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Gained Authority – The Government of God

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An Apostolic School of Ministry



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Holy Spirit is the inspiration for the content of this book, however someone put words to it. This book was written by Nancy Hadley, Grant Hill, and Kevin McSpadden.

This book is one of a series of books written and distributed by The Apostolic School of Ministry from The Garden Training Center, Inc. The series arises from the foundational teachings of the school of ministry, founded by Brandy Helton. Brandy wrote several sections that are included in each book such as “God’s Love” and the prayers included at the end of each book.

Many thanks to the team of writers of the series for their collaboration to make the series available to the public. The writers are: Lauren Caldwell, Jessica Doggett, Danetta Ferguson, Debra Gray, Elisa Griffith, Nancy Hadley, Robin Harmon, Brandy Helton, Grant Hill, Kevin McSpadden, and Paula Pelzel. Each have sought Holy Spirit for the words He wants to speak through them. The result is a mixture of personalities and communication strategies that convey the total message in a beautiful, diverse way.

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Encouragement and Prayer for the Reader

Beloved of God, these teachings are written to reveal Jesus Christ and His heart of love for all who call upon His name to save them.

God has sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save all who would believe in Him and His Word.

God desires to reveal Himself and to give us His divine nature in Christ Jesus our Lord through the power of His Holy Spirit.

God is Jealous. He wants us to encounter His presence daily and walk with Him in glory – intimate communion - today, while it is called today, and forever.

It is my prayer that this teaching would so impact the readers that all would come to know and believe JESUS, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Great God and Savior, and receive the PERFECT LOVE He has for us all as we grow up into Him and mature as true sons and daughters of God.

May you grow in faith and knowledge of your God and Savior and come to know the love that He has for you. I pray for you the Apostle Paul's prayer for spiritual growth:

Ephesians 3:14-21 The Living Bible (TLB)

"14-15 When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— 16 that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. 17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; 18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

20 Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. 21 May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ."

In Christ our Lord,
Brandy Helton
A child of God

God's Love

God's love is good news! Don't believe the lie that God is distant, unapproachable, and angry!

God is love. He is the only true, eternal God. He is perfect and holy, and He is truth. God is One. He has revealed Himself in three distinct, individual, equal persons: God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells the story of God's perfect love. In that love, God created the first family to live on the earth with Him. Through their deep intimate relationship with the Father, Adam and Eve were meant to fulfill all that was in God's heart on Earth just like it is in Heaven, for God's glory and purposes. Adam and Eve were chosen to walk with God, clothed in His glory presence and were perfect, as He is perfect, and they lived in His beautiful garden, the secret place called Eden. He gave them His breath, life and power to have dominion over all He created and wanted them to reproduce that LIFE replenishing the earth with it, until all the earth is filled with His glory.

Genesis 1:26-28

"26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our

image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

God created His children in His likeness. He made them spirit beings, with a soul – mind, will and emotions – and placed them in a physical body. He gave His children the choice to love Him and to walk with Him in obedience to His every word. He gave the first family the power to overcome any temptation offered to them through God’s adversary, the devil, who had rebelled against the Most High God in Heaven’s glory and was cast down to the earth. The devil, Satan, brought great darkness and chaos prior to Adam and Eve’s existence.

Adam and Eve were deceived into thinking that God was not perfect in love as Satan, the adversary, tempted them to believe that God would not keep His Word to them. Through their own will, Adam and Eve disobeyed the Father by eating from a tree that had the power to open their eyes to both good and evil. Through their choice of disobedience, they willfully gave their inheritance and authority over to the devil and his kingdom. Sin entered mankind, which produced death, eternal separation from a Holy God. Adam and Eve were banished from the dwelling and intima-

cy of perfection in the garden and were sent into the world as a fallen creation.

Father God knew He had to come Himself and save His family, and in His wisdom, He chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us and restore fallen mankind back to relationship with Him. Through His Son, He destroyed all the works of the devil and the curse of death. Hebrews 9:22 says, *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”* Remission means to cancel the penalty, so according to the law there must be shedding of blood to cancel the penalty for sin. The Father cancelled the penalty for the sins of His children through the shedding of the blood of His innocent, holy Son Jesus, who was the Sent One, called and chosen to die for all, so all could live.

John 3:16-21

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may

be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Jesus was conceived by God’s Holy Spirit in the womb of a young virgin named Mary. He appeared as the second Adam, in the flesh, with the choice to walk in perfect love and obedience, full of God’s Spirit, as a man to do the will of His Father.

Jesus grew up as any male child did in the flesh but He had divine fellowship with His Father and Holy Spirit. At the appointed time, He was revealed as being sent from God to save. Jesus went around doing good and healed all who were oppressed by the devil spiritually and physically. He revealed His Father’s heart and perfect love to all who believed through His teachings, grace and miraculous power.

Salvation means eternal life, healing, deliverance, protection, peace, wholeness, and forgiveness. Salvation came to all men through the cross, where the Son of God, the perfect One, was slaughtered as a lamb, bearing all sin for all times from a fallen people. Jesus bore the wrath of God against the darkness that separated God’s family from Him. Jesus was punished for our sin and died to cleanse us from the guilt, shame and condemnation sin produces. Sin separates. Love restores.

Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, spending three days and nights in the depths of Hades, the realm of the dead fallen race. Jesus took back the keys of death and hell from that old serpent the devil, Satan, and therefore, all authority was restored back to Jesus.

Great Holy Spirit breathed LIFE into Jesus and raised Him from the dead. He appeared to His disciples, those who followed Him and obeyed His teachings. He showed them that He conquered sin, death and the grave and now, had the keys of hell and death, and would give ETERNAL LIFE to ALL who chose to believe in Him. King Jesus ascended back to the Father of glory where He ever lives to make intercession for us all, and He is coming again to the earth in power to establish His Father's Kingdom on Earth.

Jesus Christ is the head and Lord over His church, those who have made Him Lord and Savior, by believing He is the Son of the Living God and God in the flesh, who finished the work the Father gave Him to do. He not only died for our sins to save and heal us, He chose to give His authority to those He called and chose to follow Him as His disciples, His family.

Jesus has commissioned His followers to do the same works that He did while He lived on the earth.

John 14:12-14

“12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

God loves us and desires that none should perish. He desires for His family to be with Him where He

is. These books are written to inspire all who read them and to reveal the heart of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit in order that we might RECEIVE THE LOVE HE HAS FOR US and be CHANGED INTO HIS VERY LIKENESS. God desires to dwell with His family forever and ever just as He did in the beginning. How glorious it is to live in His presence and dominion, beholding His goodness, forever and ever, amen.

The book of Revelation describes the time that is coming when all things are made new according to God's heart of love:

Revelation 21:1-7

"1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' 6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be

My son.”

To understand what is presented in the Bible, you must start by understanding God’s love. The good news is that God loves you!

The Heart of It

Jesus Christ was sent by God, the Father, to redeem mankind through His blood and bring total salvation, to all who believed in His name. He accepted the heavenly vision, or commission from His Father, to save the world, through His death on the cross where He became a sacrifice for our sins. He sealed it all by the power of the Holy Spirit when the Spirit raised Him from the dead, thus defeating death, once and for all. Jesus became the first born of many sons/daughters into eternal life. God made covenant with His Son Jesus Christ to see the world restored to His family; all those who believed in the Son, would enter that covenant by the blood of Jesus. God's Word is His covenant promise to us. The salvation He offers is eternal life, prosperity, nothing missing nothing broken, shalom peace, deliverance, protection, and healing.

Jesus gained the authority of heaven for every believer through His obedience, death, and resurrection. He was fully submerged, baptized, smeared with, and anointed with the Holy Spirit. He was fully surrendered to the fullness of Holy Spirit, and the government of God was established on earth as Jesus was in complete submission to His Father.

Jesus Christ is the anointed One. He is anointed to destroy the works of the devil, and bring God's kingdom, the government of God to the earth! The Holy Spirit within Him, the power of God, destroys all yokes and removes all burdens.

Jesus taught us to pray in *Matthew 6:7*, "*Your Kingdom come, and your will be done on earth just as it is in heaven*", fulfilling the original mandate of the blessing found in *Genesis 1:26-28*, "26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Our acceptance of the Father's covenant promise brings His government to earth through the authority Jesus gained on the cross.

Gained Authority – The Government of God

Jesus the Anointed Messiah

The Lord Jesus Christ was sent from heaven to earth to bring God's Kingdom to earth. He was sent to reveal the Father, and in the power and anointing of Holy Spirit, He came to demonstrate the Kingdom. He carried a message of repentance for God's chosen people, Israel. Yet, His message was and still is a message for all mankind:

Matthew 4:17

“17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Luke 4:18-19

*“18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

Jesus was known for His compassion and love for people. He demonstrated the Kingdom in love and healed many. He forgave sins, and delivered people from demonic strongholds and possession. He performed mighty acts of power, and signs, miracles and wonders followed Him.

Acts 10:38

“38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

Jesus taught His disciples, those whom He called to follow Him, the Word of God and Kingdom principles.

Jesus is the Promised Son of God, the Messiah, the Christ! He came to establish God’s government on the earth. It was spoken of Him in Isaiah 9:6-7:

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.”

Acts 2:36

“36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Jesus established a ‘way’ for all to come to the

Father. He gave His own life for fallen mankind to be saved.

John 3:16-17

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

John 14:6

“6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Jesus lead in the fullness of Holy Spirit by demonstrating in power and authority His Father’s good will and plans! Jesus was water baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. As He came up out of the waters, He was baptized in Holy Spirit and the Father spoke from heaven over His Son!

Matthew 3:16-17

“16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Jesus was the One of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke in whom the fullness of Holy Spirit would ‘rest upon’.

Isaiah 11:1-2

“1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom an understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

Jesus reproduced Himself by equipping and teaching those he called. He demonstrated the Kingdom of God by being submitted and obedient to His Heavenly Father.

John 5:19-20

“19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

The followers of Jesus were commissioned by Him to fulfill His mission and to establish God’s government on the earth. After His crucifixion and resurrection, He charged them to continue His work by making disciples and by carrying on the mandate to save, heal and deliver in His name.

Matthew 28:18-20

“18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am

*with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Amen.”*

Jesus gave gifts to those whom He called to carry the anointings, giftings, and power He had through Holy Spirit to build His church and to establish His Kingdom in the hearts of those who love Him.

Mark 16:15-18

“15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

What a promise of power and anointing was given for those Jesus called to Himself!

You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God

One time when Jesus and His disciples were together, He asked them who the people believed He was. He also asked those whom He had chosen who they believed He was.

Matthew 16:13-17

“13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the

prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

The Jewish nation, Israel, had been longing and waiting for the promised Messiah to come. They desired for Him to be King, and to save them from wicked, corrupt rulers, of gentile nations who had enslaved them, and who did not believe in the One True God, Jehovah.

The first mention in Scripture of the name, ‘Messiah’, is recorded in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 9:25

*“25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until **Messiah the Prince**, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”*

The name, Messiah, in Hebrew means ‘*anointed, anointed one*’ ‘set apart’ by Holy Spirit’ to accomplish God’s will on earth. The Greek word for Messiah is Christ. Therefore, in the New Testament, we read ‘the Christ’ in the passages of Scriptures. This word represents the Anointed One and His Anointing. Jesus was the chosen one, anointed of God, to accomplish the Father’s will, to destroy the yoke of sin over His people.

Isaiah 10:27

“27 It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.”

The chosen disciples of Jesus Christ believed He would restore the entire nation of Israel to God’s eternal purpose on earth. What they didn’t know was that Jesus, the Messiah, would save them from their sin and the effects of it on the earth.

Isaiah 61:1-3 describes the Messiah and His mandate.

“1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

After the Lord Jesus ascended back to heaven, He told His disciples to ‘wait’ for the Promise of the Father, so they could receive the power of Holy Spirit to accomplish His will.

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea

and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Holy Spirit was poured out upon them as recorded in Acts chapter 2.

Acts 2:1-4

“1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Peter had the opportunity to preach to the people after the infilling of Holy Spirit, and began his message with these words:

Acts 2:22-28

“22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover, my flesh also will rest in

hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.”

He called the people to repent and be saved, and they believed!

Acts 2:38-39

“38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Peter, the one who told Jesus, He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, was now leading in this movement, as he preached the first magnificent ‘sermon’ to those in Israel. Jesus began to ‘build His church’ through Peter as 3,000 souls were saved.

Acts 2:40-41

“40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

People who had been born again by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, His finished work on the cross, and resurrection, began to gather and submit themselves to the apostles whom Jesus had

chosen.

Acts 2:42-47

“42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

The church began. The church would be a walking, talking, living, breathing bride of Christ. The believers were true representatives of the Kingdom of God!

The Church

The church began to gather in Christ Jesus, and God the Father began the supernatural work of uniting the people in love and as a family. As the scripture says, they continued steadfastly in:

- The apostle’s doctrine (teachings)
- Fellowship
- In the breaking of bread
- In prayers

As a result, the fear of the Lord rested upon the newborn church and the Lord confirmed His

word as He promised, with signs, miracles, and wonders following. The Spirit of God was at work in the hearts of the families, as they gave of their own sustenance to others in need. They met from ‘house to house’ in fellowship and prayers! I am sure they discussed the teachings and encouraged each other as the Lord led them. They considered others as more important than themselves. God blessed them, and they glorified God as He just kept ‘adding’ to the church daily, those who were being saved!

Jesus was working with and through the apostles as they continued in the mandate He had given them. One example is given in Acts 3, as Peter and John went to pray in the temple, and they encountered a blind man who often begged for alms at the gate of the temple. The Spirit of God within them emboldened them to witness to this man about Jesus.

Acts 3:4-9

“4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.”

Peter took advantage of this opportunity to preach

to those who were running to see the lame man walk!

Acts 3:11-12

“11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon’s, greatly amazed. 12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”

Peter gave all glory to Jesus for this miracle! He continued to speak of the testimony of Jesus, proclaiming Him to be the Messiah!

Acts 3:16-18

“16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. 17 “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”

Peter led the people into salvation by calling them to repentance from their sins!

Acts 3:19-21

“19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom

heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

The entire book of Acts records the history of the early church. They moved in power and grew in kingdom authority. They were filled with boldness to testify of Jesus. Holy Spirit was within them, and was leading them into all truth, as they followed the WAY of the Lord. Persecutions also followed them, against the Gospel of the Kingdom, as Jesus had told them. Yet, God was with them, and more souls were added to the church!

Acts 4:1-4

“1 Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.”

Jesus told them when they were persecuted for His name’s sake, not to worry about what they would say or how they would handle those circumstances. He promised them, the Spirit of the Father would fill their mouths. Surely, He did, and others noticed their GAINED AUTHORITY.

Acts 4:8-13

“8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Isra-

el: 9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."

Jesus prepared them, and Holy Ghost led them in victory!

Matthew 10:16-20

"16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore; be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

God began literally multiplying those who were being saved, healed and delivered.

Acts 5:14

“14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.”

