

## **CITY TAKERS**

### **1. The Church Unusual has already received a Kingdom Mandate for city taking and nation building**

*Act 8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.*

Even though the Apostles were together in Jerusalem, the Kingdom was being established by those who have been trained in Jerusalem. Though the persecution was intense, the courage and faith kept God's people advancing the territory of the King.

*Act 8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

*Act 8:4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.*

*Mar 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.] [And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]*

*Act 11:19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.*

They went everywhere and they were unstoppable. They did not compromise the message or the work that needed to be done. They accepted their primary assignment and broke free from people and culture limitations and keep working by the grace of God empowering them.

It was common knowledge that every believer and every leader must be aligned to this assignment called the Great Commission.

*Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

**2. The Church Unusual had are message that is the MAN JESUS is BOTH the LORD and the CHRIST**

*Act 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.*

The early church was sold out to getting the message out. The message was about

*Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--*

*Act 2:23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*

*Act 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*

*Act 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.*

*Act 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.*

*Act 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,*

*Act 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."*

*Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."*

This revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ is an expanded expression of Simon Peter's earlier revelation given to him by the Father.

*Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

*Mat 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

**3. The Church Unusual must meet the city in power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit.**

The city will give attention to us said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

*Act 8:6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.*

*Act 8:8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.*

*Mar 1:33 And the whole city had gathered at the door.*

The city will be at our door if we can deliver the goods! A sick church cannot heal a dying nation.

The Church Unusual must demonstrate they have what is needed to become salt and light to the city. The city has led the way for so long and the Church has been a follower till now. For the Church to become the leader of society and the city we need to be sure:

- We have the dimensions of the Spirit and of the Word
- We have the position of stature in God
- We have the strategy and people qualified to work these strategies

*Act 19:10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.*

*Act 19:11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,*

*Act 19:12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.*

We need to penetrate the city with the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and with power. The Holy Spirit must strengthened us with power from on high, in the inner man (Eph 3:16). God will stretch forth Jesus scepter from Zion saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies."

*Psa 110:2 The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."*

**4. The Church Unusual must raise up Strategic Man to subdue the strongman over cities.**

The cities of the earth have been under the oppression of demonic forces for a long time. The Church must raise up STRONGER MEN to subdue the strong man over cities. These evil powers will cripple the spirits of men in that city and keep them bowed and paralyzed UNTIL a stronger man arise in the Kingdom of God to unseat.

*Act 8:9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;*

*Act 8:10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God."*

*Act 8:11 And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.*

*Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.*

*Act 8:13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.*

*Mat 12:29 "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.*

God raised up Philip to replace and displace Simon the magician. He was the past testimony of the city. The people were astonished at his magic acts. Now the people were giving their attention to Philip (vs.6, vs.11)

God is supernaturally and sovereignly turning the city around. God was setting His men in place. He has removed the veil over the eyes and

minds of these people so that they know the true power of the Holy Spirit.

When God's men are set in place then city will be impacted. The strong man of the city will be dethroned. The strategic men will become God's men to hold the territory for the Kingdom.

*Mat 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*

**5. The Church Unusual needs the apostolic connections and input to go to the next level.**

The Apostolic grace on Peter and John brought about the Word and Spirit dimensions to the work in Samaria. The apostolic input is needed to bring the people to the next level. Philip has laid them to Christ. Peter and John laid hands on the people, and the Holy Spirit fell upon them. They had access to God the Father through the Spirit (Eph 2:18).

The Apostolic Man has the wisdom to do what is needed for the now. They heard that the Church had received the word of God and now they needed the Holy Spirit dimensions.

*Act 8:14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,*

*Act 8:16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

The Apostolic man operates on a high level of discerning. They are the building consultants who accurately lay the foundation in these people for Kingdom advancement. They discerned the damage inaccurate man, when this work started by Philip and they dealt with it.

*Act 8:20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!"*

*Act 8:21 "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God."*

*Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you."*

*Act 8:23 "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."*

*Act 8:24 But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."*

They picked up the serpents on their spiritual radar. They dealt with it immediately.

**6. The Church Unusual will always have men they can send on a mission**

Philip was instrumental to the revival in Samaria. God needs him to be in total obedience to Him so that He can take him further in God. Most men settle in success and they built their churches in such a way they become entrenched in the business, busyness of ministry.

Very few can leave from the platform of success and be totally obedient. The crowd, the celebration, the popularity, the fame and all the benefits can sabotage our obedience to God.

**7. The Church Unusual faithfulness and obedience can open the heavens over many other cities.**

Philip left one city of Samaria in total obedience but God gave him access to ALL THE CITIES. This portal of obedience will help us see why we need to obey explicitly. Our obedience to God will result in cities changed and taken to become the hotspots of heaven. We can keep the heavens open and conducive for the Holy Spirit to move.