



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Priests & Kings (Part 2)

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THEME Functions of Priests & Kings

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Senior Pastor reminds us that the Lord has called all His disciples to carry out priestly and kingly functions. This truth is found in the gospel according to Mark: *“Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons ...”* (Mark 3:14-15).

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are empowered: to be with Him, share the Gospel, have the power to heal and the power to cast out demons.

In the sermon on Priests & Kings (Part 2), Senior Pastor shares on what it means for believers to be an effective priest and king.

NT Perspectives of Priests, Kings and Prophets

1. BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED TO BE PRIESTS AND KINGS

In the Old Testament, the roles of prophet, priest and king were distinctly ordained by the Lord. Each role is held by an individual, and crossing of boundaries meant transgressions against the Lord (Jeremiah 1:5, Amos 7:14-15, 2 Chronicles 26:16-21). Only King David held all 3 roles as a prophet (Acts 2:29-30), a priest (2 Samuel 6:12, 14) and a king (2 Samuel 5:3, 12), pointing to our Lord Jesus Christ who is prophet, priest and king.

In the New Testament, every believer is sanctified by the Lord’s blood to be a priest and a king in order to reign on the earth for His glory (1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:5-6; 5:10). That leads to the next question – do prophets exist today?

2. DO PROPHETS EXIST TODAY?

Ephesians 4:11-12 tells us that prophets exist as part of the five-fold ministries to strengthen and edify the body of Christ. Prophecies involve speaking the oracles of God for His glory i.e. believers are the messengers of the Lord (1 Peter 4:11). However, the nature of prophecies has changed after the Pentecost. Believers have received the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 19:10b, 1:2, 9).

The Holy Spirit now gives believers prophecies in the form of dreams, visions, spiritual gifts, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, the foretelling of future events and discerning of spirits for the purpose of edifying the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Numbers 12:6, 24:15b-16, Hebrews 8:10; 10:16).

Therefore, we should not outrightly ignore or despise prophecies lest we quench the Holy Spirit. Instead, we are to test every prophetic word and hold fast what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22, 1 Corinthians 14:3,5,29,31-32)

3. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PRIEST?

To be a priest, one has to first develop a relationship with God. This means to intentionally invest time, effort, energy and resources to know God the Father. In doing so, we are able to worship Him in spirit and truth, and obey His instructions for our lives (John 4:23-24). As priests, we are to use our gifts to minister and encourage one another (1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:4-8).

4. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A KING?

As kings, we exercise spiritual authority to speak to our “mountains” (any obstacle that blocks salvation, deliverance, healing) because there is power in our spoken words. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21)

By faith, we speak and command evil spirits to leave, rebuke sicknesses/diseases, break down demonic strongholds, and calm the storms of our lives (Luke 4:35-36, 39, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, Mark 4:39). The key is to have faith in God as we speak and command our “mountains” (Mark 11:22-23).

CONCLUSION

In closing, Senior Pastor reminds us that to the degree we submit to authority over our lives (to the government, our bosses in the workplace, parental authority in our homes, leaders in church) is the degree to which we have spiritual authority (Romans 13:1-7, Ephesians 6:1-3, Hebrews 13:17). We also have to ensure that our words are aligned with the will of God, and that we operate in wisdom and revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, we want to keep growing our faith by doing two things:

1. Submit to God in worship and prayer (as priests)
2. Take spiritual authority, resist the devil and rebuke our mountains (as kings)

This is the faith journey that God has called every believer to embark on – to be His effective priests and kings!

QUESTIONS

1. What are the similarities and differences between priests and kings in the Old and New Testament? What does it take to be an effective priest and king for God today?

2. To be an effective priest, we have to intentionally spend time with God. How can you grow closer to God during this Circuit Breaker season? What are some adjustments you need to make (in your work, speech, thinking, habits, decisions) to enrich your spiritual life?

3. Identify a mountain in an area of your life (eg. relationship, family, career, health, finance). What would you like God to do for you? How can you align your heart and mind with God to move this mountain? How can the cell group pray with you?