

A God-given Primary Purpose for Everyone

Understanding the Priorities of Consecration, Prayer, and Discipleship

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Jesus taught His disciples: “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (16) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you” (Jn. 15:15-16). This truth embodies God's ultimate purpose for His people in the earth: that each one, united together as one body in Christ, would know and experience the fullness of His intent as stated in His calling His house “a house of prayer for all nations” (Mt.21:13).

Earlier in John 15, Jesus declared over His disciples, “You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you” (v. 3). In this, he was referring to the completion of their consecration to Him. In Exodus 29, God commanded what was necessary for the complete consecration of the priesthood. This process was to take place over a span of seven days. The Lord finalized it by sanctifying (purifying) them with His glory. The Hebrew word for this type of consecration is *male'*. It is the same word used in this context: “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill (*male'*) the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth”” (Gen. 1:28). Obviously, the word *male'* means *to bring to completion by filling up what is lacking*. God did His part in the creation of the heavens and the earth, now it was up to Adam and Even to do their God-given part.

Jesus was indicating to His disciples that their time of *male'* was complete in John 15. The word He had spoken to them was the means by which His glory had purified their souls unto being His true disciples. A disciple is a *disciplined one*. A true disciple of Christ is not self-centered, selfishly ambitious, or self-promoting. They no longer live for the people or things of this life but for the unseen Eternal. They live with a motto burned deep into their hearts and souls by Christ's glory: “If any one glories, desiring to give full credit to someone with their whole heart, let Him glory only in the Lord, giving full credit to Him with their whole heart” (1 Cor. 1:31; paraphrased). This molds them into a perfect fit for the baptism with the Holy Spirit as emphasized by Christ one chapter later in John 16. Jesus said concerning the Comforter whom He would send after His resurrection: “(13) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears

He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (14) He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” The Holy Spirit’s primary purpose is to reveal, draw attention to, and impart the risen and glorified Christ. He will always be at odds with anyone who lives for themselves and seeks their own fame, reputation, and selfish gain.

Jesus had devoted much of His teachings and time to the completion of His twelve disciples’ training. The miracles they saw firsthand were also part of their training and purification. His statement in John 15 to them was another way of saying, “It’s time for your promotion.” Their having been chosen by and purified by Him was unto one end: That they would bear enduring fruit (good works of faith and grace) so that whatever they asked the Father in His name would be done by Him. His desire was for them to walk in and experience the same fellowship He had with the Father as a son—to experience the fullness of that joy.

It is time for the royal priesthood of Christ (all believers; 1 Pt. 2:9) to present themselves to God unto *male’* (complete consecration) until they no longer live for themselves or the expectations of other people. Even too much of what is now called the Church consists of little more than believers trying to live up to other people’s religious expectations or *other* voices that always demand conformity, loyalty, praise but are never satisfied. These demanding “yokes” always leave us only hoping for the best but never with a full assurance of faith (Heb. 10:19-23). This defines what many have phrased as “trying to be a good Christian.” Our complete consecration must be our top priority—above anything else. This will afford us Heaven’s full assurances and wonders displayed in the earth as never before. We will continuously see the Holy Spirit carry out anything we ask because we no longer live for the will of the people but for the will of God. This ultimately translates into freedom from ancestral, familial, traditional, cultural, and religious bondages that bear the stench of idolatry.

Every Christian Great Awakening and Revival in history mainly focused on restoring God’s primary purpose and protocol (male’) back to the Church.

The Antioch Company

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”” (Acts 13:1-2).

These “prophets and teachers” understood what Jesus indicated when He declared, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Jesus proclaimed this in the context of a rebuke because the religious leaders had made His house into something corrupt instead. Peter learned, as a part of His discipleship training, that the devil will use even the best of human intentions to accomplish his wickedness. Jesus had rebuked him, calling him Satan, for attempting to hinder Him from going to Jerusalem to die (Mt. 16:23). No matter how good our intentions, we must make sure our way of thinking is disciplined into a mold suitable for the Master’s use lest we find ourselves opposed by Him.

The Antioch Company of believers understood this. They knew God first required complete (*male'*) and continuous (*nazar*) consecration unto Him as indicated by their ministering to the Lord and fasting. These are the first responsibilities of Christ's "house of prayer."

What is *nazar*, you ask? It is another Hebrew word translated into English as "consecrate." It was best defined by Samson's Nazirite vow (See Judges 13-16) and is defined in detail in Numbers 6. The New Covenant equivalent is detailed in Romans 6, the whole chapter. The daily presentation (consecration) of our minds and bodies to God as instruments (or weapons) of righteousness, using our co-death and resurrection with Christ as our point of reference, will secure our spiritual strength and stamina and keep us safe from the "Delilahs" of the devil. The "Delilahs" represent those plans of the devil set into motion to sap the spiritual strength and anointings from the Church that undeniably spell out the destruction of his works in the earth. While in fellowship with other "prophets and teachers," a continuous flow of ministry to the Lord that includes prayer and fasting is crucial unto our entering into, experiencing, sustaining, and correctly representing the full blessings and provisions of the New Covenant in Christ. Because of this, the chief priority of the Church's leadership is to secure and sustain Christ's house as such a house of prayer for all nations. By doing so, there will be no limitations as to what Christ can accomplish through us.

Birthing out of the Antioch Company came a ministry that was destined to change the whole world. The Apostle Paul was not called into ministry there but was fully released into it. His ministry to the Gentile nations after that is a major reason why we, as western Christians, are here today. All of the Roman Empire, from Jerusalem to Great Britain, was greatly impacted by his ministry either directly or indirectly. He operated in Moses-type anointing that challenged and brought down the dominant influences of sorcery and witchcraft over individual people, towns, cities, and nations. The folly of counterfeit religion was disclosed to all onlookers by the power and demonstration of the Genuine. Paul prophesied that in the midst of perilous times the same things would happen in the latter days (2 Tim. 3:1-9). That means today!

In light of all of this, when the Church becomes the House of Prayer that Christ intends, she will be used to birth apostolic authority and ministry that will transform society. The impact will continue from generation-to-generation.

Beloved of God, now is the time for our complete consecration so that the Samson-type spiritual strength and anointings can be sustained and released through His people into the earth. Apostolic authority and anointing awaits the Church of this generation, the likes of which she has not known. Many who are sitting in deep darkness are waiting to see a great light. Will we arise to our place through the "eye of the needle" or seek another easier but futile way? Let's become the House of Prayer for which Jesus would not have to make a scourge (whip) to drive out the corruption (Jn. 2:15). May the zeal of the Lord of Hosts increase His Kingdom in the earth through a purified people (Isa. 9:6-7). As did the Antioch Company, may the Church become the catalyst to release the much needed apostolic authority and demonstration in this hour.

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotes are from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible.