



The **UNLIMITED** People



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WITNESSING AND PRAYING FOR KINGDOM EXPANSION

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. 32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold Acts 4: 31-34

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Witnessing and praying for kingdom expansion is apt for such a time as this because we are living in perilous times based on the prevailing global prevailing state of recession, level of hardship, and falling moral standards. The bible declares *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {false...: or, one who foments strife}* 4 *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.* (2 Tim. 3: 2-5. Therefore, as ambassadors of God, believers are to proclaim the gospel for the kingdom expansion for these people to come into God's kingdom. Remember ... *our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake* (2 Cor. 4: 3-5). The opportunity to witness and pray for kingdom expansion is available for everyone of us. Let us all therefore participate in this noble task of spreading the gospel.

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM THROUGH WITNESSING

The command of the Lord Jesus Christ to his disciples (and you are one of them) is to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mat.28: 18-20). Disciples must be 'goers.' These disciples are therefore the witnesses to go.

Portrait of the Witness

A witness is someone who has seen something or that something has happened to him and is willing to and able to tell others about what he saw or has happened to him. from this description of a witness, it follows that a witness is someone who had either experienced or encountered something. The story of the Samaritan woman and the Samaritans in John 4 becomes applicable. 39 *And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. ... 41 And many more believed because of his own word; 42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world* (John 4: 39, 41-42). The Samaritan woman believed and became a witness to others. She told them her experience. The other Samaritans who heard her also believed, not only on the testimony of the woman but also based on their own experience with Christ.

Power of the Witness

The Holy Spirit is the power which every disciple must rely on to witness. This is because Jesus mandated his disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they are endowed with the baptism of fire from above which occurred on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1: 8 & 2: 1-4). The outcome was that Peter who was afraid before a maid at the crucifixion of Jesus could boldly preach in the open square and three thousand souls were won to the Lord (Mat. 26: 69-74 & Acts 2: 14-41)

Proclamation of the Witness

The disciple as a witness is to talk of the gospel of salvation to others, which is in the name of Jesus. 10 *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved* (Acts 4: 10-12). No wonder, Apostle Paul declared: 16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek* (Rom. 1: 16). Be a proclaimer too for the gospel.

ENFORCING THE KINGDOM AUTHORITY THROUGH PRAYERS

Prayer is a simple, sincere, affectionate pouring out of one's heart to a loving God through Jesus Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things that God has promised, or according to his word, for the good of the church and individuals, while submitting in faith to the will of God. In Acts 4: 31-37, the disciples prayed based on the challenges confronting them and their prayer touched every gamut of life-physical, spiritual, emotional and social. Hence, through prayer, God's authority can be enforced on earth.

Acknowledge God's Authority Over All Things

In Matthew 6, the Lord Jesus gave a pattern of prayer: *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread* (Mat. 6: 9-11). For the authority of God to be established on earth, the church must acknowledge the sovereignty and superiority of God. This is because humanistic philosophy teaches that man is the supreme authority on earth. Such debased teaching as this has done more harm to man than good. Let us recall that all power in heaven and earth belong to God (Mat. 28: 18). Hence the prayer that will enforce the kingdom of God on earth must acknowledge God as sovereign ruler (Dan 2: 21) with supreme power (1 Chron. 29: 11) and unquestionable authority (Rom. 9: 20).

Apply God's Authority over All Situations

Whenever you are faced with challenges, as a child of god, you can apply God's authority against such challenge. This is what the disciples did in Acts 4: 31-37. Examples abound in the bible of those who apply God's authority to conquer the challenges confronting them.

- Mose applied God's authority on the Red Sea (Ex. 14: 26-29)
- Elijah applied God's authority over Samaritan's famine (James 5: 17)
- Elisha applied God's authority over the bitter water of

Jericho (2 Kings 2: 19-22)

- Peter applied God's authority over sickness and death (Acts 3: 5-6; 9: 34, 40)
- Paul applied God's authority over demons, sickness and death (Acts 14: 9-10; 16: 17-18)

As a disciple of Christ, you can exercise god's authority in your circumstance as well.

EXTENDING THE KINGDOM'S INFLUENCE THROUGH WITNESSING

Notice that as the disciples prayed, they were emboldened to witness and multitudes were added to the church (Acts 4: 31-34). The effect was spiritual growth and transformational lifestyles which is Christ-centered and not Self-centered. How then can you extend God's kingdom through witnessing?

