

Discipleship 401 Chapter 12 Prayer of the Apostle

Open with insights from previous week. Comment on what you feel God is doing in your life in this last while.

Jesus did a great many things with the authority given him by the Father. He demonstrated the different areas of authority he was given and that which his mantle of authority was making available to those following. We are not as capable as Jesus was but if we follow what he is giving in the situation we are in, 'we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us'. The Lord does commission us in different areas. One must know the area he is being called in to work. He can use you in different areas as needed and increase the areas he will work through you. Don't limit where the Lord wants to take you.

Acts 6:3-6, 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."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

These were men put forward by the main believers at that time. It doesn't say what was specifically prayed for, but an anointing was given based on the traits they had. Take note that this was done so the Apostles could focus on the ministry of the word and prayer.

Matthew 16:19, I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:19, "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

The first statement was given to the Apostles, the second was opened up to the believers in general. The believers have a promise that if they agree on something, the Father will do it. The power behind this will depend on the measure of faith in the believers. The Apostle is working on another level. What you speak isn't given grace. It is being used by the Lord for his purposes.

Luke 6:45, A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart.
For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Consider carefully what comes out of your mouth from your heart

Those called as an Apostle must be aware that what you speak from your heart is affecting the spiritual realm. The power of the Apostle in prayer is to bring to pass what is spoken. The prayer life of the Apostle is bringing change to the kingdom of God even if you don't see the results.

Mark 11:14, Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

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

²² "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³ "Truly^[a] 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. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Even if you have a small measure of apostolic authority, know that you are affecting the spiritual plane and what you have spoken is being brought to pass. You have the ability to build God's kingdom in his people. What you speak may or may not be accepted by people but what you speak as a declaration or pray will be brought to pass. Consider this and discuss implications.

Your greatest strength is praying changes to be brought into people's lives, whether over an individual or a group, affecting the mantle over them. What ways can you pray to build people? Discuss these concepts. You will next spend some time in prayer.

You will now apply more apostolic authority, praying one by one for each other. You will take turns, one laying a hand on the head of other, others stretching hands out in agreement. Pray for a mindset of understanding of authority in prayer. Then lay a hand on chest or back and impart a stronger faith and authority in prayer. Pray for an anointing to be sealed unto the Lord as a man/ woman of prayer. Pray that you shall be able to pray for the small, the great and the impossible and that what you pray shall come to pass. Pray that you shall have a vision and passion for the building of God's church. Do this for each one.

The coming move of God is to cause his church to arise and shake off the remaining religious misconceptions and have it take on his glory in a greater fulness to enter the last days. Spend some time now praying for 7 crucial ministries to be strengthened. These are;

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Deliverance and Healing ministries.

Each of you will play a part in the building of the Lord's Church! May the Lord bless you!