

February 7, 2014

I am many times impacted by the events happening in the world to our families and churches both locally and internationally. I feel controlled by them, as though I were a pawn in their game because they all appear bigger than me. Some get to achieve great power or influence but they use it to control churches, homes, and nations, however, my observations reveal that this very controlling ends up destroying both controller and the controlled. We are witnessing this destruction in countries around the world, however there is resistance. I've also seen that as Christians, we have weapons for not only the "mass blessing" of people, but also the annihilation of those ruling principalities and powers over those same churches, homes, and nations. As the church of Christ, it is our responsibility to take advantage of the opportunity to bring "mass blessing" but how do we do this in the light of such opposition?

The answer is PRAYER, however not the feeble "bless me Lord" variety, but a taking of the Sword of the Spirit and praying both in the spirit and with understanding. As we see ourselves as God's representatives of His Kingdom on earth, we will understand that this is the most effective weapon the church can exercise. Prayer is the most powerful weapon on earth for defeating the enemy and delivering God's people. ***The fact that we pray so little and that our prayers are focused mostly on our own well being means that we have been ineffective in impacting history for Christ.*** We need to learn how to pray as David prayed; Lord, teach us to pray!!! "Teach my hands to war" not against people but those spiritual forces in high places; "The Lord has prepared his throne in the heavens, his kingdom ruleth over all." *Psalm 103 (KJV)*

From the natural carnal man's standpoint this appears foolish, but from God's position He has called us to be co-workers with Him through the process of prayer; "YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE;" the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds..."

We have relied on the wisdom of man. We organise and plan seminars, conferences, and programmes, but God is asking us to take the sword of prayer out of the sheath, clean it off and do battle for His Kingdom in the heavens as well as on earth.

God's power can only be released through prayer. We cannot change ourselves, but He changes us and the circumstance around us as we pray. God has His part and we have ours. In God's view, everything is provided, but we must take the sword of the Spirit and pray. We need Holy Spirit anointed prayer. He has delegated authority and power to His church but we stand impotent because we aren't using them!!! Since we have been so ineffective, the enemy of our souls has ravaged us, our homes, churches, bodies, and nations. But you say, "Isn't God sovereign; "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein?"

God GAVE the land of Canaan to the Israelites but it was full of wicked, cruel, demon worshipping tribes. What sort of gift is this? How would we in this modern age like those sorts of gifts for Christmas when we get frustrated just because the kids complain that it's too difficult to rip off the plastic wrapping?!!!

The process of possessing God's gift of the land was twofold; first, He owns the original design. It was and is God's by creative right despite the fact that it was polluted by sin and Satan. Second, it was necessary to develop God-like character in His people so they could rule the land in righteousness. "The battle is the Lord's" but we must have the same purpose in mind if we are to take it by His power and authority. We are taking possession of the land from an already defeated enemy who is pretending he still owns it. Though futile, the adversary continues defending every last inch using lies and deceit hoping we will believe them.

There are "giants in the land" but "He that is with us is greater than he that is with them." We need to heed the word God gave to Joshua; "I will give you every place you set your foot." Our part is to set our foot, and it is

always on someone else's – the enemy's!!! Take no prisoners because they will do the same as the existing inhabitants in Canaan; they will infect us with their sin.

We cannot be passive if we are to possess the land. Jesus said; "We have to take the Kingdom by violence, by force," remembering that our weapons are God's provision and that they are spiritual, not natural. Man's planned programmes, seminars, brilliant teaching and preaching, and even conferences will not cut it. They are helps but it is the troops on the ground, God's infantry that is needed; that's you and I persevering in anointed Holy Spirit prayer.

God is looking for an army, not of conscripts, but those who volunteer "to suffer with Him," to sacrifice our own lives in fighting the enemy to the death.

This is the time, this is the season, this is the call to take God's most powerful weapon of "mass blessing" and pray until we see the Kingdom of God rise in power in the earth."

YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE!!!!

THE CHURCH MILITANT!!! "THE SWORD OF THE LORD AND OF GIDEON"

Shalom.

*Ron Harris*