Acts 6:7

“7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

Jesus told His disciples that He would build His church on the Rock. This rock was not just about the literal area or ground they were on at the time, but He spoke of Himself, the Rock of our Salvation. He is the foundation of the church.

Matthew 16:18-20

“18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.”

II Samuel 22:47

“47 The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let

God be exalted, the Rock of my salvation!”

Matthew 7:24-25

“24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

What a promise He made! What a Savior He is!

Ekklesia

Jesus proclaimed that all authority had been given to Him in heaven and on earth, and He commissioned His church to take the Gospel into all the world, beginning in Jerusalem. The word Jesus used for church is *ekklesia*.

The following information on the Ekklesia was taken from Apostle Tim Sheets teaching. This commentary (italicized below) is taken from: <https://anewthingministries.com/weekend-reflection-74/>

“I want to thank Apostle Sheets for his teaching, and I will state up front that all my notes are coming from his sermon that day.

“He started off by reading Matthew 16:13-20 – Peter’s confession of Christ as the Messiah. Jesus went on to say that upon this revelation He would build his “CHURCH” and the gates of hell would not prevail or stop it. He goes on to say that whatever His “CHURCH” bound on earth would be bound in heaven and whatever is loosed the same. The word “church” there is

the Greek word EKKLESIA. Why is this so important?”

“Jesus, being the most brilliant human who has ever lived, obviously, did not throw words around on a whim. When He said ekklesia, that is exactly what He meant. Here is the definition of the word ekklesia according to Strongs” –

EKKLESIA – (Strong’s concordance) the popular assembly of the confident full citizens of a city. It met at regular intervals but could be called quickly in cases of emergency.

EKKLESIA – Liddell and Scott Greek Lexicon – an assembly of citizens to legislative assembly.

EKKLESIA – Thayer’s Lexicon – Assembly of people convened at the public place of council (Aeropagus) for the purpose of deliberating. It is the lawful assembly of those who possess the rights of citizenship for the transaction of public affairs.

The Aeropagus, the earliest council of ancient Greece would often meet in the city square to debate policies however, they were responsible for investigating corruption, BUT, the power remained with the Ekklesia.

Responsibilities of the Ekklesia included:

- A. Decisions on suggested laws and final decisions on all new law.*
- B. Appointments to official positions.*
- C. Both internal and external policies in re-*

gions including contracts, treaties, and financial matters.

D. Rule on acts of treason.

E. Summon an army for war.

F. Rule on societal and cultural matters for its geographic location or territory.

G. Choose by upraised hand (voting) who would sit at the Aeropagus – the high court comparable to the Supreme Court.”

“The Ekklesia is: a governing, ruling body responsible to hold natural government, culture, societal standards, judges and political leaders accountable to God and His word. It is a governing, ruling body established by King Jesus to look after His kingdom on earth and to disciple it.

Let’s look at Christ’s definition of Ekklesia:

A. To represent Him and His kingdom on the earth.

B. To affect public policies.

C. To judge corruption.

D. To pass and enforce legislation that aligns with God’s laws.

E. To shape culture by working to promote God’s standards.

F. To speak against idolatry.

G. To speak against vain philosophies.

H. To speak against judges that legislate unrighteous and anti-biblical laws.

I. To speak for and work to see standardized societal codes of conduct that align with God’s

word.” End of commentary.”

Jesus gave His designated, governing, ruling body the ‘keys of the kingdom of heaven’! These keys were the power and authority to bind and forbid what was NOT legal or permitted in heaven, and to loose, or allow, what IS LEGAL, and considered righteous, just, and true in heaven.

Jesus knew Satan and all his evil kingdom, would oppose the church, but He assured the church, that nothing could withstand it! His righteousness would prevail through His church.

Psalm 45:6

“6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

II Corinthians 5:21 KJV

“21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

It’s obvious, that the Lord knew the Gospel of the Kingdom would affect every sphere of influence His disciples, and families had. These are often referred to the seven mountains of society. This includes, (1) the church (2) education (3) government (4) business (5) law (6) arts and (7) media.

Jesus said to His followers:

Matthew 5:13-16

“13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and

trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The church, the *Ekkesia* of God, has been given authority from Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to be witnesses and light in representing the Kingdom of God within these areas of influence. The saints are now heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, and in His name, the church carries the anointing of Jesus as His ambassadors into the world to accomplish His mandate.

Romans 8:17

“And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

II Corinthians 5:18-20

“18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Apostle Tim Sheets explains in his book, *Angel Armies on Assignment*, what Holy Spirit told him as he inquired of the Lord concerning His church.

