

SPIRITUAL ASCENT

It need not take years for “born again” believers to establish themselves in a walk of faith. The Word of God has the power to accelerate spiritual life and ministry. Saul of Tarsus; later the Apostle Paul immediately preached Christ. He had only been a Christian a few days.

Act 9:19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

Act 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. **And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.**

Those like Saul who are called of God will walk a specific pathway on their way to “Spiritual destiny”.

They have surrendered to the personal “inner knowing of a higher calling”. For some of us it is a specific calling or commission. They will know what it is to walk in His “perfect will”. They dare not leave this pathway, for in doing so is to reject His awesome presence. We recall what happened to Jonah. He fled from the presence of the Lord. God always gives His disciples that sense of spiritual destiny. Those that spend time with God possess a healthy “Fear of God”.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

“We are more than conquerors through him” (Rom 8:37)

Paul continually believed God for miracles; in so doing he needed to operate all his spiritual gifts. Note Paul’s “Word of Faith”.

Rom 8:38 For **I am persuaded**, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come...

Paul was absolutely persuaded, there was no double mindedness. Any personal struggle was over. He believed He was a conqueror in Christ no matter what the circumstances.

KEY PHRASES: “through Him” and “I am persuaded”

Jesus Christ made it very clear what it meant to “walk by faith”.

Mat 10:37 "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." 38"And **he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.**" 39"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

These three verses give Christians the “foot-holes for spiritual ascent”.

Note the challenges for normal Christian service:-

1. A willingness to love God even more than family members.
2. A willingness to take up a personal cross lifestyle to follow Christ.
3. A willingness to choose personal decrease in order to experience the challenge of spiritual ascent.

Daniel also believed in this lifestyle of “spiritual ascent”.

Dan 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with a portion of the king' meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

KEY PHRASES:

1. Daniel purposed with all his heart.
2. He might not defile himself.

Church leaders worldwide are increasingly concerned with their member's busy lifestyle which ultimately restricts spiritual growth. Daniel was determined to have all the faith ingredients necessary to serve God in heathen environment of Babylon.

God has given us the Word of God; therein we can read what the “heroes of Faith” did to complete their personal commission.

Daniel had such a belief in the walk of faith that he decided on a course of action that would guarantee separation from those that could hinder his spiritual progress.

Many times the disciples made decisions that increased their anointing.

1 Thes 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 6And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: 7So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to Godward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

9For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Paul's preaching had such power that **those that became Christians went on to become missionaries.**

NOTE: v.6. "ye became followers of us"
v.8. "from you sounded out the word"

We must recognize the sound of the anointing!

1Cor 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

Isa 61:1 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Act 26:16 "But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; "17"Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, "18"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. "

God's purpose for mankind is not only that many may receive forgiveness of sins and receive their spiritual inheritance, but that they become His ministers.

Eph 3:7 Whereof **I was made a minister**, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me **by the effectual working of his power.**

A “minister” is a “workman”.

When God creates something, He looks at His work. God enjoys His work and has “job satisfaction”.

We should all carefully consider the following verses in Genesis.
(Gen 1:4,10,12,18,21,25)

As “vineyard workers” we need to have the same “job satisfaction” as God does.

We need to release God’s prophetic creative words. We need to watch God at work.

Our voices will usher in the “miraculous” when they are used prophetically.

God’s creative words are in every Holy Spirit-filled believer.

We should become “Body Builders”. Those build up the Body of Christ.

“COVET THE BEST GIFT” (1 Cor 14:1) (Acts 21:8-11)

Our desire as believers should be to speak as God speaks. We need to speak powerfully, even prophetically whilst we are on our earthly pilgrimage. Like Paul, we need to be “made ministers” by His grace.

Act 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, **30By stretching forth thine hand to heal;** and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. **31**And when they had prayed, **the place was shaken** where they were assembled together; and **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,** and they spake the word of God with boldness.

KEYWORD: “BOLDNESS” (see verses 29-31)

“Spiritual Ascent” is our God given right. Living and walking in the anointing of the Holy Spirit is a must for those that want to be effective workers in the fields of Harvest. Like the Apostles of old, we can speak the Word with boldness, stretch forth our hands to heal and witness signs and wonders in Jesus name.

The apostles were not only miracle workers they were “BODY BUILDERS” in the body of Christ.