



One Heart

Gold Coast Prayer Watch

October
2009

In our last newsletter, we wrote of our city walls needing to be rebuilt and that we need watchmen on the walls who will pray for our city and its people.

These words from an article by Francis Frangipane on "Spiritual Authority" speak into the heart of such a watchman.

Authority in Spiritual Warfare

As wide as our sphere of love, to that extent we have spiritual authority. We see this in the mother who loves her child. Such a woman has authority to protect, train, and nurture her offspring. She has authority to protect what she loves. The same is true of the husband over his family. His authority is not merely to rule but to establish in his home the life of Christ. True spiritual authority is born of love.

The individuals who love their local congregation have authority to build up that congregation. Their authority is not extended, however, beyond the boundaries of their love. If we love the entire Body of Christ in a locale, our authority touches the lives of those in our city or region, either through the burden of prayer or through teaching or outreach and service.

The testing ground of all spiritual things is love, for love alone purifies our motives and delivers us from the deceitfulness of self. Even authority in spiritual warfare must be rooted in love. David gained the skills to slay Goliath, not on a battlefield, but by defending his father's sheep from predatory animals. David loved the sheep so much that he risked his life for them. So also we grow in authority as we protect our Father's sheep, the flock He has given us to love.....

Authority to Build Up the Body of Christ

"For even if I should boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you.."—2 Corinthians 10:8

Many so-called "prophets" today think they are called, like Jeremiah, to "pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow" (Jeremiah 1:10). Jeremiah's message was to a people who were destined to be carried off into Babylon. The prophet spoke to a people who did not have the Holy Spirit and the Blood of Jesus. Israel was, at that time, a nation that God Himself said was destined for captivity, and had been speaking and warning against judgment for over 250 years.

Yet, even if we had only the prophet Jeremiah as our example, God's commission of Jeremiah was more than confronting sin. It also included promises of restoration and deliverance, "to build and to plant" (Jeremiah 1:10). To represent the heart of the Lord, which is the true prophetic role, the servant of God must know both God's grace and His truth. We must know by revelation whether the Holy Spirit is preparing to destroy or seeking to rebuild.

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*Today, in my opinion, we are a people coming out of captivity, a people whom God is encouraging to build, as they did in the days of Nehemiah, Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah. **We have been in exile from the promises of God, but we are returning to rebuild the Lord's house.** Yes, we are in a time of judgment, correction and discipline, yet it is not a time to tear down the Body of Christ; it is time to establish and to build up.*

The authority coming to the Church in this next outpouring will be an authority to restore the local, citywide church. Like Paul's authority, ours will be given for building and encouraging and not for destroying.

God has this new leadership constantly before His eyes. Pastors from many denominations, along with their congregations, are meeting together in prayer, seeking to draw the very fire and heart of God into their souls. Emerging from this foundation of humility and prayer is a new authority to make disciples of Christ. Because their love extends outward into their cities, their authority reaches outward as well, even into the heavenly places. These are the leaders whom God is raising up. And those whom God raises up, He backs up with His power. Authority is muscle in the arm of love.

"Dear Lord, make me a willing sacrifice. I desire Your authority, Lord. Give me courage to surrender in obedience, even when I do not see the outcome and when all I see is loss. Help me to trust as I walk through the narrow gate. Establish in me Your love that I might defend Your people with authority. In Jesus' name, amen."

Francis Frangipane www.frangipane.org accessed 16.09.09

Prayer Points for October:

Continue interceding for the church of the city

- Pray through Isaiah 62 applying this passage to the church of the Gold Coast.
- Pray for the raising up of watchmen on the walls who love the church of the Gold Coast and the people of this city, and are willing to pour themselves out for it, a people who will not rest until He establishes the church in power across the city.
- Continue to pray for the development of a culture of honour between the generations – between men and women, and between leaders across the churches of the city, and in the city itself.
- Pray Ephesians 3: 16-19 over the people who make up the congregations of the various churches on the coast.
- Pray for a spirit of praise to be in the hearts of our people rather than a spirit of complaining
- Pray for the favour of God and a release of freedom, strength and life over our pastors and leaders in the churches of the city.

I believe, as we focus prayer together – praying for the church as a whole across the city to be encouraged and strengthened, and **by concentrating on blessing the ministries of others**, we will see God working His purpose out for His church in our city.

Len Rossow

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