



The Rose Principle

by Bill Faught, Jr.
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Introduction

Despite its often blaring imperfections, the Church's greatest hour has come. The prophetic “seers” of the Bible foresaw the days we live in; one even prophesied that the day would come when *the one who plows would overtake the reaper*.¹

However, God forbid that we should immediately charge into such a bright future without some introspection - *laying aside every known and unknown hindrance that would so easily delay* anything we do for the sake of God's great name. David had a similar caution in his walk with the Lord, saying (in paraphrase), “Lord, forgive me for the sins I am aware of and also those I know nothing about.” Indeed, David's transparent-like introspection revealed how much his heart was like God's heart and the depth of willingness required to remain submitted to God's ways, in spite of his revealed sin.

Jesus displayed the same depth of introspection with His Father, saying, “Nevertheless, not My will, but Thy will be done.” But relationships seem to be like barometers, which reveal where our hearts are as it relates to God's heart.

At times, church relationships can be volatile and people vicious-like in behavior. Obviously, this is neither Christ's character nor the fruit of the Spirit in action. Because of this, it is more than obvious that many of us do not understand Kingdom relationships nor see great value in them. If we did, we would treat each other differently. People tend to invest in what they believe in. And the Gospel is hindered by this lack of understanding. “If any man lack wisdom”, the scriptures say, “let him ask.” These pages are meant to stimulate such an increasingly perpetual desire for “asking”

and “receiving” more wisdom, knowledge and understanding of God and His ways.

If we do not assume David's position of transparent heart, we could possibly delay the fulfillment of the Great Commission, as well as Christ's coming. For Jesus said, “This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, then the end shall come.”²

As it relates to the eventual reality of this and other end-time prophetic words coming to pass, most assuredly there is one major issue that must first be examined: we need a greater understanding for “building kingdom relationships” – especially, but not entirely, as it relates to the effectiveness of communicating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ around the world.

Few recognize the actual the interaction between the Gospel message and kingdom relationship building. But, in fact, it appears that the first cannot be pursued without the last. We have been taught about the importance of building healthy relationships with God. That should be a mute point. But the Kingdom of God cannot be built without the presence of relationship, both in the congregation and within the ministry gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11.

In the long term, the Gospel cannot be effectively preached without a greater revelation of how to relate to one another: between the lost and found; and between the ministry gifts and the Kingdom of God at large.

We live in a day and hour where a collision has occurred between “unity” and “uniformity”, and, for some, these words have taken on the same meaning. But beloved, this cannot be so. It appears that respect for diversity among the ministry gifts has fallen to an all-time low in the Kingdom of

God. There is absolutely no way the Lord could be pleased with this reality, and there is no way the Kingdom of God can be built on such a blatant fault line.

Meanwhile, both our communities and congregations watch ministries and churches ill-respond to one another. In light of this, only the ministry itself can answer the following and subsequent questions:

- There are so many churches, why can't they get along?
- Why should I become a Christian or attend church, if they don't even believe what they preach?
- Where's the respect for one another between churches in this community?
- What does God think about the condition of the Church, when she acts like this?
- If small churches are struggling, why don't they merge with others?
- Where is the unity Jesus declared in John 17?

Beloved, regardless of the leadership style you and I respond to the best, it is God's plan for every one of them to flow and fully function together. Equally so, it is His will for the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher (and any other valid gift that equips the Body of Christ) to work together toward the same, common goals – both in the congregation and across the body of Christ at large.

The following pages will examine the previous issues raised here, along with: the spiritual DNA of the Church, the Rose Principle, the Christ-like qualities of some of the most popular leaders of the Bible, some existing false limitations, the Cry of the Christ, and several other key dynamics that effect the building of relationships within the Kingdom of God.

The largest portion of revelation contained here is called “The Rose Principle, which was revealed while preparing for a lecture at the National Council of Christian Community Churches Conference in beautiful Tagaytay, Luzon, Philippines. The theme was “Becoming a Pro-Mission Church” and my lecture was entitled “Keeping the Momentum of the Self-Propagation of the Gospel”: more easily said, “How to Keep the Church Motivated to Share the Gospel”.

These pages contain the Lord's will according to the scriptures and, now, that I've made this discovery, it has become my life. I pray it will become yours too. May the Lord bless you as you *study to make yourself approved and rightly divide the Word...you will be a worker that never needs to be ashamed.*

It is our sincere desire to bless the Body of Christ around the world with the printed page and audio CD where available. Use these truths to bless others to build the Kingdom of God! I'll see you on the front line somewhere!

I am...Your brother for the Gospel's sake.

Bill Faught, Jr.

The DNA of the Book of Acts Church

We will place the Early Church momentarily under the proverbial microscope to examine its most unique qualities and spiritual DNA. We will direct our attention initially to what deserves the most attention at this time. The primary qualities we will examine are: Community, Radical Obedience and the fact that they were Governed by the Holy Spirit.