“Tell My Ekklesia to raise the bar and I’ll raise the anointing. Raise the bar and I’ll pour out a fresh, new Pentecost greater than Acts 2.” P. 7

“I knew Holy Spirit was calling out to the true Ekklesia, the reigning church of spiritual governing authority in Jesus’ Name, to raise the standard, to raise our faith and take genuine New Testament living to another level, to engage in prayer using spiritual weapons of warfare that are not natural – they are mighty in God to the destruction of anti-Christ strongholds.” P. 8

“The Ekklesia is a spiritual legislating body ruling and reigning with Him in His Name. The remnant warriors in Christ’s spiritual Kingdom are here to affect the natural kingdoms of the earth, regulating cultures, societies, laws, and discipling nations.” P. 8

“Holy Spirit has brought us to a fullness of time. He is summing it up in our times as described in Ephesians 1. Under Holy Spirit supervision they will multiply in production, energy, and power. Operation, actions, strength, and function are going to multiply. Far more than ever has been done in church history will be done in our times.” P. 8

“The greatest days in church history are not in your past; they are in your present and your future!” P. 9

Jesus promised His disciples that Holy Spirit would lead them into all truth and He would em-

power them to accomplish the works to which He has called them. The church is called to do the same works of Jesus and greater works.

John 14:12-14

“12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

John 14:17

“17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 16:13-14

“13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

Jesus gave special gifts to the church that He possessed and demonstrated, which would empower those He chose to accomplish His work on the earth to bring the Kingdom as He did. He operated in the fullness of all of those gifts as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher.

Jesus – The Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher

Jesus has provided everything His church needs in order to carry the mandate to manifest His Father's will for mankind. Jesus was anointed, set apart and empowered, as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher! Through these 5 functions or offices, known as 5-fold offices of ministry, He ministered to establish the government of God.

Let's define these titles.

Apostle: "a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders." The KJV translates Strong's Bible Concordance, G652.

Prophet: "spokesman, speaker, inspired." The KJV translates Strong's Bible Concordance, H5030.

Evangelist: "a bringer of good tidings." The KJV translates Strong's Bible Concordance, G2099

Pastor: "to shepherd of ruler, teacher of people as flock; shepherd, herdsman." The KJV translates Strong's Bible Concordance, H7452

Teacher: "to discern, understand, consider; to perceive, discern, to understand, know (with the mind); to observe, mark, give heed to, distinguish, consider; intelligent, discreet, to cause to understand, give understanding, teach, instruct." The KJV translates Strong's Bible Concordance, H995

Jesus Christ was **sent** from heaven to save and to lead others to His Father. He **spoke** what He

heard the Father say. He **brought good news**, the Gospel of the Kingdom. He proclaimed that He was the **Good Shepherd**. He **taught** the Words of God to all who came to Him. He is the ROCK of our salvation, and He literally laid the foundation for the church, God's own household, to operate in, with and through it. He fulfilled every word the prophets spoke of the coming Messiah.

Ephesians 2:19-22

“19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

Jesus gave gifts to His saints, from the office's He held, as recorded in Ephesians 4.

Ephesians 4:11-13

“11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

The whole purpose of these 5-fold ministry offices, is to train and equip His church, His ekklesia, to do the work of the Kingdom on earth as He

did. The goal is to bring the saints into the fullness of His work, and to perfect what concerns His church and her destiny in Christ Jesus. Jesus wants His church to mature, or ‘grow up’, as one, in Him.

Ephesians 4:14-16

“14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

These anointings of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher, were to be distributed to believers as the Lord chose in order to establish God’s government on earth. This government was upon His shoulder, His Body, according to *Isaiah 9:6-7*.

“6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

These gifts from Jesus flow from Him through

Holy Spirit, through His appointed leaders into His body, the church. As the saints of God surrender to Holy Spirit, as ONE, each fulfilling the heavenly vision given to them by Jesus, His power and anointing will flow into His church in fullness.

I Corinthians 12:28

“28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations and varieties of tongues.”

God will draw believers to partner with, or covenant with the heavenly vision given to the 5-fold ministers, and by connecting them together in relationship, the anointing will flow into them as it is on the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher.

God will bring those that He has called to covenant or partner with the apostles and prophets as the foundation is laid through the mandate of heaven, and God will bring the living stones to build upon the foundation that is laid, which is CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF.

I Peter 2:4-6

“4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

Dr. Bill Hamon brings great understanding to the 5-fold leadership gifts from Jesus in His book, *The Day of the Saints*.

“Jesus is very serious about His saints being supernaturally equipped and matured to the level of Christ’s ministry and maturity.” *The Day of the Saints*, Dr. Bill Hamon, p. 201.

“Leaders serving those under them: The five-fold ministers are the drill sergeants and officers of the army of the Lord to train the saints to be warriors and then lead them in the battle to victory. They are like fathers and mothers and older family members who raise up the younger generation. These godly relationships provide nurturing, discipline, instruction, and a place of belonging and identity.” *Day of the Saints*, Dr. Bill Hamon, p. 182

Apostles

“Apostles specialize in supernatural signs and wonders. They give building strategy and lay foundations, along with the prophet, in the lives of people and the local church. The prophet receives the blueprint for the building of the church, but the apostle is the master builder. Biblical examples of apostles’ ministry to the saints reveal that they help found and ground the saints in foundations of the faith and present truth. Apostles’ miraculous signs and wonders enable saints to be delivered from evil spirits, disease, and strongholds in their lives. Some apostles not only demonstrate the supernatural but are able to acti-

vate the saints in their power gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Apostles are often sent to establish new works and then to support those works. Apostle Paul founded many of the local churches in the New Testament. Apostles in the marketplace may be those who launch a business or who form a network to accomplish certain purposes. As initiators and those who help provide structure and leadership, apostles make a place for the saints. They provide platform where others can serve God through their unique giftings. The apostles have the special ability to be master builders of the saints and their calling and ministry. Apostles will be key in helping transform saints from pew-sitters to active participants in the day of the saints.” *Day of the Saints*, Dr. Bill Hamon p. 183-184

