**A shift: understanding & experiencing Apostolic Prayer**

Outline:

1. Understanding about prayer
2. Understanding alignment, assignment, & produces agreement
3. Spiritual authority in the apostolic
4. Prayer & Spiritual warfare.

It’s all about God’s kingdom government on earth

Matt !6:19 “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”.

Christ’s church would have the keys (authority) to lock the gates of government of hell & release the government off heaven.

The ekklesia (His church) is an assembly of God’s people set apart to govern the spiritual affairs of cities, regions & nations.

We are sent ones (apostolic term) to legislate spiritually for Christ, extending His kingdom rule (or government).

To understand Apostolic prayer we must discover by revelation or discover our place or position in this kingdom season.

Kingdom is all about alignment with the one who is giving us access from the throne of Go to legislate His spiritual kingdom.

Jesus is the one mediating in heaven to bring heaven to earth through us.

We must realize that we are God’s governing force on earth & that Stan’s governing force can’t stop us when we use the authority Christ has given us.

When we come to the knowledge & experience this truth, we become true governmental (kingly) intercessors for Him.

As we discuss Apostolic Prayer:

The intent is not to impart some form or model but to know & experience the source of our apostolic prayer.

It is so important to know & understand what foundation we are walking on.

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

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 **Apostolic Prayer Con’t.**

You cant prove what you don’t believe or understand. Transformation of our mind set has to be that of Christ. We have been the mind of Christ.

1 Cor. 2:16 “For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.” Not the natural man but our spiritual man receives His ways & purposes.

Foundations are so important in building properly so that a building will stand for generations to come. So it is very necessary to establish a firm foundation concerning prayer.

- what prayer is

- why we pray.

- how we pray

Note: It is not an outward -in method or process that brings the kingdom of God to earth, it is an inward

-outward process that brings God’s kingdom to earth. Religion works from the outside in to conform, grace works from the inside out to transform.

- What is of the flesh will produce flesh but what is of the spirit produces spirit.

- Whatever one sows, they will reap the results.

It is not all about being a house of prayer on the outside, it is in being a house of prayer from the heart, the inside.

Proverbs 4:17 ..for out of the heart flows the springs of life.

True prayer flows from the heart o God through our hearts.

John 4:..In spirit & truth is the relationship God desires with us & so do we. Longing for that relationship

As we discuss Apostolic Prayer it is all about:

So foundations is what the building stands upon.

I Cor. 3:9 “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.”

God’s field – our hearts prepared for God’s word, His word.

Roots must go down so fruit can come up.

God’s building – living stones building a habitation for God’s spirit to dwell.

So prayer is not as much “How we pray, but knowing & experiencing the source of apostolic prayer.

2 things are important to receive in our spiritual lives with Christ.

1. Knowing Him (Christ our King)
2. Knowing who we are ( purpose)

I.Knowing Him:

* Relationship with the Father, Son & Holy Spirit

Statement: All prayer ( or ministry) must be born out of relationship.

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 **Apostolic Prayer Prayer Con’t.**

Luke 10:40 “Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.””

Two different people described:

Martha – distracted, worried, troubled

Mary – chose the good part not to be taken away

James 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Effective prayer is all about the good part we receive spending time with Jesus, that can not be taken away.

Our appointment with God in prayer.

Good part can be translated “good works”.

Prayer & Spiritual warfare is how the battle against Satan is won.

Note:

Eph 4:11-17 Talks about Equippers equipping the saints for the work of ministry.

We are to equip the saints with the good part, good works that cant be taken away.

The place of prayer or prayer is not just a weapon on our spiritual tool belt, it is the battle itself.

It’s not even part of the armor we pit on going to war.

Eph. 6: 18-19 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

We are called to pray to enter into the battle with the victory we possess.

Do you know or experience the victory He has given to us with His life?

Why I say: 2 things to have in your life

-knowing Him – Knowing who you are.

Now this spiritual warfare or prayer in general can become a weight we drag around.

It looses its life. It can become legalistic or a chore we must do.

Heb 6:12 “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

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 **Apostolic Prayer Con’t.**

The point is this: We can be busy doing the work of prayer, but not doing the work of true ministry getting to know Him in our prayers.

For prayer to be effective we must wait in His presence & allow ministry, or spiritual warfare, to be born out of relationship! …with Him,,

If I ask you today “What is Life’s Ultimate privilege? How would answer today?

Would you answer by saying…that through fellowship with God, we can come to know Him intimately.

Statement: To know who He is…much better than receiving things from Him..

Prayer is a progression of knowing Him, your God, more & more. His ways & purposes.

1st – Appointment with God – Time with Him

John 1:3 “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” We exist through Him!

2nd - Communion – Knowing Him, friend of God, steward, no secrets..

Phil. 2:1 “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,”

3rd – Participation – in His purposes

Eph. 3:9-11 “to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,”

4th – Partnership – partnering in His ways

Phil 3:10 “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,”

I Cor. 3:9 “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.”

Awesome privilege: We are invited to partnership with God of the universe!

Comment: Our Father in heaven has purposed for Himself, a vast family of sons, conformed to the image of Christ.

As the Father is dedicated to this eternal purpose, we also are invited to partner, participate, with Him in fulfilling this purpose.

Romans 8:19 “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Quote from Jack Halford:

Prayer is essentially a partnership of the redeemed child of God working hand in hand with God toward the redemption of His redemptive purposes on earth.

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So God’s heart thru us as we pray carries the same mission knowing our aim is to raise up mature sons of God!

WE are talking about Knowing God.

To intimately know Him through prayer & fellowship

Paul states: Phil. 3:10 “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,”

Daniel says: Dan. 11:32 “…but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”

Jeremiah writes: Jer. 3:23 “Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.”

John records: John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” ..Jesus prayers.

Relationship ( with God, the Son, & Holy Spirit), Revelation, (the wisdom of God),

now lets look at “Waiting” In Hi presence.

Psalm 27:14 “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”

Isaiah 40:13 “But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

The word wait:

* with eager expectation
* to bind together something by twisting
* oneness, joining, braiding together

True prayer waits with a strong, trust, longing for the presence of God, & eagerly expecting Him to show!

Prayer is the experiencing the oneness that results as our hearts become entwined with His

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 **Apostolic Prayer Con’t.**

Romans 8:34 “…It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Heb. 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

True prayer, intercession, spiritual warfare, is knowing He is there & will show up, because that is who He is & what He does,,,ever lives to make intercession for His bride the Church..

Let’s Move or shift to ‘Apostolic Prayer”

Heb. 3:1 “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him…

Knowing Christ, THE CHIEF Apostle:

In relationship with Him.

In covenant with Him.

All things exist through Him

“Apostolic”: prayer, government, leadership, teaching, preaching, disciplining, all begin with the the chief Apostle.

He is the apostolic in anything we do!

The result of knowing & praying the will of God with Jesus ( partnership) in His ways!

That’s Apostolic Prayer

Jesus was sent by the Father & He also sends us..Apostolic. .. The sent one..

John 20:21 “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

Comment: Our concept of God determines:

* How we pray
* What results we expect
* what results we get

The church” Ekklesia” must be first & foremost apostolic.

As we come to know Jesus, the chief apostle, we pray & align ourselves and labor together with God…Awesome privilege.

John 16:15 “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

He chose us, we did not choose Him to go forth & produce fruit that remains

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 **Apostolic Prayer Cont.**

I Cor. 1:28 “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”

“Apostolic” leadership or government comes from “first apostles”..the order of things in His word.

What Apostolic prayer does:

1.Prayer releases apostolic anointing

Luke 10:2 “Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

The connection between prayer & the apostolic

2.Releasing the apostolic is a response to prayer

Luke 6:12-13 “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:”

3.Releases great power & grace

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

4.Prayer is the strength of the apostolic ministry:

“but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.””

Apostolic is:

* a strategic prayer…insights into the eternal purposes of God
* It is revelational…the wisdom of God released
* It is laboring prayer..

Col 4:12 “Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

Note: Greek word for laboring…agonizomai…meaning to struggle with an advisary, to strive

Apostolic prayer causes the church to stand perfect & complete in the will of God..mature sons!

* It is unceasing

I Thessalonians 5:17 “pray without ceasing,”

* It continues to pioneer…break new ground..

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 **Apostolic Spirit Cont.**

Statement: Every Believer & minister can & should be apostolic to some degree…

The Holy Spirit is an Apostolic Spirit

He dwells in all believers:

Every church should be apostolic & moving in the apostolic dimension of the spirit.

The dominate Spirit in the book of Acts is “The apostolic anointing”

The Holy Spirit is first & foremost an Apostolic Spirit..

He is sent by Jesus to build His church & the gates of hell will not prevail against it…

Matt. 16:19

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