Community

Community is a unified body of individuals with common interests living in a particular area. It is also the interaction of individuals within a group with common characteristics. These individuals can have common social, economical, political, and spiritual interests (as in a commune) and most often take joint ownership and participation in it. ⁴

The “Book of Acts” community was based primarily upon what you and I call “church fellowship”. Consequently, Acts 2:42 shows us that the Church *continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*. This “steadfast” quality of the Early Church is further translated as “one who is devoted or constant to one thing, and gives unremitting care to it. Also, one who perseveres and does not faint, but always remains in the state of readiness. ⁵

This level of fellowship is also described in the Greek language as “having community, a type of intercourse (as in making a relational deposit), experiencing a godly form of intimacy, a gift jointly contributed within a collection of believers, an exhibit of embodiment among them”.⁶ Their community spirit encompassed more than what most would

expect today – it was much more than a weekly attendance of a church service.

Culturally-Defined

Some church networks in the United States have gone to the cell-based concept, which is patterned similarly to the Early Church. Originally, this concept was used and introduced to us by Dr. Paul Yongi Cho of Seoul, Korea, who facilitated its popularity beginning in the 1980's to present. While some groups of churches have varied in their approach, still most have not strayed far from the cell-based concept.

There has been some success using this model, but it seems to work best where the population centers are more massive, like: Asia, Africa and the Latin Americas. These continents are more exact and unified in culture, which seems to be a major advantage in using the cell-based model. The Western Church lacks identification with any one culture in particular. Therefore, each church is left alone to discover and define its own.

When everyone does what is right in his own eyes, the end result is spiritual chaos and a lack of Kingdom unity and authority. A word for the Western Church:

(We must allow the Word of God and its culture to transcend ours. God's Word always takes precedence over all other cultures. The cell-based model is a Biblical concept, but we are uncomfortable with its challenges to our comfort – give me my space - culture. But relationships within the Kingdom of God simply cannot go to deeper levels, unless we are willing to allow the “hammering effect” of the Word of God to do its work among us.

(God, have Your way – do what You must for us to gain a greater appreciation for vibrant, organic-like relationships within each local expression of the Body of Christ.)

If this happens in the way God has presented it, we will be poised to move from the cell-based concept to eventually become the Kingdom-based church. Relationships will be able to soar...on every level; wounds will be lessened; the life of the Body of Christ will become more intimate; the heavens and the earth will be shaken, so that all that remains in that which desires.

Back to Community

The Early Church fellowship included: a daily in temple and from house-to-house gathering; much teaching of the Word of God to thoroughly disciple believers; the breaking of bread, which was both a meal and communion; and many opportunities for prayer.

As the wise Master Builder, God included community (or fellowship) in the spiritual DNA of the Book of Acts Church that was like glue that held these relationships together in the way He desired. The Early Christians *had all things in common*. What exactly did they have in common? This thriving community spirit was the fruit and result of doing almost everything together. But yet, there was a tremendous joy among them, in spite of the aftermath from the events of Christ's death and resurrection and the looming persecution of Rome.

Verse forty-four continues with *all that believed were together*. It appears that “coming together” as a Body of Believers was never an option in God's mind. The Church was beginning to look like what God Almighty envisioned it to be!

Acts 2:45 reveals that some of them valued community and the needs that existed within it so much, that they sold some of their most prized possessions and distributed the dividends. This was, in fact, taken so seriously that Ananias and Saphira fell dead at the apostles' feet in the presence of God, because they lied and failed to disclose the money made from such a sell.

According to Acts 2:47, three fascinating identifiers followed this level of commitment to relationship building: worship was a lifestyle among the believers; they had favor with others; and salvation was a daily occurrence. This sounds like the ideal church to me. What do you think?

These identifiers seem to be commonly sought after by the Church today, but, to capture them, we must first begin with a radical re-commitment to building Kingdom relationships with our whole hearts set upon radically obedience. But if these things were fluid within the Early Church, where are they in today's church?

Such a commitment to community is rare in deed. One might call it "cult-like", but it was voluntarily done. This would be the major difference from a cult. Cults force people through legalistic patterns and behavior into doing things that are initially against their will and violate conscience. Any authoritarian-style of leadership that forces or manipulates Christians into participating involuntarily would not be God's idea and certainly not very conducive for building the Kingdom of God.

Radical Obedience

Besides community, one of the most incredible attributes of the Book of Acts Church was their complete

willingness to radically obey God. Psalm 110:3 says it in this way, “The people will be willing in the day of Thy power.” This was certainly the case in the Early Church, as they declared, “*We ought to obey God rather than men.*”⁷

Even when faced with the threat of severe persecution, the apostles (and many others under their direct leadership) remained radically obedient to the very end. A radical heart was displayed through a radical obedience, which brought on a radical miraculous lifestyle.

If it wasn't for the miraculous intervention of God's hand, John's obedience would have led him to a sure death by the hands of his torturers. They tried to boil him alive in a pot of oil. John was able to live out the rest of his life on the Island of Patmos, where he received major visions from heaven concerning the revelation of Jesus Christ. John's revelatory visions gave parameters for today's eschatology.

