

Session 9: Forerunners as Intercessors

I. Called to Pray

1. Elijah was a spiritual warrior and an intercessor.

- a. Both Elijah and Elisha were men of prayer. Both prayed for the individual needs of people to whom God led them to minister. Elijah prayed for God to raise from the dead the son of the Gentile woman (1 Kings 17:21-22), and Elisha prayed for individual needs in many instances (2 Kings 4-5).
- b. Even though Elijah did pray for individual needs as the Lord led, his primary prayer focus was not on individual needs, but for the people of the northern kingdom of Israel to turn back to God and His purpose for their lives. We see two clear examples of Elijah's prayer and spiritual warfare with this objective in mind. The first is recorded following Elijah's rebuilding of the altar of the Lord when he called fire from heaven onto the restored altar. The passage reads,

At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. *"Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again."* Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. *When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."* Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there (1 Kings 18:36-40).

- c. In the above passage, Elijah prayed asking God to send fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice. God powerfully answered Elijah's prayer resulting in the people turning back to God and the true worship of Him.
- d. In addition to this encounter, we see Elijah praying again for the rain to come so as to end the drought he had prophesied years earlier,

Now Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower." So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he *crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees*. He said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go back" seven times. It came about at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.'" In a little while the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower (1 Kings 18:41-45).

- e. Elijah assumed the birthing position and fervently prayed seven times for the rain to come. God's purpose in bringing the drought had been accomplished, and Elijah's prayer resulted in the end of the judgment that had plagued the land for three and one-half years.
- f. With these examples, we see that Elijah was a spiritual warrior and an intercessor, incorporating prayer into his forerunner ministry.

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2. Prayer was also an essential aspect of the apostle Paul's ministry as a messenger and master builder.

- a. As you read through the book of Acts and Paul's letters to the churches, there is no doubt that Paul was a man completely devoted to prayer. He prayed for individual needs, ministry situations, the Jews to turn to their Messiah, believers to receive a true revelation of Christ, and many other topics.
- b. A brief but powerful scripture that summarizes the apostle Paul's prayer life is recorded in the book of Galatians. It reads, "My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you" (Gal. 4:19). The King James Version reads, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Gal. 4:19). The Greek word translated labor or travail means to travail with labor pains as in childbirth.¹ Although Paul's labor for the churches he birthed assuredly included his preaching, teaching and ministry in their midst, that is, his laboring in service to them. In addition, he also fervently prayed, even to the point of travail, for Christ to be formed in them. Of all the apostles, Paul was given the greatest revelation of God's eternal purpose and of the truth that Christ within a people in fullness is a major tenet of eternal purpose. Thus, we see in this brief verse that Paul labored in fervent prayer for God's eternal purpose to be fulfilled in a people. As a forerunner, Paul interceded for those to whom he was a messenger and a master builder so that what he taught might bear fruit.

3. Just like in the lives of Elijah and Paul, prayer is an essential aspect of the forerunner call.

- a. In 1996, when our home church first received our call to become end-time forerunners, the Lord strongly emphasized the need for prayer to be an integral part of the call. Over the more than twenty years we have pursued the forerunner call, four events have been key for us accepting the call to prayer and then maturing in it. First, our spiritual mentor, Noel Mann, in introducing us to the forerunner call said repeatedly to us that forerunners must be a people devoted to prayer. He emphasized the need for forerunners to be a people of prayer with such repetition and authority that it became ingrained in our church's DNA.
- b. A second event that secured our call as intercessors came when God made it abundantly clear that we were called as forerunners. In 1997 at the *Passion for Jesus* conference hosted by Mike Bickle, God spoke in such a way that we knew we were called as forerunners. Just like with Noel, Mike Bickle's ministry connected prayer with the forerunner call. He and his ministry were forerunners and they were devoted to prayer. At that point, he had not yet begun his twenty-four hour prayer ministry, but he emphasized the importance of prayer. Because his ministry was a forerunner ministry and was also devoted to prayer, God further made it clear to us that prayer was instrumental in a forerunner ministry.
- c. A third instance occurred when Noel called our church to become a house of prayer for the nations. As he was issuing to us the mandate to become a house of prayer, a ghoulish voice came over our sound system saying, "No! No! No! Noel's response was Yes! Yes! Yes! When this happened, everyone in the room was shocked and in awe. We knew at that moment that the enemy did not want us to become a house of prayer; but more importantly, we became convinced that God did!

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- d. A fourth event that has matured us in the call as forerunner intercessors took place in 2015 when Terry Bennett—an international leader in the forerunner movement—came to our church for the first time. During the Saturday morning meeting that year, an angelic being came into the room in which we were meeting and summoned us to the golden altar. Although it took several years to fully understand the meaning of the summons we received that morning, we knew God was speaking with great power concerning our call to intercession as part of our forerunner ministry. We deal with the summons to the golden altar in much detail in our Lifeschool Class, *An Eternal Purpose House of Prayer*, which is a class in the Forerunner School. This too was a powerful and greatly impactful mandate for our church and Lifeschool to become a house of prayer and to incorporate prayer as an essential component of our forerunner call.
- e. With these four significant events in our journey into intercession and with many other times in which we have seen the Lord answer our prayers, we have come to the solid understanding that end-time forerunners must be committed to intercession.
- f. Before moving on, I want to make one point. We will address this in more detail later in this session. The point is that some forerunners might have as their primary or only assignment the call to pray that the forerunner message be accepted and bear fruit. Even though prayer is the predominant call upon some, all forerunners must be a people of prayer. Messengers must pray. Master builders must pray. But some will find that their primary function is prayer.

II. The Need for a New Wineskin for Prayer

1. To help us understand what type of prayer that must be prayed in the church, let's once again review the purpose and objectives of the forerunner call.

- a. In Session 3, we identified five purposes of the forerunner call. We list them again to refresh our memory. You can review Session 3 if needed. They are:
 - Forerunners turn hearts to the Person of Christ.
 - Forerunners turn people to God's eternal purpose.
 - Forerunners turn people from the focus on the external things of God to an internal kingdom.
 - Forerunners turn the hearts of leaders to their spiritual children.
 - Forerunners turn the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous.
- b. In Session 4, we shared three objectives toward which these five purposes are directed. They are:
 - Forerunners are called to prepare a corporate mature man who will be made ready as God's partner for the eternal ages.
 - Forerunners are to make ready a people for the end times.
 - Forerunners are to make ready a people for eternity.
- c. Connecting the five purposes from Session 3 with the three objectives from Session 4, we can state the relationship this way: *The five areas from Session 3 in which people need to return to Christ are for the purpose of fulfilling the three objectives identified in Session 4.*

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- d. Summarizing, the purposes and objectives of the forerunner call are to turn people to Christ and His eternal purpose, to prepare people to stand strong as we approach the second coming of Christ, and to be made ready for eternity. Whereas this is the primary agenda for the church age, multitudes in the church have an incorrect focus that will not prepare them for any of these objectives—and this most definitely applies to the intercessory ministry of the majority of the church.

2. Today, most of the church is either prayerless or engages in prayer focused on individual needs.

- a. Much of the western church devotes very little energy to prayer. Moreover, when the church does pray, the focus is primarily on personal needs and blessings upon the local group to which individuals belong. We all desire health, comfort, peace, pleasure and provision. We all want purpose in our life and to fulfill our God given destiny. In other words, every believer desires physical, material, and spiritual blessings in their life. This is normal and good. God is a good God who desires the best for us.
- b. So, to be clear, the scriptures tell us to pray in the Lord's prayer for God's will for our lives, the meeting of our daily needs, for forgiveness of sin, and to not be led into temptation (Mt. 6:9-13). The Bible also calls on us to pray for healing (James 5:16), deliverance (Mark 9:28-29), help in times of need (Heb. 4:16), and for our own personal needs (Phil. 4:6). God wants good things for us and the scriptures tell us to pray for these things. So, to be perfectly clear, we wholeheartedly encourage you to pray as needed for spiritual and natural blessings.
- c. However, the prayer that God wants in His church in these end-times includes much more than prayer for individual needs. A church focused on God's eternal purpose must include in its prayer ministry prayer focused on the eternal purposes of God, not only on the needs or desires of man. This is the type of prayer that will help fulfill God's purpose for the church age and transition the earth from the church age to the age to come.
- d. As the church prays in accordance with the various aspects of God's eternal purpose and in agreement with the eternal purpose intercession taking place in heaven, we will see God's eternal purpose fulfilled.

