

# **Manual 1: Cry Of The Spirit**

## **A Call To The Ministry Of Intercession**

### **Lesson 1**

#### **CHRIST THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE**

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus speaking to Peter says, and I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- The rock that Jesus is referring to is not the Apostle Peter because Jesus uses the Greek word “petra”; Christ in this passage is describing a foundation rock or massive boulder. If He were referring to His friend and disciple, Peter, Jesus would have used the Greek word “petros”, this word describes a smaller fragment or stone; a chip off of the block so to speak.
- Jesus in all probability was speaking of Himself as being the foundation rock “petra”. It is used figuratively of Christ in Romans 9:33 Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.
- Paul leaves no doubt in his readers mind that Christ is the foundation on which all members rest. The apostle's writing's in Ephesians 2:19-20 proves his point. Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

#### **CHRIST, THE TRUE HEAD OF HIS CHURCH**

When the body of Christ comes to a full understanding of Christ’s vicarious sacrifice, not only for sin but for the establishment of His church, then and only then, will they be able to grasp the true meaning of His commissioning of the church.

Paul methodically shows the total and complete commitment that Christ has for His church.

- In Ephesians 5:23 through 32, we learn that Christ is the head of the church, and He is the Savior of the body.
- We learn that the church is to be in subjection to Christ in all her ways.
- As we continue on we also come to the realization that Christ loves His church with a self-sacrificing love.

Christ has sanctified its members; He has cleansed its members and has a continual abundance of sanctifying and restoring grace through His ministry of intercession. (Hebrews 7:25)

Paul goes on to assure us that our Lord is able to take this entity that we call the church, this gathering of imperfect yet redeemed people, and present it to Himself as a glorious church, without spot or wrinkle, a church that is holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:27)  
The apostle expounds further and reveals that it is Christ who nourishes and cherishes the church.

Paul also makes it quite clear that we who have been born again are members of His body. And finally true membership in His body makes us one with Him, thus we are one with all true believers. Paul in these passages uses Christ's relationship to His bride the church as the divine example. Although Paul is addressing husband and wife relationships, we clearly get a picture of the sacrificial love that the Lord has for His "ekklesia". The word "ekklesia" is not without significance. It is the word used to describe "the church that comprises His body." In Ephesians 1:22, 23 we read, And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Paul's remarks are given not only for the encouragement and welfare of the Ephesians' saints but his remarks are for the revelation that they are created for good works (Ephesians 2:10).

It is with these called out ones that Christ declared, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

Matthew reveals that Christ is willing to give out duplicate keys of ownership to His company of believers. Matthew 16:19, And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

The first understanding that a Christian must come to when they study Christ's church and its mission is to come to the realization that the church does not belong to any one denomination. It does not belong to the local pastor. It certainly does not belong to the deacons, the elders or church committees. It belongs to Jesus. Pastors need to preach that it was Jesus who died for the church.

Paul in his writings to Timothy, his son in the faith, makes this quite evident in 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

- For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
- His other son in the faith, Titus, also reveals this truth to us in Titus 2:14, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- John the beloved apostle writes in John 1:12, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

## **CHRIST HAS EARNED HIS RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP**

All the gospels prove the right of Christ's ownership to His church by their recordings of His prophetic death, burial, and miraculous resurrection.

In Matthew 28:5-6 an angel is sent to proclaim His miraculous resurrection to the women gathered at the Lord's tomb. "But the angel answered and said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay."

Mark records a similar happening in Mark 16:6, But he said to them, do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

Luke the physician testifies of Christ resurrection in his gospel also. Luke 24:5-6, Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee.

In the writings of the Apostle John, Jesus has the honor of announcing His own resurrection to Mary Magdalene.

- She has already experienced Christ's deliverance ministry when freed of seven devils and healed of infirmities, as recorded in Luke 8:2.

John records her tomb encounter in John 20:15-16, Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking? She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away. Jesus said to her, Mary! She turned and said to Him, Rabboni! (which is to say, Teacher).

Christ had implicit trust in the fact that His Father would raise His body from that cold dark tomb. His resurrection proves His Sonship.

Jewish tradition stated that the first-born son is the heir of his father. Hebrews 12:1-2 makes it abundantly clear that Jesus, God's only begotten Son, is the heir to His Father.

Paul writes God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds. In Hebrews 1:5 the Sonship of Jesus is explicitly stated, For to which of the angels did He ever say: You are My Son, Today I have begotten you?

In John 12:24 Christ reveals that only through His death can the church be produced. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

In Luke 12:50-51 Jesus mentions His baptism and we know that He is referring to His

crucifixion. “But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.”

The division that Jesus is referring to is the impact that His church will make upon a secular world. I Corinthians 12:12 unites the members of Christ's body when it states, For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. Paul after elaborating on the oneness of the body of Christ states clearly whose body the authentic church comprises. I Corinthians 12:27, Now, you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

## **CHRIST GAVE MINISTRY GIFTS TO HIS CHURCH**

It is made quite clear in the New Testament writings that Jesus is the Cornerstone, the “petra” the rock, upon which every local church must be established.

