebellion, usurping God's authority and separating us from His presence forever.

The connection Nee makes to Jesus' obedience as a human to our own rebellious condition is stark and has changed the way I think about my own obedience to the will of God. All authority is God's to give and he

does so only to the obedient. Nee's use of history from the Bible elaborates and demonstrates how obedience is not only a good quality, but essential if we want to be in service to the Kingdom.

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### **John Esker Jr. says**

There was some great insight into the subject of spiritual authority as revealed by the Bible. However there were some confusing claims about the ideas of reason and thought being tied to rebellion that I felt were not soundly defended. Overall I felt the book had a good grasp on capturing a right perspective of authority and submission.

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### **Judy says**

I actually listened to the CD version. I found it very challenging. I appreciated the consistent referral to scripture. I have a better understanding of the topic as well as more questions. I am not convinced that the author's interpretation and application are always accurate.

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