Many from the Early Church, in fact, suffered and died at the hands of Rome. But their radical obedience was not detoured. Even though they lived in cave-like dwellings called “catacombs” and were separated at times from their friends and families for months and years at a time, their “steadfast commitment” to community was centered upon one major thing: radical obedience to the Christ, Who gave His all for them.

Jesus Christ had left them with many teachings regarding conducting the Kingdom of God, and also gave some final instructions that were taken both literally and seriously by these radically obedient ones. Among His final instructions, here are twelve of the most important:

1. Go and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Mt. 28:19)

2. But I have prayed for you, that your faith does not fail: and when you are converted, strengthen each other (Lk. 22:32)
3. Teach others to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Mt. 28:20)
4. I will always be with you, even all the way to the end of the age (Mt. 28:20)
5. All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. (Mt. 28:18)
6. Where I am, you will be also (Jn. 14:3)
7. They were severally upbraided for their lack of faith and hardness of heart after being told Jesus had risen from the dead (Mk. 16:14)
8. Signs would follow the believers (Mk. 16:17)
9. Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but wait in Jerusalem, until you are endued with power from on high (Lk. 24:48-49)
10. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and will remind you of all the things I have spoken to you. (Jn. 14:26)
11. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus expounded upon the many scriptures that related to Himself. (Lk. 24:26-27)
12. Jesus opened the eyes of their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures. He commissioned

them to preach repentance and remission of sins among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Lk. 24:44-47)

So, based on these twelve dynamic promises, you and I can safely make the following assumptions:

- The Early Church lived by a code of community and a radical belief system that was fueled by being a physical witness of the life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus;
- The Early Church had been given a commission to fulfill a “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, and raise the dead” destiny;
- The Early Church received revelation of all that Jesus was from Moses to their current day;
- The Early Church believed Jesus had prepared a place for them in heaven and longed to be with Him there;
- The Early Church understood their purpose for their existence upon the earth and was willing to fulfill it at all cost;
- The Early Church knew that none of this could happen without the empowerment of the Spirit of Christ.

After reading these statements, it is much easier to understand the immeasurable dimensions of their obedience to the Christ. It should be our desire to attain and display the same level of obedience they did. Whose knows? We might also attain the same level of results.

Who's Driving Anyway?

In all of our labor within the Kingdom of God, it is too easy to over-emphasize reliance upon humanity. If this were not true, the Word of God would have never said, “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not upon thy own understanding. In all you ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”⁸

It is true that there is a great work to be done before the return of Christ. Yet, we must admit that finding the balance between the natural and spiritual has been a challenge. However, I Corinthians 15 declares, “*First the natural, then the spiritual.*” This same order was used in John the Baptist's declaration, “*I must decrease; He (Christ) must increase.*” Through observing both positions we can achieve a balance. The natural without the spiritual will most certainly result in unwanted rule-oriented legalism; and the spiritual without the natural will result in mysticism or fanaticism. The natural declares, “There is a work to be completed.” The spiritual, by way God's throne says, “But without Me you can do nothing”.

Believing the issue of balance is settled; we will move forward. Our God has already completed His work through the precious birth, life, torture, death and resurrection of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the Anointed One. Now it is time for redeemed man (which is the Church) to walk arm in arm, thus side by side, with the Holy Spirit to do his, which is: To continue the work Jesus began.

We must make sure He receives His just reward. His reward is the rescue of the souls of men. This is what He died for, and, when the Church does not share the Gospel, she is holding her peace.

Our vision must be: the continuous fulfillment of Luke 4:18. But we can only fulfill it through the foolishness of preaching (as Paul declared it to be); to proclaim, thus propagate this Kingdom's gospel to every tribe, tongue and nation - throughout the earth, then the end shall come. This has always been God's plan. And the Spirit of Grace will help us achieve!

Governed by the Holy Spirit

Because the Book of Acts Church was convinced of its need for the Holy Spirit, it is almost redundant to state that they were governed the Holy Spirit. But, in a world where self-reliance is overrated and greatly encouraged, the government of the Holy Spirit was and still is paramount.

The Greek culture and its thirst for knowledge and mental ascent were invading Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' ascension. The Roman influence was more seen in its strong arm tactics to rule the world. However, in all of this bombardment from outside influences, two critical, prophetic words from Psalms and Isaiah brought formerly unseen dynamics that would take place within and surrounding God's kingdom in the early days of the First Church. In Psalms 110, David wrote,

*"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.
The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion: rule in the midst of Your enemies. Your people shall be willing in the day of Your power..."*

Isaiah said,

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and
His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,*

The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

These and other Messianic prophecies were bed-rocks in the foundation of the Early Church's belief system. Their belief in and dependence upon the promised Holy Spirit was so real and so much in tact, the Early Church made room for His government and leadership when needing to pray about the expansion of the Church's influence into regions beyond Jerusalem. The apostolic-style of government in the Church itself never superseded the governing oversight of the Holy Spirit. Acts 13 records the apostles ministering, fasting and praying to the Lord. Soon enough, the Holy Spirit said, "... *separate Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the specific task I have called them to.*"

I suppose when you have no other experience to rely on, the Holy Spirit's leadership becomes the preferred voice to follow. Perhaps this speaks volumes concerning the Post-Modern Church. We have many libraries and other valuable resources; we have an abundance of seminaries and Christian Universities worldwide; we have much history experience, but, at times, we have little or no power to produce the supernatural results that the Word of God speaks of. But this did not seem to be the case for the Early Church.

