

Servant Soldiers! Part 3

The living, breathing, Image of God came here... The living, breathing, Image of God is here... The living, breathing, Image of God is waiting to be served up by us... by you!

So far... We have been looking at ourselves as Servant-Soldiers... On a new and living way God planned! Hebrews 10.20 Bought with a price... 1Cor6.20, 7.23 Conscripted into an army, and the battle for the souls of mankind... Mt10/Lk10 *Enduring hardness* as a good soldier, not becoming entangled in the affairs of this life! 2Tim 2.1-7 Service flowing from a household that is strong! Gen 1.28, 1Tim3.4,5,12,13 And one of the most amazing things that we have studied is the flow of life thru the simplest of servants!

Acts 2.42-47 “And they continued-steadfastly [constantly diligent to attend and adhere to – refused to faint] in the apostles doctrine (*foundations* being built individually and corporately) and fellowship [the right hand as a pledge of a share in partnership] (*connection*) and in breaking of bread (eating) and prayers and fear came upon every soul! “And many wonders [miracles] and signs [indications of the supernatural] were done by the apostles! And all that believed were together [epi/over – ho/the {masculine/feminine/neuter} – autos/self] and had all things common [unhallowed/profane/common]; and sold their possessions and goods and parted them [cut into pieces] as needed! And they continued [constantly diligent to attend and adhere to – refused to faint] every day with one accord [mind and passion] in the temple and breaking bread from house to house they ate together with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God and having favor with all the people. *And the Lord added to the church daily such a should be saved!*

It’s heart quaking and mind breaking when the power of God begins to flow thru you!

This is a picture of the word empowered church carrying the image of Jesus to the people!

And it is the mission and privilege of every servant-soldier working for God!

The Privilege... To be part of a 2000 year old group that bears the image of Christ to the world! **People empowered by the Spirit of God to bear the light of salvation...** “I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God to save all who believe! **Rom 1.16,17 To carry the gifts of the Spirit...** “There are diverse gifts (charismati) but the same Spirit... and the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to bring it all together for the whole!” **1Cor12.7**

The fundamental concept of reformation theology is called the individual priesthood of every believer! Modern Christians are not some sacred and some secular... But ministers of His life wherever we are!

1Peter 2.9,10 “You are all selected kin, a kingly order of priests, a tribe set-apart, a purchased possession, *to proclaim the excellency of Jesus who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light* – which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God; those who had not obtained mercy but now have!” **Diverse people in multiple roles on a uniform mission!**

1Peter 2.11-25 “So, as strangers and aliens abstain from fleshly lusts which war against your soul...” “Live well and convince others of the goodness of God by what you do...” “Live free without being self-indulgent in your liberty” “Honor all. Love your brothers. Reverence God.” “Work well, endure hardship, bear others threats and slanders...” “Follow the Shepherd/Bishop of your souls!”

The individual priesthood concept is commonly accepted when it comes to needing a mediator... But takes us straight back to the dark ages when it comes to needing a minister! The concept of “the anointed” is nothing less than re-mediation!

The Problem with “the Anointed...” Need deliverance? Who ya’ gonna call? A “deliverance” minister! Need healing? Need a healer! Need a “word?” Need a prophet!

The anointed concept is an OT concept based on the “overshadowing” of the Spirit of God from time to time!

Since we all have the Spirit of God living in us, we are all now the “anointed” and *specialist ministry* is too limited!

The Individual Priesthood...” Doesn’t eliminate the structure of the Body of Christ... *One Shepherd, Overseer and Mediator* of our souls... **1Peter 2.25, 5.4, 1Tim2.5-7 Gifts He has set in the church... **Eph 4.11 Overseers** that desire the work... **1Tim 3.1-8, Titus 1.5,7 Acts 20.17,28 Servers** (deacons) wanting to step up... **1Tim3.8-13, Acts 6.1-6** **But they don’t eliminate the privilege and responsibility of Believer-Priests!****

And all the Spirit’s own gifts are energized and effective by Him and distributed to every man as He desires! In response to the needs of people and the “demands” of faith!

“Demands” of faith...

Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one! **1John 3.8** And His faith was always on... **J14.10,11** Connecting to people whose faith was on... **Mt8.10,13, 9.20, 14.36 Lk5.12** “Your faith has made you whole!” **Mt9.22, 15.8 Mk10.52 Lk17.19** Searching for faith in those who had none or little... **Mt 21.21 Mk11.23,24 Lk12.32** “Do you believe I am able to do this?” **Mt9.28** “I believe, help my unbelief...” **Mk9.24**

Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one! **1John 3.8** Then sent us out to do the same, and more, in His name! **John 14.12,13** “He gave them power against unclean spirits and to heal all manner of sickness and disease. Preach the kingdom of God is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, freely you have received, freely give! **Mt10.1ff** And they returned with joy saying, Lord, even the devils are subject to us thru your name!” **Lk 10.17**

We must understand the truth that we are the living, breathing, image of God in the world... That the Spirit of God is waiting to move thru His servant-soldiers... us, you... And that there will be little work done on the earth unless we put demands on our faith!