

Building Great People

Where Do We Go from Here? Part 4

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Message Background

In a season of challenges, believers are confronted with the stark reality that they must decide who they will follow and ultimately worship. The process begins with a brutally honest assessment of their spiritual condition.

The Prophets of Baal Defeated

1Kings18:20-40 (NKJV)

²⁰ So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. ²³ Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, ^[a]"It is well spoken."

²⁵ Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare *it* first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god but put no fire *under it*."

²⁶ So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, ^[b]hear us!" But *there was* no voice; no one answered. Then they ^[c]leaped about the altar which they had made.

²⁷ And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry ^[d]aloud, for he *is* a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with ^[e]knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. ²⁹ And when midday was past, they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice. But *there was* no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down. ³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." ³² Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid *it* on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." ³⁴ Then he said, "Do *it* a second time," and they did *it* a second time; and he said, "Do *it* a third time," and they did *it* a third time. ³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶ And it came to pass, at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel and I *am* Your servant, and *that* I have done all these things at Your word. ³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back to You again."

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench. ³⁹ Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He *is* God! The LORD, He *is* God!"

⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Baal, the god worshipped in many ancient Middle Eastern communities especially among the Canaanites, was considered a fertility deity and one of the most important gods in the pantheon. As such, Baal designated the universal god of fertility, and in that capacity his title was Prince, Lord of the Earth.

Preach the Word

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NLT)

¹ I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ² Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

³ For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

⁵ But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

Main Points

- 1) Prophetic revelation – hearing from God
- 2) Invite God In – working with God
- 3) Get moving – walking with God
- 4) Authority - the keys of the Kingdom.

Thoughts

- Where do we go from here? So many are asking this question.
- The lockdown has come for a reason - God is trying to get our attention
- We must confess reality
- Acts 28 – unhindered, Paul preached in his own rented house
- Spiritual restoration
- We have been given the ministry of reconciliation
- In this next season we will have to make tough decisions.

Prophetic Revelation – Hearing from God

Prophetic revelation is the ability to both hear and to declare what God is saying and doing in the earth through His church. It is about hearing the Word of the Lord - the words that come from the mouth of God. It is an understanding and a discernment of how God is operating and what He desires to do.

John 17:8

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

- Jesus said, “What you have given me – I have given them”
 - What are we giving people?
 - We must hear from God
 - What we have received from God
 - We need prophetic revelation.

“We don’t see because we don’t hear” – Bishop Tony Miller

Invite God into Your Daily Life, Activity, Routine

Jesus instructed His followers to pray after this manner, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” This means that we give God permission to actively move within our daily lives and activities.

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- The will of God to be done
 - Ask God for His agenda, not yours
 - Go to bed and wake up with God on your mind
 - We can only enter the Kingdom if we do His will.
- Jesus said, “Come and follow me” – it is not complicated.
 - Jesus said this seven times as recorded in the New Testament
 - It is simple but profound
 - To follow Christ means to:
 - Learn from Him
 - Be like Him
 - Have His mindset
 - Do His work on the earth
 - Be fruitful.

MOVEMENT - We Need A Movement - We Are Already Living in Revival

Jesus began a movement 2000 years ago. It is based on faith in God and it is based on the life of God. It will not stop until all that God desires is accomplished. Activate your faith once again.

- Remember Lot’s wife
 - Lot’s wife became a monument because she refused to keep moving – she looked back and missed God, she aborted her future
- Cause a movement of prayer
 - Young people who pray
 - Men who keep covenant.

Luke 17:32-33

³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- Romans 5 - the love of God has been shed abroad in our lives/hearts
 - We need to use and express the love of God
 - The love of God is not just in our mind, we must experience it
 - For God so loved the world - we need to so love - love is an action, and it must be experienced.

2Corinthians 5:18

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

- We have been given the ministry of reconciliation.

Authority and Alignment

We focus so much on who is in power, but what about who is in authority?

As Christians we often focus on power, desiring that God intervene in our world with his “dunamis” strength. However, God wants us to know that we also require authority - spiritual authority in heavenly places that will impact the earth, and the world around us.

- Power is actually displaced because we have authority
- Jesus marvelled at the faith of the Centurion because he understood authority.

By **alignment** we mean that we are in the plumbline of God - that we are perfectly positioned. This means that our alliance is to God, His Word, and His principles. We cannot have divided alliances, either our allegiance is to God or it is not.

- Position of agreement
- Alliance
- That which is correct
- The idea that we are in agreement with the Word of God.
- Everything God wants to do on the planet has to flow through the church
 - Align, re-position – reformation for the church – they mess up the traditions
 - Tradition is the bottleneck
 - The wrap up (end of all things) is way too big for old wine skins - we require broader methods
 - What would we do if God poured out His Spirit on all flesh? How would we handle that?

Authority

Who is in control? Who do you see as in control?

All authority is given – Matthew 28

- Keys of the Kingdom – speaks of authority
- All believers can have authority in the Kingdom
 - Mothers and grandmothers set the spiritual climate – they have authority
 - God wants you to sit on your seat of authority
 - The church is the sleeping giant – it is time for the church to legislate - established to rule and reign
 - For every hellish gate, there is a corresponding key
 - Jesus gave us Keys of authority/Kingdom to combat the gates of hell.
 - Example - David put himself under authority – even of Saul’s authority
 - This was the key to his victory
 - “Saul, send me in/under authority but not with your armour”
 - David’s anointing came from God, his authority came from King Saul
 - The authority of the name of the Lord.
 - Authority trumps power when we operate in our authority
 - We step into what God has already done and prepared for us.
 - **Believe and live in God’s word OR live in a constant flux of highs and lows/ups and downs**
 - His Word is authoritative
 - The foundation of the Word is so important
 - God is the final authority and final word – God gets the last word
 - In His name there is authority.

Family Address

The Year of the Lord's Favor

Isaiah 61:1-4

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 ^[a]heal the broken hearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;
²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn, ³To ^[b]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.”
⁴And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the
ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.

The background of this verse is not that the children of Israel were confronted with devastation and the ruins of their city in their culture; but God prophesies through Isaiah that cities would be rebuilt and that the former desolations would be repaired. That from the ashes of destruction would come something beautiful; out of mourning and grief there would come a relief from heaviness.

- We are living in the dispensation of these verses
- Jesus quoted a portion of this in the New Testament
- This is Christ’s ministry description.

Group Questions & Discussion

- 1) How can we re-build the altar of the Lord in our lives?
- 2) Have you faltered between two opinions? Explain.
- 3) How does God give us beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning? What does this look like in reality?
- 4) Explain the terms authority and alignment.
- 5) How do we take authority and over what?
- 6) How did Elijah shift the alignment of the nation?
- 7) How have you invited God into your life and daily activity?