**People Get Ready– Part 3**

*(God equips us with overcoming faith and power)*

**Once upon a time…**

**Acts 1:8, 14**

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” …*

*… These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

**Intro Story:**

* A friend of ours in South Africa, told us that he used to go up on a hill to pray & intercede for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our city and land.
* That hill is just behind where we lived and just in front of where the church we were involved in was situated.
* God has a plan
* He calls us to promote that plan through prayer and purposeful action.

**Matthew 6: 9-10**

*In this manner, therefore, pray:*

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.****10****Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.*

* Prayer & Preparation – it’s never lost time.

-Words of faith are spoken into a situation to bring about change..

* The disciples received a command…and then waited in preparation.

-In prayer & supplication.

* Then stepped out in power and demonstration on Pentecost.

**A word about Our Future**

*Fate* or *framed* by the Word?

* **Fate:** no, God is **engaged** as we trust Him in faith to do what He has promised to do in His covenant.

-Our future is not random.

* **Framed by His Word:** God’s Word **when spoken by us** is powerful to shape our future.

-The Father is training us His kids to function as He intended.

* Remember, Jesus was the ‘Word made flesh’.

-This word was prophesied over 4000years period.

**John 1:14**

*14And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

* Our part today is to **agree with God's word over us** by speaking it in faith and then following through with whatever He tells us to do.

-Words of ‘grace & truth’ about God’s will for our lives.

**Proverbs 18:21**

*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”*

* Areas to speak over:

 -Our own personal lives: for example: health.

-Our children: speak positive faith filled words to raise them up.

-Over our relationships and livelihood.

-Over our corporate fellowship: the vision and goals.

**The church as an army:**

Purpose / Mission / Order / Discipline

**Ephesians 6: 10-18**

***10****Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.****11****Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.****12****For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.****13****Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

* An army has a mission to either take, occupy or defend ground.

* There’s an emphasis on ‘standing your ground’ that Jesus paid for.

-We are **wrestling** to hold onto what God has given us… not to take the ‘bone from another dog.’

-You have to see with the ‘eye of faith’ vs current temporal circumstances.

* He has given us the land, now possess it by stepping out in faith under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

**Joshua 1:1-4**

*After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying:****2****“Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.****3****Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.*

* Leaders & followers in any army who must keep rank to be effective together.

-My army experience: (marching into the dam / bayonet drill and then coming together to march in unison).

**Final Take Away**

**How does all this help me?**

* Personally, we are to be sure that the words we speak align with God’s Word which is His will for us.
* We are to ‘take captive’ wayward thoughts that lead to destructive speech and habits.

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,****5****casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,****6****and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

* We are step out in faith and possess the territory God has given us in His promises.

**Table Talk**

Communion

**John 12:23-24**

*“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.****24****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.*

* Jesus died as a ‘seed’ that later brought much fruit.
* We in turn sow seed in anticipation of future reward.

-Words, actions, finances