II Corinthians 12:11-12

“11 I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. 12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”

Acts 8:14-17

“14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon

none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Prophets

“The prophets help bring vision, spiritual insight, revelations, impartation, and activation of the saints’ supernatural gifts and calling. They do this best with their prophesying and revelation knowledge. All fivefold ministers are to minister the Logos Word to the saints, but the prophets have a special ability to minister a Rhema word that personally enlightens and activates faith in the saints. Prophets help bring God’s direction and vision to the Church at large, to local churches, to business, cities, and nations, as well as to individual saints. Some prophets use their gifts of discernment to bring warnings about the plans of the enemy or of potential pitfalls to be avoided. The value of hearing their revelation from God is beyond measure.”

“God created mankind to need vision. When God’s word is declared over a matter, it puts a creative force into being to help accomplish His will in that situation. When combined with faith and spiritual warfare, this allows divine purposes to come into being that could have never occurred in the natural realm alone. Prophets are part of Christ’s gift of Himself to His saints for direction and vision and to equip them to hear God for themselves.” *Day of the Saints*, Dr. Bill Hamon, p. 184

Acts 13:1-3

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.”

Acts 11:27-30

“27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”

Amos 3:7

“7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”

Evangelists

“Evangelists have a special anointing to stir up the zeal of the Lord in the saints. They have an anointing and passion for winning the lost and making them active members of the Body

of Christ and saints of the Most High God. As well as helping to gather the saints, evangelists help keep them focused outwardly on the need for bringing the Kingdom of God to the entire Earth. Without their enthusiasm for tearing down the works of darkness and building up the Kingdom of God, churches would be in danger of becoming, 'bless me clubs' that are so inwardly focused they become stagnant. Evangelists impart to the saints the need to take the blessing we have received and use it to be a blessing to others, including those who are not yet a part of the Church. Their ability to train others in soul winning is vital to growing the Church. Testifying to others about Jesus Christ strengthens our own faith." *Day of the Saints*, Dr. Bill Hamon, p. 185

Acts 8:4-8

"4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city."

Acts 21:8-9

"8 On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 Now this man had four virgin

daughters who prophesied.”

Pastors

“The word pastor is only used once in Ephesians 4:11. The word literally means shepherd. The word shepherd is used 14 times in the New Testament, and almost all of these refer to the ministry of Jesus Himself, as our great Shepherd. The pastor is like Jesus, to shepherd the flock of God. The person in the office of pastor is called to equip others to shepherd the flock. The pastoral office is primarily gifted to know and guard the needs of the sheep.”

“Those who lead the church are called elders in the New Testament. There are at least 62 references in the NKJ testament to elders. An elder refers to overseeing, these leadership ministries, including that of pastor, refer to overseers.”

“Those truly gifted as pastors have the ability to nurture, stabilize, grow, and mature the saints. They specialize in building character, faithfulness, and family relationship in the local church family.”

“Pastoral care exemplifies Christ Jesus’ acceptance and love for His saints. In large churches, many fivefold pastors may be functioning as cell group leaders. They provide close relationships and family connection for those under their care that senior ministers in mega churches cannot feasibly give to their entire congregation. Other fivefold pastors may be serving as counselors, youth or children’s

workers, or head of a specific ministry such as women's or men's fellowship, seniors' or singles' group. They strengthen and encourage those they touch. They demonstrate Christ's devotion to His church." *Day of the Saints*, Dr. Bill Hamon, p. 185-187

Acts 14:23 ESV

"23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

Titus 1:5

"5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—"

II John 1:1 ESV

"1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth,"

Teachers

"Teachers help prepare the saints in the milk and meat of the Word of God. A true teacher, who is an extension of Christ the Master Teacher, has the special ability to teach the truths of God with simplicity and revelation, enlightening and enabling the saints in the Word of God. A wise teacher brings out of his treasure both old, foundational truths and newly restored present truth."

"James 3:1 States that teachers will receive

stricter judgment. Therefore; it is important for them to know and rightly divide the Word of truth. *The Day of the Saints*, Dr. Bill Hamon, p. 187.

Acts 13:1

“1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”

II Timothy 1:11

“11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.”

It is important to note that God poured out His Holy Spirit upon all who were gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. His Holy Spirit and all of His gifts can rest upon both male and female.

Acts 1:13-14

“13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

Acts 2:1-4

“1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heav-

en, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Galatians 3:26-28

“26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Another way of looking at the basic function of the 5-fold ministry offices is:

- Apostles Govern
- Prophets Guide
- Evangelists Gather
- Pastors Guard
- Teachers Ground

The fivefold ministry can be likened unto a human hand. These ministries can represent the very hand of God. The thumb is the Apostle. The Apostle is first in order, and it is able to touch all other 4 offices. It brings wholeness and support to the entire hand. The forefinger is the Prophet, and it points the way and gives vision. The middle finger represents the Evangelist which extends the furthest in order to save souls. The ring finger represents the Pastor, who is married to flock, to shepherd and oversee the family. The little finger represents the Teacher, which keeps all rooted

and grounded in the truth of the Word of God and brings balance to the hand.

