

2. The Apostolic Dimension of Discernment of the Right Season (Matthew 16:1-3)

- a. To walk in the authority of the right season is to understand the nature of reality. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. Each occurrence has its allocated time. Reality is structured sequentially by God, who is the Maker of all and He has made everything beautiful in it's own time (3:11).
- b. All of the factors for full success are present in abundant supply within the context of the accurate discernment of time.
- c. This is our day and hour for aggressive advancement and a joyful thrust into maturity and establishment. It is a time to achieve new levels of faith for local and international expansion and demonstrations of spirit across the nations of the earth.
- d. There's a strong correlation between understanding the times and the operational force of right works within the season. The sons of Issachar could "do" because they "knew" what needed to be done.

There is a powerful accuracy and confidence that comes to the believer when they begin to discern the season of their existence.

3. The Apostolic Dimension of Praying In God's Global Purpose (Isaiah 14:24-27)

- a. The direction of the maturing church as we effectively come into the full measure of the manhood stature of Christ (Eph.4:13) is to be able to discern and accurately move in the co-ordinated global purpose of God for the whole earth.
- b. God's hand is stretched over all nations, and His purposes are never half-baked or partial. He is perfect and complete and everything that issues from His hand is perfect and complete.
- c. While the Church may not yet have achieved the breadth of insight and vision that gives us the capability to discern the single, coherent divine plan for the earth, the Word does tell us that His intent is the total destruction of Satanic power in the visible earth.

- d.** He will break the Assyrian (representing Satanic power); tread him under foot; remove the burden and the yoke. This is what is clearly written in the Word of God.
- e.** We need to understand that the clear purpose of God will inevitably come to pass. Verse 24 says, as I have purposed so shall it stand.” Job 42:2 says, I know that you can do everything; no purpose of Yours can be withheld from you. “It is part of the nature of God that everything that is identified as clear purpose will come into manifestation in spite of human doubts, resistance, or demonic opposition.
- f.** Accuracy for discerning the time of a purpose of God comes from the Holy Spirit who alone knows the times in the mind of God. Holy Spirit energized governmental prayer in tongues, or groaning which can’t be uttered in articulate speech, leads us to unlock powerful moments in the unfolding purposes of God.
- g.** The key is listening for the current voice of the Spirit.

IV. The Apostolic Dimension of Penetrating a Territory (Acts 19)

- a. The heart of Apostolic activity is the building of something that has not previously existed before, so that a platform can be created for the immediate and future expansion of the purposes of God in that area.

This requires six co-operative factors:

1. The Impact of the Holy Spirit (v.1-7) The Holy Spirit is the helper (John 14:16,26). Paul understood that dynamic in every move of God was the active work of the Spirit in the believers present. It did not matter that there were only 12 men in that major city. Paul did not regard the odds from an earthy standpoint. He wanted as a matter of priority, the urgent impartation of the Holy Spirit to start the successful invasion of the city of Ephesus. In apostolic penetration, priority one is the effective impartation of the Holy Spirit.
2. The Declaration of the Kingdom (v. 8) To Paul kingdom declaration was an act of boldness. The core issue in penetration is intimidation. The enemy will attempt to intimidate us into silence and to shake our confidence to make us uncertain by any means possible. The apostolic attack is clear, bold announcement that the Kingdom has come to the area; that new truth is being declared and that the mentality positions that have

characterized the the area are being blasted by present truth light from the Lord. Paul was clear in his teaching, reasoning and persuading, to reach both the active mind and the searching heart with powerful declaration of the reality of the Kingdom of God.

3 God's Release of Supernatural Power (v.11)

Penetration is a partnership between man and God. In Ephesus God's release took the form of "unusual miracles" through Paul's hands. These miracles shook the core of demonic stronghold in Ephesus – the practice of magic. In effective penetration we need to pray for the acts of God to accompany the preaching of the Kingdom.

4. Validation in the spirit-realm (v.15) In Ephesus there was testimony from the mouth of demons themselves that Paul had achieved a level of recognition in the realm of the spirit. Demons bowed to Paul because of this achieved rank. The issue of ranking is important. Ranking gives power to utterance and strength to our command. It demands obedience from the hostile forces in the territory and breaks through resistance from the enemy to the Word.

5. Manifest change of mentality (v.18-19) With the stranglehold upon the people's thinking their activity began to change. Light broke through darkness and the people burned their books, publicly despising the monetary value of what they destroyed. All demonic powers operate through thinking patterns in the people they control. There is no activity of the principalities in the heavens without an outworking principal upon the earth. The strength of apostolic penetration is in the dismantling of long-entrenched oppositional mindsets.

6. Bringing things into final accomplishment (v.21)

Paul carried all things through to the end. he did not allow his work to be aborted by inattention or premature stoppage. It is important to finish the matter.