

01-Understanding Apostolic Grace

I had a dream a few days ago. I was walking through a field observing big brick sections of something laying over on the ground and in some places, starting to sink into the ground. I tried to set some of them right side up, but I could not budge them. I just kept wandering around in the field wondering what is this.

When I awoke, I heard the Lord say, "Touch not my anointed, and do my prophets no harm." I was wide awake, shaken by those words. Had I been touching God's anointed and doing harm to His prophets? Lord, I cried, if I have, show me and I will quickly repent!"

For the next two days I cried out for understanding of the dream and the words. I read scripture on anointing, I listened to teachings on the anointing, On the third day after the dream, the Lord brought me clear understanding. You have heard me say it before, and I say it again. Do not neglect your dreams. Cry out for understanding until God makes things clear to you. It may take some time, depending on how much stuff He has to undo in you, before He can pour in the new.

I am not going to explain the meaning of the dream until my next post. Before we can understand where God wants to take us in this time in which we live, we need to understand a little more concerning anointing. Before I could go any further with the dream, I needed to understand a little more about anointing and what God meant by do not touch my anointed. In this post we will discuss what apostolic grace is, and how it is imparted. We will discuss one of the main functions of apostolic grace is to see and understand what Jesus is building. We also need to rethink what we have been taught concerning gifts.

In the next post we will discuss my dream further and the words that followed. We will discuss apostles and how that apostolic grace is changing because of the season we are in. We must understand true apostles and prophets in this hour and I guarantee it is different than most people think. Stay tuned for the next post.

In the last post we talked about prophets. Prophets and apostles are important in what Jesus is doing in this period of time. I had been praying for a clearer revelation and understanding of the apostolic grace needed for this hour.



For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

I Corinthians 3:9-14 (NKJV)

Before we talk about Paul as a wise master builder, we need to address the foundation. The foundation is Jesus. Before a foundation can be laid, the builder must know what the building is going to look like, how tall and wide it is going to be, and a lot of other information. The foundation is key to whether the building will continue to stand over time.

Jesus not only laid the only foundation for the Ekklesia, He is the foundation. The word used in this passage for laid, is translated other places as put, make, appoint, settle, lay down, purpose, belonging to. Paul is not building a different building using Jesus as a foundation. This thought contributes to current thinking of there being multiple "churches" or ekklesia. There is not. There is only one foundation, and only one building, only one Ekklesia, only one Jesus.

Paul is saying as a wise master builder he belongs to the foundation that Jesus has already laid. This makes more sense when you consider the following verses.

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NKJV)

Apostles and prophets have been set into the foundation Jesus laid for His Ekklesia. They have been given a special grace or anointing to see and understand what the Ekklesia is and how it is to function according to the heart of God. Needless to say, this is referring to the true apostles and prophets, not the false ones. False apostles and prophets build on a different foundation than Jesus.

Jesus is building His house and He uses His leaders of apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists and pastors to help shape and polish the stones. Each stone placed in the house is to be polished and placed in their correct position of the house. The house is not a local 'church'. Each stone is not a Sunday school teacher, a janitor, an usher, an elder, or whatever.



The house that Jesus is building is His Ekklesia, His people, the one new man where He is the head and we are the body. It is the place where He lives. We, as one, move forward in advancing the Kingdom of God in the earth and discipling the nations. Each stone is mature and understands their purpose for being and are marching forward in unity and peace as the Lord directs.

Now, let's go back to the I Corinthians passage mentioned earlier. Paul indicates that there are going to be those who are not going to build correctly. They are going to try to lay stones made of wood, hay and straw. But there comes a day when the chaff is separated from the wheat. It will be a day of fire, where the fire burns up all the wood, hay and stubble, but purifies the gold, silver and precious stones.

That day is upon us. The fire is coming. The true apostles and prophets play a tremendous role in this process. Paul said he had been given a special divine grace from God as a master builder. He was an architect. He understood what God was building. Apostles see and hear what Holy Spirit chooses to reveal to and through them by the level of grace they have been given. They are architects who see something that doesn't exist yet and they put together blueprints so others can see what they see. They are like Abraham who saw a city not built by human hands. Somehow, they have to get others to see what they see. It is not about building churches, it is about building people who can advance the Kingdom of God in their neighborhoods, their cities, their states or provinces, their countries.