There is a big stir today about signs, wonders and miracles...and we should contend and believe for them. But an increased desire to see the supernatural will not automatically produce it. The Early Church walked daily in the supernatural

because of three much-needed dynamics already mentioned in these first pages, meaning: having Community, displaying Radical Obedience, and being Governed by the Holy Spirit.

Now that we've strolled down the Early Church's memory lane and had a brief lesson on Church History, we will leave the foundation and proceed to find the answers to the questions raised here. At least part of the answer will be found as we look at the Rose Principle.

The Rose Principle

Our God has been compared and symbolized by many things, like: water, wind, oil, fire, just to name a few. But there is one word begins to scratch the surface of His beauty, meaning “The Rose”. Solomon spoke of our God as “The Rose of Sharon”. Using this term, we will find a circle of truth, which, for certain, has many applications. But we will only explore how “The Rose” reveals God's plan for Kingdom Relationships. Shall we aspire to look and live like “The Rose of Sharon”?

“The Rose Principle” reveals and reaffirms certain relationship dynamics within the Kingdom of God, which lend to becoming a living organism versus and “going no where” organization.

Its Layered, Circular Pattern

Upon examining the rose you will discover the same thing I did: there are several layers to a rose, which tends to encompass the others. More and more, as a rose continues to bloom, each layer is revealed. Each layer is in a circular pattern, enfolding and surrounding becomes the next layers identifiable characteristic.

As the different layers are revealed, each retains its own identity, nevertheless, it remains connected at the very deepest (sometimes unseen) parts. At first, the rose' circle appears to be small. But its ultimate beauty has yet to be seen: the rose has not reached its full maturity. This small circle is close and intimate, which, in the will of God, should never be sacrificed in pursuit of others.

Case in point: Jesus had a very intimate relationship with John, the Beloved. This is disciple that the Word of God declares, “The disciple whom Jesus loved”. Is it true that the Lord loved them all? Absolutely! However, this portrays the first level of the rose-relationships. It is no wonder that John would be the one apostle pressed upon to surrender to being boiled alive in a pot of oil, yet live to proclaim the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Jesus also enjoyed an intimate relationship with Peter, James, and John. It was the same intimacy, but on a different level. This team of three were with Jesus at very strategic times, when He received revelatory downloads from heaven, including the Mount of Transfiguration. This was the Lord's “dream team”.

It is virtually impossible for many people to occupy a level of intimacy of relationship where a few were designed to be. As the unfolding of the rose continues, surely this is at least part of what Jesus desired to display for us.

For Jesus, another level of relationship would have been with the twelve collective disciples. In this group Jesus cast the vision and taught Kingdom principles, which carried the Church well into the First Century. These were Believers that would fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Yet another level of Kingdom relationships is seen with the seventy. These are the ones He sent “two-by-two” to go from village to village and preach the Kingdom of God and display God's intentions to see His Kingdom to come and His will to be done on the earth.

Jesus had another level of Kingdom relationship with the masses. Here He fed them, wept over them, and preached the Kingdom of God.

We can safely assume there was yet one last level of Kingdom relationship that Jesus displayed. This was a level of the prophetic, which included all of those whom He saw while hanging upon the cross. Of course, you and I would be included in that number.

Some Interesting Facts

There are over 6,100 varieties of roses, and, until recently, a blue rose was the color not represented among them. But thanks to specialists in the biology field, “blue” is now possible.

Several different species of roses exist today. Among them are: “Climbing Roses”, “Rose Bushes”, “Rose Shrubs”, “Tea Roses”, “Garden Roses”, “Wild Roses”, “Landscape Roses”, “Miniature Roses, and Large Roses” (like the Queen Elizabeth Rose). So, regardless of the variety of species, size, color or texture, all 6,100 of them are still “roses”.

At this point, it would be rather easy to get deep in much symbolism and find a place for every fact mentioned here. But as it concerns fulfilling the Great Commission and building Kingdom relationships, let us consider the following:

1. We can maintain individuality and keep our uniqueness, even when teaming up with other ministries as we seek to obey Christ's command.
2. The nature of the rose is flexibility. It can easily be grafted in with other species (ministries) and create a species that did not exist before.
3. Roses are usually given as a sign of love and/or appreciation, and a gift of affection. So are we. Handle

them with care. The potential of a wound will always be present as you handle a rose.

