

“Producing a Church of Passion”

Producing a Church that has passion for the Lord is sometimes difficult because its members have past and present baggage. Deceptive teachings, personality conflicts (“They must not like me” syndrome), ungodly opinions, soul driven emotions (fear, doubt and unbelief), rebellious attitudes (“I want it my way”) and real, along with perceived, spiritual abuses dictate how and why we do certain things. Nevertheless, if we are going to function as a Church with passion, we must overcome these demonic strongholds and other idiosyncrasies (personal peculiarities) that cause us to stop moving by the Holy Spirit.

Self-centeredness (“I want it my way”), shame (“I’ll never measure up”) and fear of being hurt or disappointed need to be hung on the Cross if we’re to overcome the bondages that cause us to obstruct the Lord’s mandates (authoritative commands). We must lay to rest, once and for all performance, fear, and the insatiable desire to do things from a perfectionist perspective. It is the accumulation of these, and many other ungodly beliefs as well as demonic bondages, that cause us to delay and even stop our forward momentum. If we continue to resist what the Lord has called us to do and are driven by fears and demonic bondages, we will find ourselves in a cyclical process defined by a complacent and indifferent lifestyle.

There are at least five stages that define our spiritual condition and give us a window to see where we are spiritually.

We will define these stages as the 5,000, the 70, the 12, the 3 and the 1. In Matthew 14: 13-21, the 5,000 were fed and the 70 (some manuscripts say seventy instead of seventy-two) in Luke 10:1-24 were sent forth. The 12 apostles were personally mentored by Jesus in Matthew 15:12-20. The 3 were mentored and given deep revelation as seen in Matthew 17:1-13. The one was sent forth, mentored, given great revelation and experienced a deep level of intimacy with the Lord (as described in the Book of Revelation).

I think it would probably be presumptuous on my part to think that a corporate Church Body could achieve the level of spiritual intimacy that the twelve apostles enjoyed, and the twelve what the three powerfully experienced, and the three what one gloriously attained. I do believe however, that the corporate body can emulate the obedient followers of Jesus. We should avoid being like the 5,000 as many of them left Jesus because of His direct and challenging ministry (John 6: 41-60). For those who want to taste the closeness of the twelve, three and one you can have it, for a price (That is not meant to be negative, what is received far out weighs the price)!

Let’s take a closer look at what happened in the lives of the seventy as they obeyed the Lord’s commands and see how we can apply their experience in our daily lives.

Please read: Luke 10:1-12; 16-17.

1. The seventy-two (seventy) were part of the overall gathering of Christians that followed Jesus. They were not Apostles or leaders; they were people just like you and me.
2. They were obedient and willing to follow the instructions of the Lord completely.
3. They trusted what the Lord said and they didn't question His directives.
4. They had to be spiritually aware that what they were asked to do they could do.
5. The seventy had to know how to exercise and walk in faith. They had to have faith to believe that when they laid their hands on the sick, they would surely recover. (Luke 10:9)
6. They stayed planted in one house. (Luke 10:7c)
7. They had to understand and know what the Kingdom of God was. How can a person explain something about the Kingdom of God if they have never experienced it? (Luke 10:9b)
8. They had to be good listeners and good implementers. (Luke 10:21-22)
9. According to verses 3 and 4 they had to understand that what they were being asked to do could result in a confrontation with demonic forces.
10. They had to walk in high levels of discernment. Case in point they had to know when they were received in a home or city and when they were not. (Luke 10:5-12)
11. They walked in great authority (Luke 10:16). In order to walk in authority, one must first submit to authority. These people could not have walked in authority if they hadn't been trained to do so.
12. They saw great results; they conveyed to Jesus that even demons submitted to them in the Lord's name (Luke 10:17). This confirms that the Lord imparted the power of His name to the seventy and they knew the power of His name. As a result, not only were the sick healed in Jesus' name but even demons submitted to their every command through that precious name.
13. They were not concerned about finances, they knew the Lord would provide (Luke 10:4)
14. They were blessed with God's favor because of their obedience. (Luke 10:23-24)

If we are to be people that walk in the anointing of the seventy, we must recognize we will need to make some adjustments. We need deliverance from our time demon, deliverance from self, personal agendas, fears, insecurities and many other demonic bondage's, to say the least. What the Lord is calling us to will require full participation and complete focus. If we are going to be a church of passionate believers who follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we must surrender our lives to His will and answer His call to Awake, Arise and Mobilize!

We need to be obedient, good listeners, good implementers, full of faith, spiritually powerful, full of trust, fearless, discerners, submit and walk in and under authority, and understand the might and power of the precious name of Jesus. As we do this, we will surely walk in the footsteps of the seventy. I am terribly concerned that Christians and non-Christians alike have created a God that the Bible does not support. They know a God who makes little if any demands on them, one who is only there when they need help, a God that is a good companion when they're lonely and present in case there is an emergency. However, they have lost the Fathering and loving aspect of the Lord.

The God I serve is mighty and able to make impossible situations possible. He is a God that loves, but He is not identified as only love. He is omniscient and omnipotent. He is a God who should be reverentially feared. Nothing gets past Him and He uses every situation for His divine purpose. The God I know is wonderful, powerful and full of majesty. He rewards those who diligently seek Him and when we ask for spiritual things, He stands ready and willing to give it to us because He cares deeply for you and me. There is no event or circumstance that causes the Lord to wring His hands in worry.

Conclusion:

As we allow the King of Glory to be revealed in all of His majesty, we will have no problem functioning as the seventy did. The reason they were able to walk in power was because they saw the Lord face to face and they were trained and mentored by Him personally. The same Lord that was written about in Luke 10 is here today and He stands ready and willing to do in us what He did in the hearts and lives of the seventy, if we will just believe.

Pray and decree over your life:

- A willingness to receive the passion that the Lord is extending to us today.
- A heart of submission to obey everything the Lord is commanding us to do.
- A passion to know the Lord and to have an intimate relationship with Him.
- A new level of trust to arise toward the Lord and His delegated authority.
- A Holy Spirit directed confidence that keeps us focused on what the Lord wants to do rather than on the distractions of the enemy.
- An impartation of discernment and powerful words of knowledge.
- Revelation of the power of the name of Jesus and the blood that He shed for us.

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