

APOSTOLIC PRAYER

WHAT IS IT?

Apostolic prayer is a bit like jelly beans – lots of “flavours” i.e. it has many different spheres and ways in which it functions, operates and manifests. 😊

Apostolic prayer carries the three-fold DNA of God expressed in Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Apostolic prayer is a sphere of transformational prayer within which the apostolic DNA of Christ is exemplified, magnified and made manifest by the Holy Spirit working through humble, sanctified, anointed disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ – in strategic breakthrough (personal and corporate), pioneering works, resurrection power, unconditional love, the supreme authority of Christ and the fruit of miracles, signs, wonders, salvations, healings, resurrections and deliverances to the glory of God.

It is essential that we grasp that the Lord wishes us to understand our apostolic identity and unlock our apostolic destiny in every sphere of Christian endeavour and functionality. In the global outpouring of apostolic grace, we will receive wisdom, revelation and understanding to apply this blessing to our lives as we walk as obedient disciples.

God is pouring out grace for an apostolic reformation in the nations; there has to be restoration before there can be reclamation of what has been lost. God is teaching the church again how to pray, and this time it is apostolic intercession that will affect the destiny of nations.

PRIESTLY/KINGLY PRAYER – A SACRIFICIAL ALTAR OF LOVE

Apostolic prayer flows from the understanding that the power of prayer is released in our comprehension of all that Christ achieved at the Cross by His blood sacrificial death. The Cross was the altar upon which Christ, as the sacrificial Lamb of God, gave His life so that mankind might be redeemed from sin and death. The altar was sanctified by the blood of Jesus Christ, who lived in the power of a spotless, sinless life. Christ has atoned for the sins of mankind and by His blood has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and His Father forever (Rev 1:5-6).

Last year the Lord spoke to me, ***“What happens on the altar affects the destiny of individuals, communities, cities and nations.”*** It is my belief that the church must take back the altar and only a purified priesthood operating with apostolic authority will be able to do so. The Priesthood of believers must rise under a mighty kingly anointing – the apostolic grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, perfectly unites the priestly and kingly roles.

God is again raising up a Zadok priesthood (Ezekiel 44:15-31) unto whom “rooms” will be given to establish 24-7 prayer presence in nations throughout the earth (see Ez 40:46).

PRAYER OF BLESSING

- We are blessed to be a blessing (God's promise to Abraham: Genesis 12:2-3)
- Apostle Paul shares that the Lord blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Eph 1:3)
- We can receive a spiritual blessing without fully understanding it. However, when we comprehend that spiritual blessing it brings about the completeness of that blessing in us. That is why Ap Paul prayed for a spirit of wisdom and revelation for the church in Ephesus, so that they could receive and attain the fullness of knowing the hope and inheritance to which Christ has called us all. It takes spiritual enlightenment to open our spiritual understanding (see Eph 1:17-23)
- Jesus prayed for the children, laid His hands on them and blessed them.

Apostolic prayers carry the grace for impartation of blessing and/or spiritual gift, as in the example of Christ above and also in the words of Apostle Paul who longed to visit the church in Rome so that he might imparts some spiritual gift to them so that they would be mutually encouraged. (see Romans 1:11-12)

PRAYER OF LOVE: Christ-like, compassionate, agape, unconditional, humble, selfless

At the heart of apostolic prayer is the love of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

- *“Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as you love yourself; All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40*
- *“A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”John 13:34-35*
- *“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, now remain in my love.” Jn 15:9 (+10-13)*
- 1 Cor 13 – if we have not love – we are and have nothing!

PRAYER OF GLORY AND GRACE

John wrote that grace and truth had come through our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ's ministry is a ministry of grace. Our prayer must flow from a mentality that understands grace is free gift and not from a posture of works. Grace places a demand upon us to speak in love and truth; our prayers must be salt and light.

Furthermore, John wrote that they had seen the glory of the One and only who came from the Father full of grace and truth (John 1:14, 17). Jesus said to his disciples that He wanted them to see Him in His glory and be with Him in the glory realm. God wants us to be

partakers of joining Him in the atmosphere of glory. Jesus said, *“I have given them the glory, so that they may be one as we are one.”* (John 17:22)

We can only access the glory realm from a posture of hiddenness in Christ. We ascribe all glory to the Lord, and marvellously, wondrously, He permits us to draw near and see His glory. *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”* (John 17:24)

When God’s glory manifests, it brings with it an undeniable presence and power of God. It releases the fear of God in our midst and miracles are manifest before our eyes. We are to be a prayer people of His presence.

REVELATORY PRAYER : Informed, insightful, wisdom, knowledge, mystery, understanding, directive prayer

- Ap Paul prayed for the church in Ephesus that they would receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they might know their inheritance and to know Christ more (Eph1:17-18).
- In Matthew 16, Jesus speaks with Simon Peter asking him who the people said that He was. In a moment of glorious divine revelation, our heavenly Father reveals to Simon Peter that Jesus is *“the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”* Jesus affirmed that Simon Peter had received this from His Father and went on to declare that on the rock (of revelation) He would build His church.
- We understand that there was also a *literal application* of what Jesus meant i.e. that Apostle Peter would become a foundation and apostolic pillar on which the New Testament church would be built after the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus told his disciples (John 15:15) that He no longer called them servants, but friends, because He had made known to them all that He had learned from His Father. **Holy intimacy in covenant relationship with Christ is a precursor to the release of powerful revelation and mystery in Christ. Such intimacy creates an atmosphere whereby the secrets of the Father are made known to those who love Him – that’s us – His children!**

KINGDOM PRAYER

It is essential to pray with a kingdom perspective – if not, you won’t pray the heart and mind of Christ. Jesus is all about the kingdom:

1. At the beginning of his ministry Jesus preached, *“From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”* Matt 4:17;
2. During his ministry Jesus spoke about the kingdom continually.
3. During Passover/the Last Supper;

4. On the Cross the robber requested Jesus receive him into His kingdom and Christ replied, *“I tell you the truth, today, you will be with me in paradise.”* (Lk 23:43)
5. After his resurrection and before his ascension, *“He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke to them about the kingdom of God.”* Acts 1:3b

If we do not pray with a kingdom perspective there is danger of abuse and misuse of authority. Also,

- There is the potential of becoming an empire builder rather than a kingdom builder
- We run the risk of valuing programmes more than people, methodology more than the precious Gospel Message we are entrusted to carry and share.

The kingdom perspective embraces the global mandate, the world wide mission field and the command to make disciples.

Kingdom perspective is a partnership through covenant with God, empowerment by the Holy Spirit. When we pray with a Kingdom perspective we gain access to the heart of God.

It is also important that we understand the Kingdom is already now and “not yet.” Already now in that the power of Jesus is fully present to do “even greater things than these,” and “not yet” in that the Lord has not yet returned at the ends of the Age (his 2nd coming)

PRAYER OF FAITH

Jesus said that when we pray we should believe!

- *“In That day you will no longer ask my anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”* John 16:23
- *“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”* John 14:13-14

ABSOLUTE SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF GOD

Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed in Gethsemane, *“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet now what I will, but what you will.”* (Mk 14:36)

To truly pray with God’s authority, one must be a person under God’s authority in surrender to His will. Surrender is possible by walking in humility, acknowledging the Lordship of Christ in our lives. Thus we are mantled in righteousness and positioned in alignment with the will and word of God. In this way we access His heart and pray what flows from His perfect will.

PRAYER OF AUTHORITY

Incomprehensible – that means it is a mystery, too great to understand; **irreplaceable** – priceless and unique; **irrevocable** – cannot be changed or altered; **unequivocal** – absolute

last word, supremacy of Christ; **Incorruptible** – because it is perfect, holy and pure; **Inconceivable** – it's not of human origin but divine; **irrefutable** – undeniable cannot be argued with; **immeasurable** - too vast for us to comprehend or measure;

When God's authority is exercised in a situation, heaven moves on behalf of earth.

God's authority is manifested in the blood of Jesus, in the Word of God, in the Person of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in covenant, in angelic mediation, in justice, compassion, answered prayers, in creation, in heaven, in earth **We have a loving Father who exercises authority over His children, so they in turn may exercise their Father's authority.**

1. ***"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, therefore go ..."***
Matthew 28:18
2. ***"because he taught as one who had authority"*** **Matthew 7:29**
3. ***"the Son of Man has authority on earth to .."*** **Matthew 9:6**
4. ***Jesus disarmed powers and authorities – THE CROSS - "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."*** **Colossians 2:15**
5. ***Paul – 2 Corinthians – our battle is not against flesh and blood .."***

As Christ's ambassadors we have delegated authority:

"To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." **Colossians 1:29**

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." **Colossians 2:9-10**
V12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised ...

Governmental – therefore it affects every aspect of society.

- Minds – strongholds – *"Set your minds on things above."* **Col 3:2**
- Hearts *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."* **Colossians 3:1**
- Bodies/wills
- Spiritual realm – take Scriptures from Colossians for rest of points
- Natural realm
- Affects history
- Affects destiny

MIRACLE PRAYER – miracles of Jesus

- Authority over creation and all created order, whether things in heaven or on earth

- Authority of life and death – resurrection prayer! Lazarus; little girl (talitha koum); widow's son at Nain
- Authority over sin and sickness
- Deliverance, healing

WARFARE PRAYER: strategic, military, confrontational

Warfare prayer brings breakthrough; Jesus said "it is finished." We simply reinforce all that Calvary has already accomplished. The Temple curtain was torn in two; the earth split and graves gave up their dead. **Jesus broke open the way into the Holy of Holies by becoming the Living Way. Jesus is the breaker and through Him we receive breakthrough anointing.**

Jesus said we would do even greater things! (John 5:19-23 + John 14:11-12)

PIONEERING PRAYER: discovery, breakthrough, scientific, medical, biological, engineering, discovering and uncovering resources both natural and spiritual

Nurturing Prayer: John 17; to and for disciples; fathering prayer; prayer that pastors; prayer that teaches; prayer that edifices, exhorts, comforts and encourages; prayer that disciplines.

Mobilising Prayer: prayer that gathers for training and equipping, impartation, mobilisation, motivation, inspiration, commissioning prayer.

United Prayer: binds together, embraces covenant, brings peace, builds bridges, facilitates God's will, selfless, humble, builds the Kingdom

Prayer of Holiness: righteous prayer,

Prayer of Justice: merciful, unbiased

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