



# Links Players

## Evangelism - Evangelism's Power Source

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...." (Matthew 28:16-20, ESV)*

The game of golf has always had "bombers." The Golden Bear was undoubtedly a power hitter in his generation. Davis Love once smashed his drive 476 yards at Kapalua. One commentator remarked concerning Tiger, "He made the 300-yard drive the rule rather than the exception."

Freddie, appropriately named "Boom Boom," finished in the top ten in driving distance fifteen times in his career. As a rookie, Bubba Watson averaged 319 yards off the tee. And, of course, who could forget when John Daly burst onto the scene? Now, it seems, everyone is "bombing it."

For the rest of us mortals, we love power, too, don't we? Of course, the long ball is a relative term. What was long for us in our youth is now a distant memory. I was playing with a father/son team a year or so ago when the dad said something about hitting it past his son. The son replied, "I'm afraid that ship has sailed." He was right!

Depending on the context, power can be synonymous with authority. Jesus says of himself, after his resurrection, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me."

Notice he doesn't say, "it will be given to me in the future." Nor does he merely say, "All authority in heaven has been given to me." Nor does he say, "some power has been given to me." No! Instead, he says, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me," and it belongs to him now.

This is essential to grasp if we are ever to become bold in evangelism. Failing to realize who has all authority makes us timid and afraid. The disciples hid behind closed doors in fear until they saw and touched the resurrected Jesus! Timidity defined them before; boldness defined them afterward. Meeting a man who conquered death tends to embolden people!

When Jesus commissioned the disciples and us (Matthew 28:16-20), he did so as the one who had the authority/power to do so. Furthermore, as a demonstration of his enthronement, he sent the power of the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, his disciples (Acts 1:8; Acts 2; Galatians 3:1-6 et al.).

It is sometimes hard to get your mind around this. Nevertheless, it is true—if you have repented and placed your faith in Jesus Christ, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you (Romans 8:11).

**Prayer: Father! Teach us to represent you as those deputized by your authority and in the power of the Holy Spirit!**

### READING - Mathew 28:16-20

**OPENING QUESTIONS:** Discuss the importance of power or the lack thereof in golf.

1. The church's mission statement, known as the Great Commission, is found in Matthew 28:18-20. But what do we discover in verses 16 and 17 regarding the disciples? Some \_\_\_\_\_, but some \_\_\_\_\_. Discuss the significance of these two responses.

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2. There are four (4) uses of the word "all" in verses 18-20. The fourth one is translated as "always," which in the original language means "all the days." Discuss the importance of each and how they might shape our ideas of evangelism.

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