



CITY CHAPEL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

MINISTRY SCHOOL Lesson 6
The Priesthood of All Believers.

INTRODUCTION

God's vision and agenda for His Church lies very heavily on the focus of this study. It is a principle and reality very close to the Lord's heart which is THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS. The main act and actor here is YOU! Everyone reading this writing, everyone who is vocational, professional; whatever your job, age, gender or location, if you are a Christian, then you are in Ministry!

EVERYONE IS ANOINTED!

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were **all** ^[a]with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them ^[b]divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon **each of them**. ⁴And they were **all** filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on **all** flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.

Acts 2:17-18

Pentecost was the 'birth' of the Church officially by the Holy Spirit all those years ago from the Upper Room in Jerusalem. The reason why Jesus left, and the Holy Spirit came was to shift the emphasis of the movement away from



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ONE MAN unto the **ALL!** From that day the movement of the Church began where EVERYBODY was filled with the Spirit and EVERYONE became a MINISTER! The Holy Spirit came on the chosen Apostles and all present. There was no youth or child Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God was the same whether they were male or female, young or older, working class or middle class. The Spirit came on ALL!!

¹⁰ As **each one** has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10

YOU ARE A MINISTER!

You are a Minister of the Gospel and you need to start addressing yourself in the proper manner so that the reality sinks into your heart. This title or function does NOT belong to the full time so called Five-Fold ministry personnel alone. It belongs to ALL Believers. The dividing line has been installed by religion and man's interpretation of what Christ did. God has placed the SAME Holy Spirit in ALL believers, and nobody has an inferior Spirit from God. The anointing is the same even though the gifts are different.

Everywhere you go, in the corporate world, the marketplace, the boardroom, the classroom or conference room, take the anointing of the Spirit there. Please stop saying your priest or pastor has a different anointing of the Spirit than you, they do not! Their gift may be different to yours but the Spirit is the same! Therefore you too can have mighty exploits, testimonies and encounters like anyone in the bible or church history.

EVERYONE A MINISTER

If you look at the Church today, you see two classes, the Clergy and the Laity. You have the Ministers of the Gospel and the Members. You have the Pulpit and the Pew. In other words, you have two levels side by side in the church.

THIS IS NOT GOD'S DESIGN! The vision of God for His church is that of The Priesthood of ALL Believers. This means that everyone has direct and immediate access to God and they do not need an intermediary to broker His Presence or sacraments, like communion, baptism, or prayer.



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*But you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light"*

1 Peter 2:5-9.

and has made us **kings and priests** to His God **and** Father, to Him *be* glory **and** dominion forever **and** ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:6, 5:10

In the Old Testament individuals were chosen by God to serve as priests. The ordination was by God and not man. Aaron and his sons were not self-appointed but chosen to serve God and the people by offering up sacrifices and mediating for the people to God.

The priesthood served as a shadow or prophetic picture of the eventual emergence of the priestly ministry of Christ. Hebrews 8:1-2

When the thick temple veil that covered the entrance to the Holy of Holies was split in two by God at the moment of Christ's death (Matthew 27:51), God was showing us that the Old Testament priesthood was no longer required. People could now come directly to God through the great High Priest, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16). The earthly mediators between God and man as existed in the Old Testament priesthood was over! (1 Timothy 2:5).

Christ our High Priest has made **one sacrifice** for sin for **all time** (Hebrews 10:12), and there is no more sacrifice for sin that is needed or can be made (Hebrews 10:26). Just as the priests used to offer up sacrifices in the temple, so it is clear from 1 Peter 2:5,9 that God has appointed Christians to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. We are the new Priests!

" 1 Peter 2:5-9 outlines two aspects of the priesthood of the believer.

The first is that **believers are privileged.**



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To be chosen by God to be a priest was a great privilege. All believers have been chosen by God as a "chosen generation; His own special people". In the Old Testament tabernacle and temple, there were places where only the priests could go. Into the Holy of Holies, behind a thick veil, only the High Priest could go, and that only once a year on the Day of Atonement when he made a sin offering on behalf of all of the people.

But as mentioned above, because of Jesus' death upon the cross of Calvary, all believers now have direct access to the throne of God through Jesus Christ our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16).

To be able to access the Mighty God of the whole Universe and come directly into His Presence by virtue of the Blood of Jesus is A GREAT PRIVILEGE!

The second aspect of the believer's priesthood is that **we are chosen for a purpose:**

¹⁵Through Him, therefore, let us at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge *and* confess *and* glorify His name
Hebrews 13:15

We are called to a special and select profession of priestly duties to worship God through the sacrifices of our lips giving thanks. The Bible enjoins us to give thanks always and in all things. We are called to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice which is our reasonable service. That is why no matter how we feel or don't feel, worship is a pleasure and a duty for us as Believers.

In summary, believers are called kings and priests and a royal priesthood as a reality of our transformed status as heirs of salvation in the Kingdom of God. Because of this privileged access to God, **no other earthly mediator is necessary.** Second, believers are called priests because salvation is just an escape from Hell but an entrance into the 'heaven' of His Presence here on Earth and in Eternity. We are called to serve Him with our Spirit, soul and body being volunteers in service to our Majesty the King.



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THE MINISTER

The agenda of God after the Cross is that every Believer becomes a Minister of the Gospel of Christ. **We are all called to the Ministry!** God knows you by name and has a very clear vision and plan to use you for His Glory

"Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the ^[a]matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.
Isaiah 49:1

My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw me when I was formless; **all my days were written in your book** and planned before a single one of them began.
Psalm 139:15-16

HOMEWORK - What makes a Minister?