

Minstrel With Authority Part 2

By Don Potter

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NOTE: This is a continuation of the “Minstrel With Authority” article that I was encouraged by other praise leaders and musicians to write. My hope is to bring more clarity to this subject and even awaken the spirit of those who either lay dormant or are too busy to hear the Lord’s call.

After some conversations with other praise leaders and hearing their reactions to the first Minstrel with Authority article I knew that I had to take a few more steps and go a little deeper into this subject.

To recap the first article, I explain that there is an authority that is being released on some minstrels and that authority is capable of changing the lives and hearts of people (1Sam.10:5-6); freeing those who are being tormented by demons (1Sam.16:15-16); and can be a protection for the anointed purposes of the Lord. (1Sam.19:20-21) This kind of authority was on the minstrel who was called to play for Elisha the prophet. (2 Kings 3:15) The minstrel and his authority made it possible for Elisha to hear a word from the Lord concerning a battle Israel was about to enter into. This kind of authority is especially handy when you are leading praise as the presence of God is much more apparent when the distractions of the devil are cleared from the room. If you can hear this, God is always present and it is the distractions of the enemy that keep us from recognizing His closeness. The minstrel with authority can clear these distractions, leaving the people able to experience His presence. They then must choose to enter that presence.

[Note: entertainment is translated distraction or diversion. If you are entertaining the congregation you are leading, then you are distracting them from God.]

What I want to continue with is some warnings about pitfalls that would keep a musician from walking in this authority and the responsibilities that come with any spiritual gift or power like this.

PROTECTION

One such warning is in 1Samuel 19:20-21 when David is surrounded by musicians who were under Samuel the prophet. In this case there was more than one minstrel with authority. I believe the day is coming when several minstrels will gather when needed, and know they have a God ordained purpose to cover a people; a church or even a city through praise, the prophetic and authority. This will require all the players to be able to respond to the sounds of heaven and do their best to reproduce it as the Spirit leads. There is obviously a discipline involved and that is based in spiritual disciplines as well as

ability. Learning to wait on the Lord and listen for His instruction is one of the keys to this. The prophets, in these cases, were there to instruct in the discipline of listening to the voice of the Lord. The individual musician had to have enough self-discipline to get strong on his instrument as to obey the Spirit once he learned to hear it. It takes instruction in the Spirit as well as in the natural to move in authority.

I believe that the Lord is opening gates or portals for true revelation and power to pour out on earth. He is also placing gate-keepers or tenders of the portal so there is no defilement on what comes through. This is not a perfected system and I do not write this as if to imply I have this all together. I have had glimpses of this and long for more. The best way to describe what I mean is by telling on me.

I was leading worship at a conference one time and my wife and I could sense something was brewing in the Spirit. Just before we began a group of dancers, who had many choreographed moves, wanted permission to be on stage during the praise time. They had banners and flags and other things for praise in movement. I'm usually open to dance and have seen some wonderful things happen in the Spirit through those who carry an anointing for movement. However, my wife felt that tonight needed to be carefully watched over as the Lord had something He wanted to do at this conference. My wife also knew that when anyone comes on stage while I'm leading worship I quickly concede. This only means that I'm not confident enough to believe what I'm doing is perfectly God. The outcome of the conversation was, wait for either me or my wife to release you on the stage. They agreed and said they would respect this.

When the praise started I felt some heaviness in the spirit and knew we needed to get through with real communication to the people and the Spirit. Just as all the hard work was done and we got to the Spirit the dancers jumped on the stage and began to dance and wave the many banners they had and cheer the people on. I started getting a word from the Lord during the song we were playing but there was no stopping what was going on. They shouted and waved the banners and encouraged the crowd to join in. By the time it all quieted down, the speakers came up and the move of the Lord was over. Many other good things happened that night but what the Lord was releasing through that particular portal was overcome.

If I had understood the authority of the Spirit better and wasn't as concerned about looking like a nice guy, I might have guarded this opening better. I knew in advance, when the dancers were asking about getting on stage that it wasn't right for tonight. Still I didn't want anyone to think I was a stage-hog and needed all the attention for myself. So in my fear of man, I failed to watch the gate the Lord had given me.

[Just as a reminder. When you have been asked to lead worship for one night or every Sunday, when the praise starts, the praise leader is the one the Lord will be speaking with. This is the government of God and He won't change that. That doesn't mean the leader will obey what they hear, but it does mean they are the leader. Someone, other than the head of the church or conference, jumping on stage to help you hear the Spirit will almost always quench whatever the Spirit was doing or about to do.]

HIDDEN NESS

These minstrels with authority are hidden for the most part and will stay that way until the Lord calls them out of their hiding places. That doesn't mean they are not playing right now but that their authority is in hiding. Like the musicians who followed Samuel the prophet, they spent most of their time in the presence of God ministering to Him while they were being trained by Samuel. Look at this particular part of the definition of prophet taken from Strong's.

In the plural nabi' (prophet) is used of some who do not function as God's mouthpieces. In the time of Samuel there were men who followed him. They went about praising God (frequently with song) and trying to stir the people to return to God<1 Sam. 10:5,10; 19:20>. Followers of Elijah and Elisha formed into groups to assist and or to learn from these masters. They were called sons of the prophets<1 Kings 20:35>. Used in this sense, the word nabi' means a companion and or follower of a prophet.

One of the best training times I have is when I spend time with God's prophets. My relationship and friendship with people like Bob Jones has awakened a whole new understanding of listening to the Spirit. His understanding of scripture and ability to wait on the Lord has been more than an inspiration to me. If you are a praise leader or musician on a praise team, I encourage you to get to know a true prophet of God. They are seldom self-proclaimed, but ordained by God and their Spiritual authority is obvious. What they prophesy comes true and their lifestyle will demonstrate their walk with God.

Ultimately we are all followers of the one Prophet named Jesus, and that relationship is the one most important. The human prophets can help you gain a relationship with Him and help you to listen and obey the Spirit. (See 2 Chron.20:20)

LEVITES

I spent some time in my book "Facing the Wall" explaining that there are still Levites today. (See Jeremiah 33:20-22) (I believe this includes Jewish and non-Jewish Levites.) Being reminded that Levites were the servants of God and did many help-type services for the Lord including praise. In no way am I saying that musicians are replacing the Hebrew tribe called Levi. However, there are Christian musicians who do play a role in the service of church. In this role of service they are doing what priests and Levites once did. This ministry to the Lord will not end no matter how many people come to know Jesus or give up.

One of the responsibilities of the Levites and priests of the Old Testament was to teach the people the difference between the Holy and the profane; the clean and the unclean. (Ezek.44:23) Holy meaning sacred or sanctified and profane (in this verse) meaning something that is used for common use or exposed. Profane can mean to defile yourself as a prostitute or pollute and desecrate something. But in Ezekiel it means common use for the most part. All this was to be taught by the priests and Levites.

With this in mind the question is, when is a praise leader ready to teach the difference

between the Holy and the profane? When they have stopped profaning the things of God and have called on the Holy Spirit to begin a spiritual cleansing in their own lives. (Mal. 3:1-2) That sounds simple enough. All that is needed is to repent of my lusts and selfish ambition and I'm on into the power and authority. Not quite. The Lord is backing us all up a few steps to inspect what we have been taught and the affects it has had on the body of Christ.

Every minstrel who hopes to walk in any kind of authority and teach the word of God must come to know the Lord in a deep abiding way and His word as He teaches through the anointing He gave. That same anointing will teach you to abide in Him and anything that teaches contrary to that is false. (1 John 2:27)

CONCLUSION

If you are a musician and feel like this is a call on your life go before the Lord and ask Him to release the cleansing fire that is needed to get there. Make as sure as you can that it is a call from God. If you appoint yourself as an authority you may be the one who brings in the demons of selfish ambition or strife. Make no self promotions or proclamations concerning this. Only let the Holy Spirit reveal to you where and when he wants this authority released.

Be reminded of the prophet/musicians who were Samuel's disciples. They spent all their time going after the Lord and learning from Samuel as a disciple would. If you are reluctant or simply believe you cannot get the time to be a disciple of Jesus, then there won't be a strong release of authority. If you feign an authority you don't have, the enemy will have his way with you.

There must be clarity in what a minstrel teaches (1 Cor.14:9); in the sound they make (1 Cor.14:8) and the life they live before the Lord. The minstrel can choose to have this lifestyle or the Lord can help you with the purifying of your sacrifice of praise. (See Malachi3:1-4)

Praise is about the only way to speak to the heart. The reason praise plays such a big role is simply, God inhabits it, (Ps.22:3) and it stills the mouth of the enemy. (Ps.8:2)

The next season will be one of great revival. Many young people will come to know Jesus. In conjunction with this renewal the minstrel with authority will be released. They will provide clarity for the prophets to hear; protection for the purposes of God to go forth unhindered; and the ability to change men's hearts by just playing in the Spirit.

May God have mercy on us all as we grope to find the true call on our lives.