

Raising Up People Of Strength (part 2) 29 August 2004

OUTLINE:

- 1. GOD'S DESIRE FOR YOU SPIRTUALLY
- 2. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE OF STRENGTH
- 3. CHURCHES THAT NURTURE PEOPLE OF STRENGTH

Purpose of this series:

Directed at our spiritual lives - both as individuals and as a church, to challenge us to rise up to new levels in our spiritual walk with God.

Section 2: SOME (UNCOMMON) CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE OF STRENGTH

1. BREAKING FREE FROM RELIGIOUS BONDAGE

Mark 7:1-13

The Pharasees and Scribes were supposed to be the religious leaders of their day.

Yet, they elevate their own ideas and traditions instead of following the Word of God.

Thus the Word of God became ineffective in their lives.

Matthew 11:20-26

The judgement for rejecting the truth will be more intolerable than the judgement for immorality!!

Colossians 2:8 2 Thessalonians 2:15 2 Thessalonians 3:6

Many believers are held in religious bondages.

Religious bondage is so subtle because it comes under the garb of being spiritual.

If you believe some thing that prevents you from believing and doing what the Word says, then that thing is holding you in religious bondage.

For instance, when the Word of God says that you can Worship God in the dance (Psalm 149) but your religious tradition tells you that dancing in church is "sin" - you are in religious bondage, because your tradition is preventing you from doing what the BIBLE says!!

Religious bondage

- prevents people from receiving revelation
- prevents people from acting on the word
- prevents people from growing up in the things of God

If you are to keep growing in God, you must continue to break free from religious bondages in your life!!

- 2 Corinthians 10:4,5
- stronghold of religious deception
- read something that knocks down present revelation
- know the truth to be set free from deception

2. WALKING GOD'S WAYS, THINKING GOD'S THOUGHTS, PURSUING GOD'S PURPOSES

Romans 11:33-36, Deuteronomy 29:29 Isaiah 55:7-9, Col 1:9, I Corinthians 2:16



Every believer can know the way's, thought's and purposes of God for their lives.

- Walking God's ways Psalms 23:6, Proverbs 10:29
- Think God's thoughts no evil, no tear, no revenge 1 Corinthians 13:5
- God's Purposes

3. ESTABLISHED IN PRESENT TRUTH

2 peter 1:12

- People have a tendancy to remain with the old and proven order of things, and hesitate to step into the new. Egypt Exodus Canaan
- When Jesus came and ushered in a new order, a new way the old order, the pharisees called him a blaspheme and......
- Even John the Baptist, who baptized Jesus in the river Jordan and saw the Holy Spirit descend as a dove was confused about Jesus Matthew 11:5,6
- Jesus pointed to the fruit of His ministry as an indicator of his genuineness.
- The old order always has a tendency to accuse the new order

4. FULFILLING GOD APPOINTED MINISTRY

Ephesians 4 every part does its share Romans 12:5-7, 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

People of strength have found their place and are actively fulfilling their function in the Body of Christ.

5. MAINTAINING UNITY BY WALKING IN LOVE

Ephesians 4, Psalms 133 Unity is the place of anointing, blessing and strength. People of strength understand the value of unity and endeavour to maintain unity. We are interdependent on each other for strength.





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