

## Discipleship 401 Chapter 05

Open with insights from the last week.

The Apostolic Mantle of authority over the corporate church is the same mantle of authority that Jesus had over him. It is what he received at the baptism in the Jordan river at the hand of John the Baptist, "that all things might be fulfilled". Jesus stated on many occasions that his servants would do as he had done, and even greater things. The Apostolic Mantle over the church is as strong over each group as their collective faith allows. If they have a particular strength in a certain area such as preaching salvation and God's grace around that, they will be able to draw the Spirit's power in ministry in that area. If they have a particular strength in the realm of the prophetic, they will draw the ministry of that area of gifting. Any group can expand the areas of faith they have, by pursuing the Lord in another area you will increase the mantle and abilities your corporate group can draw. The gifting of faith can be increased and the ability to tap in on the Apostolic authority will yield greater works of the Spirit. The individual gifts (manifestations) of the Spirit (9) give abilities to individuals that they can use at will. They are given greater ability as they are sanctified to move in faith in the Lord in that particular gift. He who is faithful in little will be given more. If you are faithful to the Lord, you will act in accordance to the measure of faith given you. We will look at the difference between power in the gifts and what the apostolic authority gives. Discuss this and pray now for understanding of the Lord's apostolic authority.

There is a certain grouping of the gifts of the Spirit that have been set out. I believe it helps to understand how the abilities work. There are what is termed 'power' gifts, Healing, workers of miracles (deliverance), faith. Your action of believing and stepping forward in speech or prayer exerts an influence of the manifestation of God's will in the world around us. This will not always be seen right away, but in faith come about in time. That which you speak causing healing to come forth in a body. That which you speak causing spirits in a person or acting over their life to be cast away. That which you believe is God's will to come to pass in someone's life as you pray. If you sense God's leading on these, he will overshadow you and will bring it about when you pray. In certain circumstances he will do instantaneous miracles as signs. Not all are done that way.

Mark 11:20-25, In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. <sup>21</sup> Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

<sup>22</sup> "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup> "Truly<sup>[a]</sup> I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

The above is an example of apostolic authority that is in the mantle of Jesus. This is authority to affect change in the physical environment around us. This was spoken by Jesus previously but the results were seen as they passed by. This is the general difference between the gifts and the authority of Jesus that we can tap in on by faith as a corporate group. In prayer you can tap in on the greater power of the mantle over the church as you move in accord by his Spirit. The wording of "worker of miracles" is a misunderstood term. When I stated to someone it is a term for deliverance, they told me it includes deliverance as well as other miracles.

In the beginning as I was seeking the Lord and believed he was leading me to be involved with casting spirits out of people, I questioned this, asking where is that gift listed? I don't see it. The Lord spoke to me and said, "It's there, they just didn't understand what was written." I had to go back over scripture and finally concluded, 'worker of miracles', whatever that meant. So I asked ok, what else does that include?... No answer right then. The Lord had given a prophetic word early on that he had given me the "gift of discerning of God's will" and of tongues. When I had developed these, more would be added. Someone had prayed for me to be filled with the Spirit and speak in tongues even though I had no interest in it at that time. Comment on the impartation of gifts and developing different areas of ministry. Discuss this and pray for understanding now.

I was later doing deliverance on someone who had been a high witch in satanism and some spirits manifest themselves in her and started speaking through her. I began to bind them and command them to be cast out... it had no effect. The leader spoke and said, "you can't cast us out because we are people spirits, not demons. I sat dumbfounded, processing this, never saw that coming. I changed gears and immediately prayed the Lord's angels, also there in a deliverance ministry, would remove them. They were removed in an instant, they had a doorway created by demons to allow spirits to enter. This is a difference of the specific authority of deliverance. The working of miracles, I learned, is better termed, "authority over the powers of darkness". I tapped into the mantle over the church for power to help as needed over and above the gifting. This is a difference over abilities given in gifts and the apostolic mantle – limitless.

Matthew 7:7-8, Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

John 14:12-14, Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

The gift of faith allows you to draw from the Apostolic mantle of the church.

Discuss the implications of this and spend some time praying accordingly.