3. With these objectives in mind, a new approach to prayer is needed.

- a. Jesus spoke these words that are so very applicable to what we are speaking of in this session. He said,

And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough'" (Lk. 5:36-39).

- b. As we apply this parable to the type of intercession both the church and forerunners making ready the church must engage in, the church cannot keep the same prayer wineskin that has characterized it in the past, and it cannot patch a little eternal purpose prayer onto its current prayer strategy. The

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old is not good enough for the church of our day and for the type of prayer forerunners must introduce into the church.

- c. As God calls the church back to Christ and His eternal purpose which especially includes all we have identified in Sessions 3 and 4 of this class, a different type of prayer is necessary—prayer focused on God’s eternal purpose and end-time issues which are quickly arising in our day.
- d. Most of the church must build a totally different wineskin for its prayer ministry, and forerunners are mission-critical to bring about the changes needed in the church’s prayer ministry. Let’s look next at several ways the church’s prayer ministry must be different.

III. Ways Prayer Must Be Different

1. The church’s prayer ministry must be focused on filling the heavenly golden incense bowls.

- a. We devote a considerable amount of time to this topic in our Lifeschool class, *An Eternal Purpose House of Prayer*, so we only briefly touch on it here. The foundation for prayer that ascends to the golden altar originates from two passages of scripture in the book of Revelation. The first, and the one which clearly denotes prayer that ascends to the golden altar, comes from Revelation 8:1-5 which reads,

When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it *to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar* which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake (Rev. 8:1-5).

- b. The other verse which highlights the heavenly incense bowls being filled reads,

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8).

- c. As you read these two passages in the context of where they appear in the book of Revelation, you see that they initiate end-time events. In other words, we see that there is a type and magnitude of prayer that is important to the transition from the church age to the kingdom age. The filling of the incense bowls around the heavenly golden altar will be one of two major activities of the church (the other being the coming forth of the corporate man referenced in Revelation 12) that will activate the second coming of Christ. Filling the incense bowls at the heavenly golden altar is a necessary task in order to accomplish the transition from the church age to the kingdom age.
- d. An important point to note is that not all prayer contributes to the filling of the incense bowls at the golden altar. As important as prayer for personal needs are, they do not contribute to the filling of the incense bowls. Only kingdom directed, eternal purpose focused prayers fill the bowls. Therefore,

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prayer into God's eternal purpose and related issues are the types of prayer that contribute to filling the heavenly incense bowls.

- e. Therefore, the church's prayer ministry must have a focus on praying the types of prayer that fills the heavenly incense bowls.

2. The church's prayer ministry must be focused on the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose.

- a. We have an entire class in the Forerunner School focused on eternal purpose, so we will only touch on it here. God's eternal purpose for the church age is to prepare a mature corporate man in which Christ has been formed within so as to be preeminent, central, and reigns in fullness. The prophetic Scriptures, specifically Revelation 12, foretell of the birth of a man-child that will shift the church and the world into the next age. The man child of Revelation 12 is the mature corporate man who will be a prepared bride for Christ and mature sons for the Father. When the mature sons/bride is made ready, the church age will end. Therefore, the event that will facilitate the end of the age and the mandate for the church age is the corporate man made ready—the man-child of Revelation 12 as the prepared bride/body/son for Christ.
- b. The coming forth of the corporate man in fullness will not happen automatically. Forerunners must labor until Christ is formed in a people in fullness. For this to transpire, there must be a concentrated effort on the part of the church for these things to happen. God's mature sons/bride/body *must be birthed from within the womb of the church through fervent prayer*. The eternal purpose church must take on the attitude of fervent prayer to birth a present-day man-child. It will take fervent prayer, even travail to see the mature corporate man birthed in our day. We must take up the mantle of intercession and pray fervently until the manchild is birthed. We live in a day in which God is calling for His church to intercede until Christ is formed in His people.