Heavenly Mandates and Commissions

God gives His ministers missions, special assignments, new ideas, and blueprints for building His Kingdom. God loves VISION. God loves to BUILD. God loves to ADVANCE His Kingdom. The Lord empowers the church to do His work and Holy Spirit leads all, completely submitted and working with Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the HEAD of the church, even as the husband is the head of the wife within their marriage. Jesus called the church HIS BRIDE.

Ephesians 5:22-32

*“22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also **Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.** 24 **Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ,** so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

*25 Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,** 26 **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.** 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourish-*

es and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

We read from the book of Revelation that there will be a joining together in ‘marriage’ of the Lamb of God and His Bride! She is being prepared to rule and reign with Him in the Kingdom to come!

Revelation 19:7-8

“7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

The Apostle Paul referred to the church he was discipling as one being prepared for King Jesus.

II Corinthians 11:2

“2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

Heavenly mandates and commissions are given to Jesus’ 5-fold ministers, and He knows who needs to join and serve with them to accomplish His Kingdom purposes. Jesus chose twelve disciples to follow Him. He chose them.

John 15:16

“16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

Ephesians 2:10

“10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Jesus appoints the overseers, His apostles, or senior pastors and leaders, to lead a movement, a church family, training centers, and different ministries. When other Christians choose to join the work of the ministry, they are literally aligning themselves to the mandate of that ministry and/or church congregation. Through the divine connections, the anointing of the mandate applies to every person or partner, which extends the impact on communities.

I Peter 5:1-4

“1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

Acts 20:28

“28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

In the unseen realm, the Lord appoints angelic hosts to also serve alongside the ministers and to serve and watch over the mandates from heaven.

Hebrews 1:13-14

“13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

Psalm 91:11

“11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.”

These angelic hosts protect His ministers and ministries, and they listen to the prayer declarations, the Word of God, and special decrees made through the leadership, and saints because they are commissioned from heaven to assist them in the work. They work with the church for the Kingdom of heaven to come.

Job 22:28

“28 You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways.”

Psalm 103:20-21

“20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. 21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,

you ministers of His, who do His pleasure.”

II Kings 6:16

“16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

Not all believers are called to the 5-fold offices. When believers connect with the 5-fold, they take that same anointing, of the mandate given to the minister out in the world in their areas of influence. We all become partakers of each other’s anointing. Seed sown, financially, into the soil of the 5-fold and the heavenly mission, will reap the same benefits and rewards as the ones called to take the great commission out to the world. The 5-fold partner up with other 5-fold as led by the Spirit and sow into each other’s calling and mission. This forms strong relationships, and creates new networks to bring the kingdom worldwide.

We are the body of Christ. Some are sowing, planting, building, reaping, gathering, giving, or helping administrate. But all work together for the fruitfulness of the ministry and the Lord’s harvest of souls!

I Corinthians 3:5-11

“5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers;

you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 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. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 12:27

"27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."

When believers in Christ submit one to another and come together for the work of the ministry, there is great strength and power available. The believers actually become stronger by walking in relationship and submission one to another.

Deuteronomy 32:30

"30 How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight,"

Amos 3:3

"3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

God the Father loves unity! He deeply desires for His children to walk as one in His Spirit and love. Holy Spirit truly rests upon the church as the believers surrender to His Lordship and allow Him to unite them according to His plan.

Psalms 110:3

"3 Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power."

Psalms 133

“1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing— life forevermore.”

It is vital for those called by God to remain faithful to the heavenly vision or mandate given to them by Jesus. The apostle Paul spoke of his devotion and commitment to His call.

Acts 26:12-20

“12 “While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who

are sanctified by faith in Me.’ 19 “Therefore, King Agrippa, **I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision**, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”

Jesus commissioned the apostle Paul with the mandate to go to the Gentiles, and everything he did in life was because of it. This is what he was born for! He had given up everything to follow Christ, and earnestly desired to press forward and onward to the high call of God!

Philippians 3:12-14

“12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

God called other believers to partner with Paul to fulfill his mandate by supporting him in prayer, financial support, and the work. We see Paul’s heart for these believers as recorded in *Philippians 1:3-7*.

“3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who

has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

Paul was so thankful for these believers who joined him in the ‘fellowship of the gospel’! He later thanked them for their care and blessings provided for him, especially while he had been imprisoned for the faith.

Philippians 4:10-13

“10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Paul always gave the Lord Jesus glory and acknowledged from where his strength came. He was convinced he could really do whatever he was called to do through the anointing given to Him through Christ.

Philippians 4:14-20

“14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church

shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Paul encouraged the believers that God would bless them, and they would be rewarded for their contributions and care for him. He knew God was taking care of him through those who partnered with him. Believers are not called to walk alone. We need each other and God provides through all! We are God’s family.

