

Source of Glory

Matthew 16:17 (The Message)

17-18 Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

Many read this scripture and the view is that Christ will build the Church and therefore they sit back, relax, never get involved and wait for Jesus to do it all! This is not what Jesus meant. As individual Christians, we make up the Body of Christ, or the Church. Our duty is to fast and pray, read the Word, speak the Word, preach the Gospel and do the works of Jesus Christ on earth.

The Church is built when Spirit-filled, Spirit-led people stand in their position of authority and take command of their territory. Like a well trained army, they march side by side in unity and agreement behind the leader God has designated to them. They all have one common goal, to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

Jesus' mandate to the Church is carried out by the agency of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God working in every area of the Church through willing vessels.

Ephesians 5:26-28 (New King James Version) *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

We often focus on the "glorious" church but not on the rest of the verse. We all look for the glory, we all want the glory! How does the glory manifest?

It starts with the last part of the verse "But that she should be holy and without blemish". We recently had a discussion on the whole issue of Cropover and attending secular concerts etc. When we engage in such things, are we being "holy and without blemish?"

When you engage in any activity ask yourself "If the trumpet for the Rapture of the Church were sounded right now are you in the flow of the anointing?" "Is your lamp filled with oil?" "Are you looking for Jesus?"

How can you be doing so and still be enjoying the camp of the enemy?

It is different if you are engaged in preaching the Gospel in such environments under God's direction and protection, but if you are there to partake in a little bit of the world, you had better repent!

God is looking for His Church to become holy in order that His glory can be displayed through us, the individual members.

The five-fold ministry has a very important role to play in the Church becoming the holy, unblemished body that Jesus wants. To fulfill this mandate, the ministers must ensure that the word they preach and teach is the pure Word of God. The Word is the Word. It cannot be seeker friendly or catering to the emotions. Yes, administered under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, the Word of God will pierce, cut and heal mental, emotional and physical hurts. Therefore, a minister must not compromise, but be led by the Holy Spirit, and deliver God's message the way He wants it delivered, when He wants it delivered!

1 Peter 5:1-4 (Amplified)

I WARN and counsel the elders among you (the pastors and spiritual guides of the church) as a fellow elder and as an eyewitness [called to testify] of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a sharer in the glory (the honor and splendor) that is to be revealed (disclosed, unfolded): 2Tend (nurture, guard, guide, and fold) the flock of God that is [your responsibility], not by coercion or constraint, but willingly; not dishonorably motivated by the advantages and profits [belonging to the office], but eagerly and cheerfully; 3Not domineering [as arrogant, dictatorial, and overbearing persons] over those in your charge,

but being examples (patterns and models of Christian living) to the flock (the congregation). 4And [then] when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will win the conqueror's crown of glory.

This passage tells us that the minister has an awesome responsibility to go through rigorous spiritual self-examination to ensure they are where God wants them to be. The only way we can effectively tend God's flock and be examples is with the help of the Holy Spirit! This is why praying in tongues is a vital part of a minister's life! That is the only way we can pray the will of God over those He has commended to our care! The prayer closet is the place we get the revelation and wisdom to guide the flock He has given us - the music, the word, even the practical aspects of ministry. God is interested in the finer details!

Unfortunately, many ministers get so caught up in ministry they reduce the time spent in being ministered to by the Holy Ghost! This is where the Church has failed. There is a lack of revelation of the word through the failing of the five-fold ministry, ministers go off-track. They are sidetracked mainly by the revenues they start to receive as the ministry grows. Pride becomes an issue and ministry becomes more of them and less of God!

Instead of the word revealed from heaven, they produce motivational speeches or canned sermons from the internet.

In the book of Acts, on fire with the power of the Holy Ghost, Peter, who had denied Jesus and ran back to fishing, preached the first sermon of the newly born Church; 3,000 people came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and were baptized.

The glory of the Church is received in the prayer closet and released from within to touch and change the lives of others, to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth!