

Purposes of God part 3

By Todd Bentley

GOD GAVE US THE KEY TO THE NATION

Every time God does something He always keeps a remnant. So we decided to have crusades and pray for AIDS victims. The Holy Spirit gave me the key for every village, city and crusade -- He told me He would work His greatest wonders when we prayed for the children. So when I went to Uganda, I had purpose and authority. It's not just another time slot in my schedule and not just another African crusade. You see, I love Africa and would like to go there every two months. But I need a purpose and a mandate and a commission for each trip because that's where I get authority. And when I get the authority, that's when I get a release of God's power.

Now let's examine the ministry of Jesus in Isaiah 11:2: "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." In this scripture we're seeing wisdom, knowledge, understanding and the Spirit of counsel and might -- God's counsel releases might. The wonderful counselor releases power, signs and wonders. It doesn't matter if you have enough faith or anointing or whether somebody lays hands on you or not. When you're operating in the realm of knowledge, it's no longer about you, but it's about everything the Father has already done in his purpose. When you begin to take time to listen for the Father's directions and hear his purposes, then you can begin to speak them out with authority. Then he does what he said he would do, because you've seen what he wanted to do. You take the blueprint of what God has already said in heaven and you act on it. It's like Moses -- he just built what he already saw in heaven.

GOD'S SPOKEN WORD BRINGS REST

Abraham was also a man of God who knew about the Father's purposes. God told Abraham to leave his country and go to a land that He would show him -- He would show him a city, who's builder and maker is God. Yes, the Lord is going to build this thing, and He's going to give us the blueprint. When we operate in the purposes of God it's so important to do it exactly the way we saw God do it. I've been in places where it was important where I put the pulpit. I don't know why. Why is God so detailed? In our human reasoning we may think that it doesn't really matter what songs we sing and what order we do them in. A preacher could think that it doesn't really matter what he preaches because it's in God's word and there's life in the word. He could say, "I can preach whatever I want. There's 2000 years of good stuff right there". Sure enough, if he didn't have time to pray and hear God, he could just prepare any message and ask God to bless it. He could easily begin to think, "I'll just write something; it's still God's word -- there's power in it".

However, when we don't take time to wait on the Lord for His purposes in ministry, it abuses the people of God. It doesn't feed the spirits of the people of God, because we're not operating on the rhema word, the quickened word. We need that Hebrews Chapter Four verse 12 word, that sharp, quick, alive, active, powerful word. Ephesians Chapter 4 tells us where the rhema, quickened word comes from. It says, "there remains therefore a rest for the people of God." Next, this passage tells us to cease from our works and then it refers to "the word of God". After reading this, I realized that the word of God in Hebrews Chapter four is the same word we see in Revelation Chapter 19 that proceeded out of His mouth -- it's God's spoken, rhema word. The Bible also tells us that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word the proceeds out of the mouth God. There is still a proceeding word for you -- power is in that word and rest is in that word. When we receive that word we cease from our labors and enter into the purposes of God.

In Psalm 106:13-15 it says, "they did not wait for his counsel... he gave them over to their request. But he sent a wasting disease among them". That verse actually means he sent "a leanness" into their soul. God put leanness into their soul because they did not wait for his counsel. They did not take time to really hear God. They really didn't believe that Father wanted to speak to them and that his sheep hear his voice. In the book of Revelation God put a wasting in their soul and there was a famine. That famine looked the same as it did in 1 Samuel 3 -- visions were infrequent, the word of the Lord was rare and there was no widespread revelation.

THE WASTING DISEASE IN CHRISTIAN'S SOUL

Just as in that time, I tell you, there is a famine in the land today -- in North America. There is a wasting disease in the soul of the North American church, because we now have programs, and seeker-friendly events. Now we have all the religion and all the form of godliness but we deny the power. We've got all the Mega-churches, we've got all the professional preachers and all those who are politically correct. We've got all those who think they are "something" because they've got a degree. We've got all the professional music, all the big carpets and the big million-dollar buildings. We've got all the things we think we need to do the ministry of Jesus and it looks real good. We've got all the tools, but we're empty and nobody's getting saved, healed or delivered. We don't see a whole lot of power except for every once in a while when a healing evangelist comes in to minister.

However, the Lord gave me a revelation of how He wants His body to operate. He showed me the exceeding greatness of his power in Ephesians one. In verse 20 it says the church is his body, the fullness of Him. What is the body of Christ? What do you think about when I say, "the body of Christ"? Our religious mindset thinks it's a particular group of people -- a denomination or a particular stream. That Scripture tells us, we as believers are the fullness of him, the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form. We can live in that fullness just like Jesus who had the spirit without measure. In Ephesians, even though the apostle Paul was talking to Spirit-filled believers, he was saying to them, "You're still not operating in the fullness of what God has for you". He was saying to them that they hadn't really wanted the Spirit without measure because they've been satisfied and have limited God in their mindset. They hadn't really been hungry and desperate and they hadn't really understood that God wants them to be ministers of power just as much as the pastor.

The Lord wants believers to realize that it's impossible for us to walk in the power as described in Ephesians 1:19, the exceeding greatness of his power, unless we understood that God can use "just little old me". Like the Ephesians church, we need to realize that it's not just about the apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists and those that God is raising up in the five-fold ministry. When the Holy Spirit started revealing this to me, He asked: "Do you know what the church needs to look like in North America? It needs to look like an expression of who I was 2000 years ago. And more than anything, who I was, was seeking and saving the lost. When you saw me in scripture, you saw the gospel preached, the sick and diseased healed and those oppressed of the devil set free."

In Him,

Todd Bentley

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