3. Prayer that will fill the heavenly incense bowls must be prayer from a heavenly perspective.

- a. Eternal purpose prayer is not focused primarily on the blessings and pleasure of believers. Rather it is prayer directed toward the good pleasure of the Godhead. Eternal purpose is centered in the heart of the Father for His beloved Son and for a family for Himself and the Godhead. Therefore, God's Fatherhood is the controlling and ultimate factor which determines His eternal purpose and plan for man, not man's need due to the fall. This distinction changes everything. God's purpose is rooted in the desire of the heavenly Father for a family of likeminded sons who will also become a wife for His Son.
- b. Therefore, if God's eternal purpose is rooted in the good pleasure of the Godhead rather than the needs of man, our eternal purpose intercession must come from the viewpoint of the good pleasure of the Godhead not our personal agendas, plans, thoughts, and needs—in other words, from a heavenly perspective. The church must pray for God's eternal purposes to come forth no matter what it takes. We must be willing to pray from the perspective of heaven rather than to pray from the perspective of our own will, desires, comfort, and pleasure. Praying from "a heavenly perspective" requires the church to lay down its self-focus in order to pray for the ultimate eternal purposes of God to come forth regardless of what this means for individual lives.

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4. Eternal purpose prayer will also include prayer for the nations.

- a. God desires every people group and every nation on the earth to be significantly represented in the emergence of Christ within a people. Therefore, another aspect of eternal purpose prayer is prayer for the nations.
- b. Eternal purpose prayers for the nations *must* be prayed from a heavenly perspective, not an earthly one. In the crucial days in which we live—times in which we were born for such a time as this—we must take our prayer for the nations to heavenly ground. We must pray for God’s eternal purpose to be fulfilled in the lives of individuals and nations to the maximum degree. Because of the fall, only a remnant will come into His ultimate purpose; however, we must pray with the attitude of whatever it takes. We must pray for the nations to be open to the true gospel and many things like this. No longer can we pray to sustain our Babylonian cultures just because we want comfort and prosperity in our godless lands. We must come into agreement with heaven and pray according to God’s thought and plan.

5. The goal of God’s eternal purpose also requires prayer to restrain and resist those forces that would hinder the coming forth of a people filled with Christ.

- a. Eternal purpose prayer will also include prayer to resist the works of the enemy. Earlier, we referred to Elijah calling fire from heaven to confront the opposition to the true gospel initiated by Ahab and Jezebel. In so doing, he engaged in spiritual warfare against the enemies resisting God’s purpose being fulfilled. We also mentioned Paul and his intercessory ministry. In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians—his letter about eternal purpose—he called the church to stand and resist the enemy (Eph. 6:10-12); that is, he wrote that spiritual warfare is to be an essential component of eternal purpose prayer. This is certainly true. Eternal purpose prayer will include spiritual warfare to oppose the works of the enemy in the lives of people and throughout the global community.
- b. Today, we don’t war against Ahab and Jezebel, but we do stand in resistance to the spirit of antichrist which is prevalent and greatly increasing in the world today. Please note: we do not suggest in any way that anyone directly confront demonic principalities. This is very dangerous and, in our opinion, not the correct way to participate in spiritual warfare.
- c. In our day, the spirit of antichrist is working toward developing a global government, a global religion, and a global economy in order to develop a world power that is both anti-Christian and anti-Jew. The spirit of antichrist will deceive the earth into believing that the antichrist system is good for the world. The spirit of antichrist will attempt to exalt man above God. The spirit of antichrist deceives people into denying that Jesus Christ is the true Son of God and the one mediator between God and man. The spirit of antichrist leads leaders to openly persecute Jews and Christians. Just like Esther partnered with the king to defeat Haman and his 10 sons, the church must partner with Christ in prayer to restrain the antichrist kingdom.
- d. Another aspect of the antichrist kingdom is the rise of the great harlot fueled by the same spirit that motivated Jezebel’s evil acts. Not only is the eternal purpose church called to restrain the rising of the antichrist kingdom, in a similar manner, the church is in a battle with the great harlot. Today, the harlot is taking the global culture on a downward spiral into corruption, sexual immorality, witchcraft, murder, and perversion. Furthermore, the seductive nature of the harlot is deceiving the church and leading God’s bondservants astray from truth.

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- e. Forerunners and the eternal purpose church have a twofold task. First, they must call the church out from the snare of the harlot. The scriptures tell us, “Come out of her [*the harlot and her snare*], my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4). The true bride must come out of the snare of the harlot. Second, forerunners and the church are to partner with God in facilitating judgment against the harlot and her evil tentacles. The American Standard Version of the scriptures reads, “Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye saints, and ye apostles, and ye prophets; for God hath judged your judgment on her” (Rev. 18:20, ASV). Part of filling the golden incense bowls will be to participate through prayer in God’s judging of the harlot.

6. The eternal purpose church will also pray for Israel.

- a. In God’s eternal plan and purpose, Israel plays a crucial role both in this age and in the age to come. Following Christ’s return every prophetic promise spoken over Israel will be fulfilled. This time of prophetic fulfillment is known as the Messianic Age, the Kingdom Age, or the Millennial Kingdom. It is the time when Christ will reign as King over all the earth for a thousand years, and He will do so from His throne in Jerusalem (Rev. 20:4). It will be a time when all of God’s enemies will be defeated and Christ will rule as King over the nations. For a thousand years, worship will fill the planet, and the glory of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. There is coming a day in which all of Israel will be praised throughout the earth.
- b. However, it will be in a time of great trouble in Israel that the Lord will return. The antichrist will unite many nations through a false hope of peace. He will gather nations to enact a peace treaty with Israel for seven years (Dan. 9:27). After three and one-half years, however, the antichrist will break his treaty and enthrone himself as God forcing the world to worship him (Matt. 24:15-22; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13). During this time, the antichrist will “tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months” (Rev. 11:2). At the peak of Israel’s darkest hour—when all hope seems lost—the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3-4). Then He will rule as King from Jerusalem for one-thousand years, fulfilling Israel’s prophetic promises (Zech. 14:9).
- c. In view of what is prophesied about the future of Israel, the church is called to pray for Israel. “On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem [*and Israel*] a praise in the earth” (Isa. 62:6-7).

IV. The Need for Forerunners to Pray

1. Forerunners must include the issue of prayer into their forerunner call.

- a. Intercession is not an option for one desiring to be a forerunner. It is an essential tool for the forerunner. In pursuing the call as forerunners since 1996, we have learned that essentially nothing is accomplished without accompanying prayer.
- b. With that as our foundational belief, we list six aspects to the mandate for forerunners to function as intercessors.

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2. First and foremost, forerunners must pray that they themselves are transformed into the tenets of God's eternal purpose and for their forerunner call to grow as God so desires.

- a. Forerunners must be on the same journey to which they are calling the church. Forerunners cannot be a "do what I say" people without doing what we say. Forerunners must cry out that Christ be formed in them and that He makes them ready for the end times and eternity. Forerunners must also pray for their role as a forerunner to grow and mature. Therefore, foundational to the ministry of the forerunner is to pray for personal transformation and for God's ordained call to be realized.

3. Second, forerunners must pray for people to receive the message that forerunners speak as end-time messengers.

- a. The book of Ephesians—and especially Ephesians 1—is the primary revelation of God's eternal purpose. In this context, Paul writes these words about praying for people to receive the message of eternal purpose,

...do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling [*eternal purpose*], what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (Eph. 1:16-19).

- b. In his role as a messenger, Paul communicated the message of God's eternal purpose inviting both Jews and Gentiles to accept the new wineskin he preached. In addition, he also prayed for those to whom he invited to get revelation of the truths he taught. Likewise, Elijah called on God to send fire from heaven for the purpose of waking up the people so they would turn back to God. Both men incorporated prayer into their role as forerunner messengers.
- c. As end-time forerunners function as messengers, they must incorporate prayer into their ministry. People will not receive the message without revelation and knowledge and most will not gain insight and understanding without forerunners praying for them to understand and receive the message.

4. Third, forerunners must pray for those who have received the forerunner message to gain revelation knowledge and understanding of how to walk through every step of transformation.

- a. Even once people and churches respond positively to the invitation to return to Christ in fullness and to transform their spiritual environment to embrace God's eternal purpose, prayer is still essential. The following scripture passage communicates the need for forerunners as wise master builders to not only labor in preaching and teaching but to pray regularly and fervently for the many details required for transformation,

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, *we have not ceased to pray for you* and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so

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that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light (Col. 1:9-12).

- b. There are many dimensions to building a life or a church based on God's eternal purpose. Saying "yes" to the invitation can take place in a moment, but transformation normally takes a long time. Forerunners as wise master builders must help people and churches not only to receive the message but also to be transformed so as to live the message, and prayer is essential to the transformation process. Therefore, forerunners as wise master builders must do as Paul did—to labor in prayer until Christ is formed in them and until a different spiritual environment is built in individuals and churches; that is, to not cease to pray for God's purposes to come forth in a people in fullness.

5. Fourth, forerunners must labor until Christ is formed within a people in fullness.

- a. The following passage summarizes Paul's life work as a forerunner. It reads,

Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, *which is Christ in you, the hope of glory*. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. (Col. 1:25-29).

- b. Clear from this passage and all of his epistles, Paul's life goal was to form Christ in a people in fullness. He taught on many topics; however, all had the goal of exalting the Man Christ Jesus and positioning believers so that Christ lived within them in fullness. Paul labored with this end in mind.
- c. Prayer for this goal was instrumental in his life and ministry. Note this verse we have used previously, "My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you" (Gal. 4:19-20). Paul was in labor until Christ was formed in them. Paul labored in service but also in prayer for Christ to be formed in those to whom he ministered.
- d. Forerunners must also labor in prayer until Christ is formed in a people in fullness.

6. Fifth, forerunners as wise master builders must help individual believers and local churches to become an eternal purpose house of prayer.

- a. A phrase the Lord spoke to me as I was envisioning the Forerunner School was to raise up a company of forerunner missionaries and a network of forerunner mission bases. This is more than a slogan, but is one of the primary goals of the Forerunner School. Session 12 of this class will elaborate on this goal. However, for now know this. The vision God has given for the mission bases is that each will have as an integral component an eternal purpose house of prayer. Jesus said that His house must be a house of prayer for the people of the nations.

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- b. Thus, forerunners as wise master builders must incorporate into their building process the building of a house of prayer centered around God's eternal purpose.

7. Sixth, whereas all forerunners are to intercede, intercession will be the primary call upon many forerunners.

- a. As we close this session, some may be thinking that I am not a messenger or a master builder. They may believe that God has not given them a platform to invite people into God's eternal purpose or has He empowered them to assist people in building a different spiritual environment in their life or church. They may feel they are not equipped to speak about these things. The question that may be in the mind of some is "what is my role as a forerunner?"
- b. The answer for many is that they are called as forerunners whose primary role is to intercede for the forerunner message to be received and empowered into lives and churches. Many who are called as forerunners are to be intercessors who pray for these things we speak of to become real in the lives of individuals and the church. Whereas every forerunner must grow into becoming a person of prayer, and include prayer into their ministry, some have as their life call to intercede for the tenets of the forerunner call to be birthed and to mature in the life of the church.

ⁱ NT:5605 *oodinoo*; Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2000, 2003, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.