In most "churches" the pastor has a vision of something they want to see built. Most will tell you it is not easy to get a congregation to see the vision they have. Often times the vision that the pastor has is not the vision God has. We are not called to build our own kingdoms; we are called to see what Jesus is building or establishing and find out what He wants us to do. That happens through apostles and prophets who see what Jesus is doing.

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be strengthened.
Romans 1:11 (MEV)

The word used for gift in this verse is the Greek word "charisma". It is actually better translated as grace, favor that is not earned, strength. The usage of the word "gift" can give a wrong connotation. We think of a gift as something, someone gives to us. Once we have the gift, it is ours and we can do whatever we want with it. That is not what Paul is saying. He is not giving them something that they can use any way they want. IT IS NOT A GIFT.

This word charisma is also the word used when discussing spiritual gifts in Ephesians. We are going to have to re-evaluate our teaching on spiritual gifts, but that is for another time. The gift that we get when we are saved is the gift of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in us.

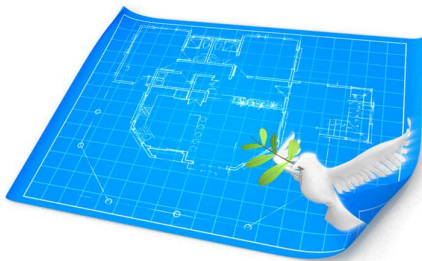
The Holy Spirit dwells in us and communicates with our human spirit. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of fire. He will set our spirits on fire, if we will let Him. That fire produces many things, like what is listed as gifts in I Corinthians chapter 12. Those spiritual charisma anointings are aspects of the Holy Spirit operating in us through the fire in our spirit.



Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God, which is in you by the laying on of my hands.
II Timothy 1:6 (MEV)

The word for gift in this verse again is “charisma” meaning grace, favor, anointing, strength. The word for stir up means left over embers. I believe Paul is reminding Timothy that Timothy has the Holy Spirit within him. The Holy Spirit was represented in the Old Testament by oil, which represented anointing. Paul, as an apostle, had a special apostolic grace and when he laid hands on Timothy, he imparted an apostolic grace or anointing to Timothy.

Apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists and pastors are given to the Ekklesia by Jesus. A person cannot become one of these leaders by the laying on of hands. However, apostles can impart an apostolic anointing, as other leaders can impart their particular grace or anointing through the laying on of hands. That is why we are cautioned to not let just anyone lay hands on us.



Leadership is tasked by Jesus with building up and maturing the saints, and that requires an anointing from each type of leader. Apostles and prophets see things that others cannot see. Apostles are tasked with making the blueprints so others can see. But, without the apostolic and prophetic anointing, one cannot truly understand what they see.

True apostles and prophets are desperately needed today to impart to us the vision of what God is doing in this hour of history. That is why Paul says they are important to the foundation of the Ekklesia that Jesus is building. Those who are to become a part of the building as polished stones of gold, silver, and precious stone, must see clearly what is being built.

Paul, in the Romans passage we quoted earlier, told the Romans he longed to come to them so that he could impart to them “charisma” or grace or anointing. He could only impart what he already had. Paul wanted to impart to the Roman believers the apostolic grace he had in him to see the Ekklesia the Lord was building in his day.

Not only would believers see what the apostles and prophets revealed through the grace that was upon them, there would be a fire in the believers to join with them to build as the Lord directed. This anointing and grace imparted to the believers would give them strength to cooperate with the Lord in what was being built. Without this process, we cannot build, we cannot advance the Kingdom of God in the earth. That is how important it is to stir up the grace, the anointing in you.

Paul is reminding Timothy to always keep in front of him the vision of what God is building. He can only do that by fanning the flame in his spirit. How do we fan the flame? We allow the true and holy fire of the Holy Spirit, who resides in us, to reignite the fire in our spirit. Whatever grace or anointing God has placed in us, needs to be stirred up into a raging fire so it will burn up any wood hay and stubble in our life and in our work to advance the Kingdom of God. Only then can we clearly see and understand what Jesus is building as well as the process.

Let us continually fan the flame. Let us always have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit of the Living God is doing in the earth today. We need to be able to see (eyes) and understand (hear) what it is we are seeing. We need an apostolic and prophetic grace upon our lives. May God continue to enlighten us and move us forward. May His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Amen! More on apostolic grace to come.