Through Personal Testimony

Personal testimony is not just in spoken words but also exemplified with one's lifestyle. For example, the bible says anyone who is in Christ Jesus is a new creature, old things are passed away, all things are become new (2 Cor. 5: 17). Hence, personal testimony must reflect the transformational lifestyle. The Samaritan woman gave her testimony of what God has done for her and the people believed (John 4: Paul's testimony of his conversion was that: *5 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood Gal. 1: 15-16).*

Through Public and Private Evangelistic Activities

You can be involved in both privately or publicly organizes missions' outreach, evangelistic medical missions and crusades as a means of extending the kingdom's frontiers of the gospel. Your participation in these activities could be in going (physically) , giving (financially) and groaning (praying). Almost most believers tend to be involved in praying and giving, it is necessary to stress that going is also of utmost importance (Mat 28: 18 & Mark 16: 15).

Through Technological Platforms.

The contemporary world is very digital; hence the extension of the kingdom's frontiers can also be through the use of media and technological platforms. The use of these devices can make you reach an audience beyond your immediate environment, hence its advantage. These devices must however be used adequately and intentionally to achieve the desired result.

EXECUTING THE KINGDOM AGENDA THROUGH PRAYERS

The importance of prayers in God's kingdom activities cannot be underestimated. Afterall, Jesus started his earthly ministry in prayers, continued, sustained and concluded in in prayers (Luke 3: 21-22, Mark 1: 35-36, Luke 22: 41-42). Hence, to experience the expansion of the kingdom of God on earth, both personal and corporate prayers are very important.

The spiritual guidelines for executing the kingdom's agenda through prayers requires believers to invade the kingdom of the devils and its demons through effective prayers because the effectual prevent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5: 16). The following principles must be understood and practiced.

Know your Mandate: It is to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19: 10). Seeking after souls for salvation involves keeping up with the mandate of going into every nook and corner of the world (Mark 16: 15) and making disciples of the converts (Mat 28: 18).

Know your Assignment: This assignment requires aggressive attention. Believers must not be passive in the matter of expanding the kingdom of God. The assignment requires you to preach the gospel to others because people will hear when there is a preacher to preach the gospel to them (Rom. 10: 14).

The assignment also involves 'wrestling' with principalities, powers of darkness etc (Eph. 6: 12). It is with the aim of stopping their onslaught against the church.

Utilize your Weapons: Noting that the assignment is not totally secular (Physical) but also spiritual, the weapons for the 'wrestling' cannot be totally physical. The bible tells that *'for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ 2 Cor. 10: 4-5).*

The weapons are available for all disciples to use. They include the word of God which is sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb. 4: 12), the name of Jesus which is higher than any other name (Phil 2: 15) and by it salvation is assured (Acts 4: 12), the blood of Jesus which speaks mercy (Heb. 12: 24) and by it victory is assured (Rev 12: 11)

Know your Authority: The authority Jesus gave to his disciples is unlimited and by extension, you are a recipient of that same authority. *'Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt '(Luke 10: 19).* Scorpions and serpents are not to be taken literally but figuratively, meaning spiritual forces of darkness. It is an authority over all the powers of the enemy, with the assurance of no harm and no hurt.

CONCLUSION

Every true disciple is hereby encouraged to be involved nd dedicated to the work of missions, revival, evangelism etc. in doing so, effective strategy in each location and situation should be adopted for effective results to be attained. There is a mandate to this effect which must be obeyed. Therefore, be faithful and obedient and you shall be adequately rewarded. Shalom.

Prayer Points

1. Grace to be a true witness despite the prevailing global state of recession, level of hardship, and falling moral standards, I shall not lack in Jesus name (2 Tim 3: 2-5)
2. Holy Spirit of God, possess me afresh and always as a true witness for God (Acts 1: 8)
3. I shall not be ashamed to be a witness for Christ (Rom. 1: 16)
4. I shall be a true witness involved in going, giving and groaning.
5. With the force of prayer, we enforce the kingdom of God on earth and acknowledge God as sovereign ruler (Dan 2: 21) with supreme power (1 Chron. 29: 11) and unquestionable authority (Rom. 9: 20).
6. With the force of prayer, we pull down every stronghold against the church and spreading of the gospel (2 Cor. 3: 4-5 & Eph 6: 12- 13, 18)
7. I tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, by the power of the Lord, and nothing shall by any means hurt me (Luke 10: 19).
8. As I use the weapon of the word of God, hearts are pierced and convicted to surrender to Christ in Jesus name (Heb. 4: 12 & Eph. 6: 17b)
9. By the authority in the name of Jesus in my mouth, every kneel shall bow and souls shall be saved (Phil. 2: 15 & Acts 4: 12)
10. As I plead the blood of Jesus, it shall be a source of protection, with testimonies abounding (Ex. 12: 13 & Rev. 12: 11)