Romans 8:11 proclaims it loud and clear, But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The one who gave His all for the church has also given gifts to His church.

- Paul reveals this fact in Ephesians 4:8, “Therefore He says: When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.
- We refer to these gifts as building and instructive ministries.
- The Apostle Paul defines them in Ephesians 4:11, And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.

The writer goes on and gives us the reason for giving to the church these wonderful gifts. He says that they are for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

Though it is Christ’s church we have entire denominations headed by men who never shed one drop of blood for the establishment of the church denying and refusing to accept the ministry of the apostle and prophet today.

## **CHRIST GAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HIS CHURCH**

One of the most significant things that Christ accomplished was the giving of the Holy Spirit to those who make up His body, His saints.

In Luke 24:49 we have the promise of the Holy Spirit. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.

In Acts 2:4 we have the fulfillment of that promise on the 120 who were tarrying in that Jerusalem upper room.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Paul gives us clarity on why this great gift to Christ’s church holds as much importance for the church of today as it did for the church of the first century.

He makes it quite clear in His writing to the Corinthian believers that the Holy Spirit is to profit all who are exposed to His presence.

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 makes this point when it declares But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.
- Paul goes on to explain in I Corinthians 12:8-10, for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

It needs to be stressed again and again that the Holy Spirit is not given just for the personal benefit of the individual but the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to Christ’s assemblies to benefit all who make up His body.

- Again many denominations deny the gifts of the Spirit for today’s church; they relegate the Spirit and His gifts to a dispensational outpouring.
- Some claim the gifts ended when the last apostle passed from the first century scene.

Since this book is about prayer, then shouldn’t the question be asked, how do you pray without the wisdom of the Holy Spirit?

How does one intercede for a nation, a city or a people without revelational knowledge?

How do you pull down or root out?

How do you bind or loose without discernment?

How do you exercise the ministry of deliverance or physical or emotional healings without the gift of healing?

And finally, if the gifts of the prophet are rebuffed and denied, how does one forthtell or foretell?

## **CHRIST EMPOWERED HIS CHURCH AND STILLS EMPOWERS HIS CHURCH**

Anyone who takes prayer and its power seriously knows that Christ empowered His church from its inception and He still empowers His church today.

The gospels are alive with the works of our Lord’s empowerment. Matthew 10:1 states, And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

- In Mark's writings Jesus makes it a point of empowering His own. Mark 6:7, And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.
- Luke reinforces this act and writes the following in Luke 9:2, Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

Jesus makes it very clear in Matthew 28:18 that, nothing has been withheld regarding His authority, And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth and He passes this mandate on to His church.

In Matthew 28:19-20 the legacy of empowerment continues with the command make disciple of all nations and to make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Though some would deny it, Christ has given the Holy Spirit and the Spirits gifting to all true children of God. John 1:12-13 says, But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We have authority because Christ has given us the authority. Intercessory prayer is one of the greatest methods for the use of God's throne power. Luke 10:19, Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. As you probably know serpents and scorpions are symbolic of demonic power. Christ has given His church dominion over all of its spiritual enemies.

## **PAUL HEADED CHRIST'S CALL AND ACTED UPON IT**

Paul a late bloomer for Christ believed Christ's promise and acted upon it. Paul considered himself to be a full and complete apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ although he was not of the original twelve. We find Paul exhorting Timothy to carry on the mandate of His Lord and Savior.

2 Timothy 2:2, And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

If the gifts and power of the Spirit ended with the apostolic era, why would Jesus insure the increase of His own ministry by sending out the seventy? Luke 10:1, After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

There is no doubt about their empowerment as Luke goes on to tell of their success in Luke 10:17, Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.

## **MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST HAVE A WATCHMAN MINISTRY**

What conclusions can we draw from this first chapter? I believe that the truest form of ministry for the church of today is that of a watchman. The prophet Ezekiel in his writings concerning His nation Israel revealed his calling as a watchman. Ezekiel 3:17, is told, Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me.

In Ezekiel 33:2-7 we learn the seriousness of the sacred trust given to those who have a watchman ministry. "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me."

The question that needs to be addressed is, are you guarding the wall, the gates, the city and the nation? The church of Christ needs intercessors. Isaiah 59:16a, He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor. There can be no revival without repentance, and in II Chronicles 7:14-16, we see God's call to a nation in need of repentance.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."

## **CONCLUSION**

America though still considered a Christian Nation, finds herself enmeshed in the same unholy environment that Israel had involved itself in. The Baal's, Moloch's, and Ashtoreths are alive in America. The sin of self-seeking pleasure and the call to hedonism can be heard across the land. Ezra's call is as clear today as when he first wrote II Chronicles 7:14-16 to his own people.

The Cry of the Spirit is a summons of God's people to prayer. The true war is for the soul of this great nation. America will be lost or won on our knees. God is calling for His church to fight the good fight. 1 Timothy 1:18 says it all, This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.