

Discipleship 401 Chapter 02

Open with prayer and insights from the Holy Spirit in your life

The Apostolic mantle is put over a small group that the Lord leads under his authority to start some new work of his Spirit.

Acts 13:1-3, ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Paul and Barnabus were called Apostles from that time. The church at Antioch was a small group that started and were seeking to serve the Lord. They had teachers and prophets in their midst. The strength of faith and obedience in what God called them to enabled them to raise others up in faith. They had a strong anointing.

Acts 19:1-10, ¹⁹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when^[a] you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues^[b] and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. This last scenario was a group of believers who had not yet received the Holy Spirit or the anointing that makes them a part of his anointed church. The purposes of the Lord can't be fulfilled in them outside the anointing of his church.

When believers are water baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, this is done under the authority of his mantle and it gives a anointing over the person to sanctify them from the world and enable them to physically fulfill the purposes of the Lord in it. The group of believers became the church at Ephesus that was a beacon for the Lord in that area. Discuss these concepts.

The Apostles had been prepared by the Lord himself and at the inception of the church and outpouring of the Holy Spirit the fulfilment of his promised authority to establish the kingdom was poured out. He warned them of the yeast of the pharisees and there was a continuous fight to maintain a teaching of walking by faith instead of sliding into bad teaching. From the reformation forward the Lord's Spirit has been trying to shake off the bad teachings that weakened the church and to restore greater than the former glory. "The latter glory will be greater than the first".

John 5:19, Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can **do nothing** by himself; he can **do** only what he sees his Father **doing**, because whatever the Father **does** the Son also **does**.

John 5:30, By myself **I** can **do nothing**; **I** judge only as I hear, and my judgment **is** just, for **I** seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 7:18, Whoever speaks on their own **does** so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is **nothing** false about him.

John 8:28, So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I** am he and that **I do nothing** on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

Romans 12:6-7, ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;...

What would prophesying and teaching according to your faith be? Discuss the above statements.

You will now take time to pray for the sanctification of each other with laying on of hands. You will pray that in whatever ministry the Lord is calling you to, you each will be sanctified to move in his authority and have a greater awareness of the Spirit's work of faith in you.

Remember; "he who is faithful with little will be entrusted with more".