All believers in Jesus Christ can financially support those with whom Holy Spirit leads them to partner, in addition to supporting their local church body. Support can include prayer, money, food, clothing, supplies for their journey, or any other necessary resources or needs for the mission or outreach etc.

II Corinthians 9:7

“7 God loves a cheerful giver!”

Luke 6:38

“38 Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be mea-

sured to you in return.”

A Gathering Around Fathers

When the 5-fold is functioning according to the will of Jesus, ***the revelation of the Father’s heart for His children*** will accelerate through relationships, discipleship, and intentional training. Anyone can ‘teach’ but not all can ‘father’. Paul said it well in *I Corinthians 4:15*:

“15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”

Many in the church have not known this blessing. Church can just be a “Sunday” service, or a place you ‘should go because you know you should’ kind of place! The church is not an organization, but a living organism. The church is the family of God in Christ Jesus. All gather as ‘sons and daughters’ in Christ Jesus, not as orphans or those without fathers.

Denominationalism was never the Father’s heart for His children. The origin of the church begins with the words of Jesus.

Matthew 16:18

*“18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*

God never called us by any other names: Methodist, Baptist, Charismatic, Presbyterians, Lutherans, etc. etc. He planned for us to walk together

as His church as one.

Ephesians 4:1-6

“1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

Paul explained, through the inspiration of Holy Spirit, the Father’s heart towards those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 2:4-10

“4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ultimately, full restoration shall come between both Jews and Gentiles in Christ Jesus. Paul

called it the ‘one new man’.

Ephesians 2:11-18

“11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles [non Jewish] in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

What a promise for Israel!

Romans 11:25-27

“25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,

*And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
27 For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”*

God desires that none should perish. How the Father rejoices when souls are saved and restored to His heart!

Conclusion

Isn't it amazing how our loving Heavenly Father has chosen to save humanity? He has demonstrated PERFECT LOVE by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world, to manifest His Kingdom and glory and power! He could have stopped there, but rather chose to empower His chosen peoples to carry on the good news of the Kingdom to everyone on earth. God created His Ekkeisia to carry out His divine mission and mandate. The WISDOM of God is manifested through His church, in order to take the teachings of Jesus into the world where the saints of Jesus have dominion.

God is truly a God of order, and wisdom! Praise God for Holy Spirit Who was sent to be with the church, and dwell within every born again believer. Jesus promised He would never leave or abandon us. What a glorious hope and future to those who have received so great a salvation. What unity between His church - His bride, and Great Holy Spirit. One day, there will be a call, a shout, a unity as only heaven can bring:

Revelation 22:17

"17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.

And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Prayer for Salvation

If you have not made Jesus Christ your personal Lord and Savior, and you desire this with all your heart, then please, join me in prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I choose to believe with all my heart, Your love for me. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, the Son of God, and that He is God in the flesh. I believe that You sent Him to this earth to save me. Thank You. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and He was dead and buried three days, and then rose again from the dead and that He ascended to Heaven and is now seated at Your right hand and is returning again.

Father, please forgive me for all my sin and iniquity and I choose to forgive others who have sinned against me. I give You all my heart and choose to live with You forever. I believe I have been born again according to Your Word and that I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. I declare I am forgiven and healed! Now, I ask for Holy Spirit to fill me. Jesus, baptize me in Holy Spirit and fullness in order that I may know You intimately and serve You all my days.

Thank You, Lord, for loving me. Amen.”

Scriptures:

John 14:6

“6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Romans 10:8-13

“8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

John 3:3-8, 16-18

“3 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ 4 Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said

to you, “You must be born again.” 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.’”

II Corinthians 5:17

“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

I Corinthians 15:3-5

“3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

II Corinthians 5:21

“21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Colossians 1:13-14

“13 He has delivered us from the power of dark-

ness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 11:9-13

“9 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

I Timothy 3:16

“16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.”*

Fresh Infilling of Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

If you have been born again and filled with Holy Spirit and you desire MORE and want to encounter the Lord's presence afresh and anew, please join me in prayer:

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You for loving me and I ask according to Ephesians 1:17-19, that You would give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Jesus, and the eyes of my understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places. Amen.

Father, according to Colossians 3:9-12, I ask in Jesus name, that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I would walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Amen.

I surrender and yield my life to the fullness of Holy Spirit; His power and anointing; the spirit of wisdom and revelation; counsel and might; the spirit of the fear of the Lord and knowledge according to Isaiah 11:2, in Jesus' name. Amen."

The Garden Training Center, Inc. The Apostolic School of Ministry

The Garden Apostolic Training Center is a place that fosters spiritual growth. The center provides training to equip believers in Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry and to be victorious and free in all areas of their lives through the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit. For more information check out **thegardenstc.org**.

The Garden Gathering Church

The purpose of The Garden Gathering Church is to encourage believers in Jesus Christ: to fully embrace the love of God; to walk in freedom; to carry His presence and glory; and to be equipped and trained for the work of the ministry through worship, teachings, and impartation.

“It’s all about Love. When you see His eyes of Love for you, nothing else matters. That’s it. That’s all you need to know.”

-Brandy Helton