4. Please make yourself aware of this fact: each part of the rose smells just as good...just as fresh. Its beauty is noticed in the entirety of the flower. No one circle makes the rose look more beautiful than the others. This further illustrates a synergism - a living, breathing organism. The world sees no beauty in a cold, hard institution.
5. The Rose Principle further illustrates our need for one another. Whether we're building locally, regionally, nationally, or going to the nations of the world, it's all about relationship building within the Kingdom of God. And we can learn to build Kingdom relationships on every level at the same time.
6. At the deepest part, we are to be connected to the Christ, The Rose of Sharon.
7. A rose pedal is a beautiful sight, as it is laid before a bridal party. But, as soon as it is separated from the stem, it begins to lose its life and vitality. The rose's soon coming wilting effect is the result of being separated from the stem and other pedals. The same cause and effect was described by Jesus in John 15:5 in the parable of the vine and the branches.

Our Prescribed Metron

As already shown, Jesus used this "Rose Principle" to establish relational and ministry perimeters. The apostle Paul used a similar word-pattern in II Corinthians 10, when explaining to a few disgruntled Christians how ministry works. The

word Paul used is “measure”, which in the Greek is "Metron", meaning- our sphere of influence or rule. Once again, a circular shape is seen.

Although these “Metrons” are measured to us by the Christ Himself, as spoken of in Ephesians 4, these were never meant to force us into a “territorial mode” and we act like guard dogs over our spheres of rule. This can be especially challenging for the itinerant minister and the local pastor. This is why relationship is more important than ever.

Knowing them that labor among you is still just as important today as when it was first declared by the apostles. But whether we minister locally, regionally, nation-ally and/or internationally, we must desire and discover how to build on all levels at the same time.

Much like the rose, these ministry metrons have some developing to do, then its beauty will unfold; like the metamorphosis of the butterfly. Its beauty, though, is unmatched. Our corporate beauty, if seen, is a direct reflection of the beauty of the Lord displayed in our Kingdom relationships that glorify Him.

I have always been amazed how fragile people and ministry can be at times. It seems that people can be on the mountain on Sunday, and, by Monday, we're pulling them out of self-dug graves.

We must resist building by personal preference. Kingdom relationships don't just happen. We commit ourselves to one another and keep our character and behavior in check, because, above all, we desire to glorify our God. If so, maybe others outside our four walls might just say, “She (the Church and its Christ-likeness) is as pretty as a rose”.

Pray for an Expanse of the Plug-Strip

Your computer has a plug-strip, which is used to electrically attach multiple peripheral devices into it. The same is true for Kingdom relationships. Like Rose Principle portrays, every one of us has a limited amount of places people can “plug into” us – and us into others.

There is the temptation to only allow people to “plug into” our ministry that completely agree with the doctrinal beliefs we hold dear. Most of the time, of course, this is using wisdom. We don't want confusion in the camp. But at some level, it is probably a good idea to dialog with others that could possibly challenges to know what we believe – to keep us on our toes. Just a thought...

Another temptation we can experience is allowing ministries with similar calling or gift to “plug into” our ministry.

The problem with that is the “lack of balance”. Interactively relating with other ministry gifts can help us achieve a much-needed balance. Otherwise, there is a tendency to inbreed and remain in places of great blindness and ignorance about how the other ministry gifts relate to one another, challenge one another and pray for one another. Wow! What a novel idea!

Some Set Men/Women (Head Pastor) have worked on solving this inbreeding by forming both an internal and external eldership. There is *safety in a multitude of counsel*, is the premise upon which this pursued.

Seeing only through the veil of our gift can cause a blind spot at best...blindness at worst. There are limiting veils

within leadership that need immediate removal, if we desire to fulfill the Great Commission and build Kingdom relationship God's way. Respecting “diversity” happens when these veils have been removed. It is so easy to become “gift prejudiced”. We can learn to accept people and the ministry-assignments they've been given as part of their destiny.

To illustrate this, we need to consider an aspect of God not often entertained. God is “manifold”. His grace is manifold; and His wisdom is manifold. The Greek definition for manifold is “many sided”. God has many sides to His grace; He has many sides to His wisdom.

“Manifold” explains how we should look at the diverse gifts God uses in the Body of Christ. It really takes all of us doing our part to fulfill the Great Commission. It is by God's design: we are co-laboring with Him. This means we are not the Architect, He is. And by His own design and will, God has set these things in order. Respecting the diversity of the gifts and learning how to relate to them (not speaking about toleration) is paramount.

Now is the time to begin to pray and ask the Lord to expand our “plug strips”. It seems the ministry does not have time for one another any more. But we can learn from the “Rose Principle” that we can build the Kingdom of God as Jesus did. Because He lives – we live also! Because He did it – we can also do it!

Some have a limited “plug strip” due to the spiritual abuse that exists. However, we must be willing to submit to God and face our fears. We mustn't allow a fear of the wrong thing happening to cause us to forfeit God's blessing by not embracing the right thing. Every generation will have to deal with its share of heavy-handed oppressors, Yes, some will use

excessive amounts of authority and spiritually abuse. Others will abdicate authority. Both are wrong: the balance is called Spirit-led leadership.

Existing False Limitations

Limitations only exist within man's realm. These limitations seem very real, but are realities only in those who believe them. They are usually based on a lie of some sorts. Therefore, we'll call them "False Limitations".

Limited Eyesight

The first false limitation is: **Limited Eyesight**. Jesus said, "*Look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest.*" His eyes are perfect, our eyesight is selective; meaning, and we see what we want to see.

If we had a farmer's eyesight, as our Father does, we would look at the work to be done with pleasure, not dread. If we had a farmer's eyesight, we could maintain an excitement throughout the entire process from sowing to reaping; from panting to harvest-time. The truth is:

*We want the harvest without the effort it takes to get it.

*We want the benefits of church growth without getting on my hands and knees and digging through the soil, praying over every seed planted.

*We want the bragging rights of accomplishments made without investing whatever it takes to see God's promise fulfilled.

Limited Obedience

The second false limitation is: **Limited** Obedience. We would rather build for the moment, rather than for eternity. Hebrews 7:16, says, “*Jesus was made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life*”. Christ, as our pattern for life and ministry did not exhibit limited obedience. He did not live by momentary obedience, nor did He approach ministry-related projects that have an end. Jesus never had a “been there - done that” motto for ministry.

Generally speaking, the Church seems to look at this differently. Many tend to look at propagating the gospel of Christ like it's a project. We treat His command as if it were a mere suggestion. Even then, once we've achieved our goals, we move on to yet more projects. This approach is what Paul called, “*Living according to a carnal commandment.*” In layman's terms, this means “*I will fulfill my obligation and when I am finished, I am finished*”. The problem with this approach is, it is limiting and there is an end to our obedience.

If we could somehow catch a glimpse of propagating the gospel from the Lord's or eternity's perspective, we would never quit. We can't afford to build the Kingdom of God with a legalistic mindset, thereby playing the devil's advocate and bringing people into further bondage. We must learn to build eternally. Proverbs 4:18,

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day”.

Jesus built with the power of an endless life. His commitment to this good news took Him all the way to the cross. What is your destination? Where is your commitment to this gospel of Christ taking you?

Interpretive Limitations

The third false limitation is: **Interpretive** Limitations. Sometimes, our interpretation of scripture limits our understanding, thus limiting our effectiveness. For example: Acts 1:18 says, *"But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you; you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"*.

Traditional interpretation says, *"Build first in Jerusalem, then to your Judea, then to your Samaria and, then eventually to the nations"*, but this isn't what Jesus implied.

The key word here is: "Both". I believe Jesus was saying, *"Build on all levels at the same time."* This is what I call, "The Rose Principle." Our limited understanding has done exactly that: We have become limited in our effectiveness.

By the way, Jesus was not speaking directly to the subject of being a witness for Christ. The Greek reads, "And you shall be My martyrs". Just thought you would want to know the correct interpretation.

Limited Expectation

The last false limitation is: **Expecting** a Limit in God. One of the greatest sins of Israel was, *"You have limited the Holy One of Israel"*. Nothing is limited about God. Even His name, "El Shaddai" illustrates an unlimited supply of things needed by every Christian - in every church in every nation, even if it's needed everywhere at once...we can avail ourselves of what God has already supplied.

I could relate to you several stories of how entire tribes are accepting Christ in Samoa. I could speak to you about leaders of a few nations in Africa claiming to be Christian, like Zambia, who now declares herself to be 35% saved, but time does not allow it, except to tell you this: please, take the limits off God. The sky is not the limit! Just let God be God!

Christ-like Qualities in Leadership

We will briefly visit a few godly leaders from the Bible to establish a pattern of effective leadership needed in the Kingdom of God today.

From David

God allowed David to build what was in his heart. He built a house for God.

David was called “A man after God's heart”.
Because of it, his sin was forgiven.

David was a man of God's presence, and worshiped the Living God.

David remained answerable and accountable to authority for his actions.

From Nehemiah

Nehemiah was a man under authority, which led through delegated influence. He did what was impossible, going from ruins to restoration.

From Paul

Paul understood that all authority finds its origin in God.

Paul taught that soulless authority is almost worthless.

Paul believed that authority is demonstrated in miraculous servanthood, not by lording over people and telling them what to do.

From Elijah

Elijah walked in the miraculous because he was a focused listener to what God said.

Elijah led a school of the prophets and left a legacy. He believed in impartation.

Even in his extreme times of fear and apprehension, Elijah chose to respond to the “Come out of the Cave” lullaby God sang to him. He did not just focus on what always worked before.

From James

James understood how faithful diligence at seeking God is rewarded...usually with more responsibility.

From Abraham

Abraham knew the principle of “leaving all for the sake of the Gospel, as he left his home in the Ur of Chaldees.

From Moses

Moses left behind his own shoes, as he stepped into the shoes of a Deliverer.

From Joshua

Joshua displayed a terrific confidence in God, as he and Caleb declared, “*We are more than able to go in and possess the land.*”

From Ruth

Ruth believed in the power of partnering (covenanting) with others.

From Samuel

While Samuel was alive, the light of the temple remained illuminated.

From Esther & Ezekiel

Esther & Ezekiel stood in the gap of intercession for their nation and people.

From Daniel

Daniel did not compromise the position and relationship God made for him. Prayer kept him engaged with heaven.

The Cry of the Christ

From Isaiah 55, comes a divine invitation. Some call it, *"The cry or call of The Christ."* Isaiah's prophetic words were, *"Is anyone thirsty, let him come."* Jesus continued, without skipping a beat, with His own words from the New Testament, saying,

"If any man is thirsty, let him come unto Me and drink of the water of life freely."

"The water I give will quench your thirst ...you will never thirst again!"

There has never been a shortage of God's grace, forgiveness, anointing, love or mercy, etc. His river flows from His throne to His own, but how much demand of it is being cried out for? According to Luke's Gospel, the woman with the issue of blood received her miracle by releasing her faith. When Jesus asked, "Who touched Me", some translators have said it this way, "Who has placed a demand upon My power?"

I personally struggled with this "demanding" for several years. How could I demand anything from God? Then revelation's light came. According to Isaiah 45, our God says, *"...concerning the works of My hands, command ye Me."* Then the Holy Spirit told me: We can rightfully place a demand upon anything...everything Jesus purchased upon Calvary's cross with His life and blood. His word and His will is settled in heaven and now needs to be fulfilled, through the Church, upon the earth. His will is, *"that none should perish"*, but how many within His Body are yet unconvinced of this Heaven-settled issue? Was not the Lord's cry from Isaiah 55 and Luke

4 good enough? Does not His heart yet tear and ache for every sinner to come home? Does not every “heavenly angelic being” wait in anticipation for the next child of God to be born again?

But how shall humanity hear this good news without a preacher... without a propagator? Specifically, I have been assigned the subject: "How to Keep the Momentum of the Self-propagation of the Gospel?"

Momentum is a power force, but once it's lost, it appears more difficult to get it back. About the subject of momentum, Frank Damazio, of Portland, Oregon, says, *"Die to get it...kill to keep it"*.

It's ironic, but we seldom see the need for some-thing until after we've attained it; but, unfortunately, don't see its greater value until after we've lost it. When momentum is on your side – going your way – it is like a snowball rolling down hill. I think you get the picture: it gets bigger and faster, with every turn.

Without momentum, it's like trying to roll that same snowball up a hill. It is most difficult to regain momentum once lost. This process can be compared to attempting to get a congregation excited about paying off a debt. Only the more spiritually mature congregations get excited about paying off a debt. Most are only excited about constructing a new building, which results in additional debt acquired.

If regaining momentum happens, it will be the result of gathering every resource, tool and people, including: the entire staff totally engaged and getting on board, the congregation, deacons, elders (and any other governmental offices represented) and each of the five-fold ministry gifts working

together to get back to this place called "Momentum". It might be a good idea to get some bulldozers and other heavy equipment too, in order to roll that snowball up the proverbial hill (of course, not leaving out the empowerment of the Holy Spirit).

The biggest challenge to regaining momentum is the healing of relationship within the Body of Christ. Much has already been mentioned in these pages regarding Kingdom relationships. So, there is no need to re-visit this issue, except to say "Repent".

First things first, we must *repent* for NOT believing and obeying God's word, which is: to take this Gospel to the ends of the earth. These days, there seems to be no shortage on the teaching of repentance, but we must realize that it is the *goodness of God* that leads to repent.

Next we must *re-condition*. What does it mean to re-condition? Re-conditioning is the process of "renewing our minds". "Renewing", in the Greek language, means to renovate or to redecorate our minds with God's fresh ideas. The walls of our minds often get stained with failure and many other unpleasant memories. We must allow the Spirit of Grace to become our Holy Interior Decorator; to rearrange the furniture, if He wills it.

Next we must *replant*. Start sowing right ideas ...no more good ideas. We need God's ideas; His ways; and His plan. A trip back to the book of Acts is surely needed. We must learn to build according to the pattern. As the Alpha, Jesus began His church correctly. As the Omega, He will finish it properly.

One kingdom principle that Jesus began over two thousand years ago, says, “*Seek and ye shall find*”. Another way of saying this is, “*Whatever you're seeking, you'll find – whatever you're asking for, you'll get*”.

If we continue to do what we've always done, we'll continue to get the same results. If we're knocking on the same “wrong door”, a wrong door will open. If all of this is true, then let's place our trust once again in the Bible. God's book is a book of strategy. It is His perfect plan. He has already proven that His plan works. God is...still, “*the Lord of the Harvest*” (Luke 10). Quit praying about whether or not you're supposed to proclaim Christ's gospel. This is already settled in heaven and is “His Will”. Timing and training may be the only critical issues. Not if, just when and/or how.

As each of these elementary issues becomes settled in our minds, then corporate prayer can be super dynamic. Unfortunately, many disagree on philosophy, so they can never pray in unity. Techniques can never be as important as obedience. Methods can never be as important as the vision. Formulas can never be as important as God's dream.

In John 17, Jesus' desire was to see us as ONE, like He and the Father are. This kind of unity only happens when everyone on the same page; not your page and my page, but the Holy Spirit's page. He's the One writing the Book. As power-filled prayer begins to penetrate darkness, simultaneously, the Church will begin to be unified. The Gospel of the Kingdom and its message will go forth in power. Jesus will be the “Desire of ALL the Nations”. His glory will fill the earth...like the waters cover the sea.

Conclusion

Recently, the Lord told me, *"I want you to IMPACT nations, both spiritually and economically"*. Impact means that sometimes we have to push against something in order to make a difference. God's word has already prophetically proclaimed,

“Behold, thou shall call a nation that thou knowest not and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He hath glorified thee”.

Isaiah 55:5

“Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of Hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus saith thee Lord of Hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, ‘We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

Zechariah 8:22, 23

I prophetically speak these scriptures over you. It is past time for the Kingdom of God to make an impact, to push against what the kingdom of darkness has attempted to establish in the earth. It's time to join our arms together and build Kingdom relationships strong so that everything comes to pass that has been prophetically spoken over your city, state, region and/or nation.

I believe the day is coming when merging churches will become the norm. As persecution continues to rise and governments continue their oppressive role, churches will be

forced to actually display a Christ likeness, illustrating a greater need for one another. Throughout its history, persecution has united the Church. An olive is pressed to make oil. Grapes are pressed to make wine. A rose is crushed to release its cherished fragrance. Any crushing we receive should produce the same.

I have been told of dreams and visions of the fires of revival coming from the islands of the Philippines and the Filipino Church, saying, “Rise up, like an army, out of the China Sea. Go for it! Do it!

Similar words have been prophetically spoken in every corner of the globe; on every continent; every country, region and locality. I beg of you to seek God's face over these next days, weeks and months to move beyond any present and every spiritual limitation, for they are momentum killers.

Let's watch the Lord develop us that we may reach our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and world for Christ. The nations are waiting. They're calling. The remaining unreached people groups all over the world are waiting to hear from us.

I leave you with this **Macedonian call**. They're crying out, "Come and help us escape hell's flames. Come and share with us your Christ. We want the truthno more lies and deception. Please, show us the way". Can you hear their cries...even now?

Revival will never sweep a nation and on to the nations until we become anointed couriers and carriers of this Gospel of Christ. I beg of you, like Moses, slip out of the shoes of your own humanity and put on your “Gospel of Deliverance” shoes. Put your hands to the Gospel plow and throw your life into it.

If you and your ministries have this momentum, kill every devil to keep it. I also implore you with the same urgency, if you've lost it, be willing to die to regain it. The families of the nations are being gathered to worship the King and *the Kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our God!*

Every successful man and woman of God in the scripture had to come to that place of laying their lives down on God's altar. Without exception, every one of these and others came to the same conclusion as you and I will, *"Here I am Lord, send me"*. Paul said, *"It is no longer I that liveth, but Christ that liveth in me"*.

William Carey, as a cobbler's assistant, gathered remnants of leather to sew a globe-shaped object that he might mark where the continents of the earth would be. You see, he had a grueling burden for India, but God told him to wait. And wait, he did - for ten years he waited - young William Carey worked and prayed faithfully. History says that his prayers so tear-stained the globe he had sewn, that no nation was visible upon it the day he left for India.

A Korean missionary to the Pampanga province of the Island of Luzon, Philippines echoed Isaiah's prayer in an early, 4:00 am prayer meeting some years ago. It is my desire, and God's as well, to see every child of God ring loudly his words, *"Lord Send Me"*.

As we consider the many things spoken about in these pages, let me remind you of one final fact; you and I have the distinct privilege of leading the masses to the throne of God. One by one, they will come through the narrow gate, called, "The Way", which is Jesus. Whether it is through preaching or some other means, the self-propagation of Christ's Gospel will

be the only vehicle our God will use to bring them in. It is, in fact, the Gospel sickle. Through His Church, Christ Jesus the Lord will lead whosoever will - those who have called upon His name to the Father.

On the great rapture day, as each tribe, tongue and nation are duly represented before the massive throne of God, we will discover the joy it has been to be a part of propagating the Gospel of Christ...the good news. And, in deed, it is!

For those, whose hands are bloody red, blistered and callused from years of faithfully thrusting in the Gospel sickle and walking behind the Gospel plow, will come a healing from the hands of Christ. Then, we may also hear all of those we've lead to heaven's doors, echoing the words of Jacob when he had one of his first encounters with Almighty God, saying, *"Hallelujah, This is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of Heaven!"*

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