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Matthew 28:18 from New International Version © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

John 10:27-28 from The Message © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 200, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson

Respect The Auth-or-i-ty!

God has *exousia*, which is His power exercised in His authority. He is automatically our ruler and has the highest position because God has given Him that place in our life. Matthew 28:18 reads, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me". But there are two things we struggle with: self and idols. We think we have the right to make our own decisions instead of looking to the Bible as our guide on how to live successfully. We make our own rules and try to put ourselves in the place of the true authority. But guess what - we're not smart enough, we're not experienced enough, we are NOT God. Acts 5:29 says we must obey God rather than men. Our other struggle is trying to put idols in the position of authority. Money, clothes, our relationships, our jobs, our friends; they are not qualified to be authorities in our life. When we put our self or an idol in the position of authority, we enter a life of sin, which is unacceptable. We must look to the Bible. The Bible is complete and comprehensible. It has everything you need and you will be able to understand it. Let the Bible shape your decisions. Listen to God's voice. John 10:27-28 says, "My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good." Make a decision today. Decide to submit to God right now. You can be happy, you can be free, you can be successful, and you can be focused. You can be everything you were designed to be. What's your decision?