

Discipleship 401 Chapter 04

Open with insights of work of Holy Spirit in the last week.

This chapter will look at the capabilities given by the Spirit that strengthen the individual and the apostolic mantle over the church. On the individual you can pray to impart spiritual strength in various ways. But what of the mantle over the church? How is this imparted? The Lord wants to increase his authority in his church but will only do that as his people have the ability to collectively move under his authority. There are things that help his people act in unity in faith under his authority. Discuss what spiritual capabilities can help the group act together in faith.

Hebrews 13:15, Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Hebrews 2:12, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”^[a]

Psalms 8:2, Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

Psalms 149:6, May the praise of God be in their mouths
and a double-edged sword in their hands,

The Lord expects a heart of praise from those that are his but our carnal nature isn't able to do that. We would rather do tasks to serve God. It is a spiritual strength to have a heart of praise and continually be able give praise. A heart of praise helps to keep your focus on the relationship of trust in the Lord. Comment on how this may be important. Keep in mind the church at Ephesus. It was a strong church when Paul was visiting it. Later in the Book Of Revelation a warning was given. Their hearts were not in the right place. In the same way an individual can receive a gifting in Praise and Worship, a mantle over a group can have a gifting in that as well. This is worth praying for later Remember, individuals under the mantle can appropriate strengths from the mantle.

Proverbs 1:20-21, ²⁰ Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,
she raises her voice in the public square;
²¹ on top of the wall^[a] she cries out,
at the city gate she makes her speech:

Think of Wisdom as an aspect of the Holy spirit that is with God's people.

Consider what you may pray later...

Proverbs 1:5-7, ⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—

⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.^[a]

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools^[b] despise wisdom and instruction.

James 1:5, If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Wisdom is the first named gift in the Manifestations of the Spirit and I believe that it is the one that takes the longest to develop. This also can be imparted as a gift to an individual and as a gifting present in the mantle over a group, it can be increased with a gifting to have a particular strength of discernment of God's will and wisdom to walk his ways. The group will have an ability to appropriate this as a spiritual strength in their personal walk. As they develop this the mantle will continue to grow and the Lord's ability to use that group with those abilities. Discuss.

Acts 6:3-4, Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This last was the Apostles gathering to impart authority to others for work of the ministry. The requirement was wisdom and being full of the Spirit. The next spiritual strength to impart into individuals and the Apostolic mantle or the anointing over the church is grace and mercy. You can lay hands on an individual under the mantle and as they grow spiritually, the mantle will be strengthened as well. But how are you to directly strengthen the mantle over a group. Discuss.

The tendency of human nature is to grow rigid and judgemental as we go on. Much is said of grace, forgiveness and mercy to lead in dealing with people. You must have discernment and wisdom in dealing with people. The Corinthian church was chastised for allowing sin to run unchecked in their midst. Paul understood grace as he was a major recipient of it from the Lord. Everyone is but we just don't realize to what extent we have received. Much is said of grace and you understand intellectually but we need a greater impartation to allow us to walk in it.

In the early church they gathered in one accord and prayed for boldness, they asked the Lord to stretch out his hand and do miracles to show his glory. The Lord showed he was with them by physically shaking the ground but moved by his Spirit with his people as they acted in obedience in faith. Pray these strengths shown for the mantle as well as one another.