
IHOP Lifestyle 7: Prophetic and Power

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The second aspect of the fourth acronym “P” is *Moving in Power*. This should be a norm in the Church of Jesus Christ. Healings, prophecies, signs and wonders should be normal and common (Mark 16:15-18; 1 Cor. 1:5-7; 1 Cor. 4:20).
2. What we are seeing and experiencing now is *Not Normal*. The problem is that we accept the present situation. We should not accept or be passive about it but we *must contend* for power to come.

B. EXHORTATION TO CONTEND – JUDE 3

1. Jude 3 is a familiar verse, where Jude (the half-brother of Jesus) *exhorts* the people of God to *contend* for the fullness of God.
2. Apostle Jude was exhorting the people of God in his time to *Contend / Fight/ Press in* for the fullness of God given to the early churches because they were slipping into *Complacency, Passivity and Mediocrity*. They are beginning to accept the lack of passion, power and purity in their life and doctrine.
3. Jude was reminding them of the *Necessity and Requirement to contend* as the fullness of God will not suddenly happen. We should not accept being mediocre. There is much more in God and we need to press in for the same “quality” of life and faith.
4. This is a vital call of the Holy Spirit especially for the End-Time Church. We must contend relentlessly with resolve and tenacity. There is a need to *lay hold until* the breaking in of God!

C. DEFINITION AND PRINCIPLE OF CONTENDING

1. To contend means *to fight for something*. It is to strive against the difficulties and obstacles that hinder the release of fullness. We must not accept where we are.
2. God desires to bless us with fullness but *we determine the measure* (James 4:2; Isa. 30:18-19; Luke 11:9-10). The *Dynamic Key* in determining the measure or degree of what we receive is how much we *Contend, Ask and Hunger or Desire for it* (Matt. 5:6; Matt. 15:28).
3. We must have a *clear vision* and own the vision to walk in the fullness that God has promised for our life, ministry, nation and generation. We must have a holy pain and dissatisfaction over our powerlessness and spiritual barrenness (Matt. 5:3-4).
4. Many do not live out the fullness of God in life because of:

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- a. Wrong Biblical understanding and mindsets
 - b. Passivity - They are waiting for something to happen (Matt. 11:12).
 - c. Spiritual lethargy

D. CORRECTING WRONG MINDSETS

1. Some wrong mindsets that will hinder us from contending are:
 - a. “We just trust God.” – This is true, but we also need to respond and cooperate with God.
 - b. “It’s all about the sovereign grace of God.” – We are indeed empowered by grace, but it does not mean doing nothing.
 - c. “If it is God, it will just happen” - It is wrong to assume that everything from God will be easy.
2. It is always about us cooperating with God’s grace. God will not do our part and we cannot do God’s part. It is not about earning it, but positioning of our heart to receive.
3. Many do not live out fullness because we assume that it will just happen (1 Tim. 1:18). It is unbiblical to teach that if it’s God’s promise or will, we do not have to do anything. It is not legalism to contend for the things of God.
4. The key issue is to know what and when to embrace contending or striving for the fullness of God, and what and when to resist contending or striving because of God’s love and forgiveness.

E. FOUR PRIMARY AREAS TO CONTEND FOR

1. Correct and Biblical apostolic truth and New Testament doctrine - We must stay true to the Word (2 Thes. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:3).
2. New Testament lifestyle – we need to seek to be:
 - a. Pure in our life
 - b. Wholehearted in love
 - c. Radical in our faith
 - d. Living out the Sermon Of The Mount lifestyle (Matt. 5-7)
3. The Prophetic Promises of God for our life, the house of prayer, our nation and generation (Acts 13:36)
4. The fullness of God’s power

F. FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES IN CONTENDING FOR FULLNESS OF POWER

1. We must have a Vision for the breakthrough of fullness of God
 - a. We should press in to experience everything that is promised in the Bible. Do not settle for anything less.
 - b. The vital key is to feed our spirit with all God wants to give us from the Bible. Do not let scoffers rob you of your faith (2 Peter 3:3; Mark 4:4, 15). God wants to give us all the prophetic promises in the Bible.
 - c. Feed your spirit with the right things. Be careful what we hear and what we buy into. With the same measure that we believe and contend for, it will be the same measure that is released to us (Mark 4:24).
 - d. Some Biblical promises for our generation are: John 14:12; Acts 2:17-20; Micah 7:15; Eph. 5:26-27; 3:19; 4:13; Matt. 16:18; 22:37; Rev. 7:9; 12:11; 15:2; 19:1-8; 22:17.
 - e. Read and be inspired by the lives of the early Apostles (Book of Acts) and the mighty men of God in history (Biographies).
 - f. It is not Biblical to teach believers only to seek God's face and not His hand. We should seek both (1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1, 39). It is the issue of order and priority. We seek His face first and then His hand.
 - g. We want to manifest God's power, so that we can point many to Him. The signs of God's power will authenticate His message (1 Cor. 2:4, 5).
 2. Be Active and Aggressive in seeking breakthrough through prayer & fasting
 - a. Do not be passive. We need to press in hard.
 - b. Have a "holy violence" when seeking breakthrough (Matt. 11:12). Those who have spiritual tenacity and resolution will receive the reward.
 - c. The key is in prayer and fasting (Matt 17:15-21). Do not quit and do not stop believing.
 - d. We gather as a house to contend for fullness, not just to do harp and bowl or prayer.
 3. Be Faithful and Grateful in the days of small beginnings (Zech. 4:10)
 - a. Always be thankful to God for what we have. We need a balance between holy dissatisfaction and being grateful.
 - b. There is a difference between vision and gratitude. Vision is seeing what we do not have and then going for it. Gratitude is seeing what we have and be thankful to God.
 - c. Never belittle and never despise the days of small beginning.
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4. Do not quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thes. 5:16-23). The Holy Spirit can be quenched by:
 - a. Control
 - i. Do not refuse the leadership of the Holy Spirit and always make room for more of Him, even if we may not understand all the time.
 - ii. Control is the opposite of truth and is opposed to what God wants to do. It becomes more about my timing, my way and my understanding.
 - iii. It does not mean a lack of order (1 Cor. 14) as chaos does not honor the Holy Spirit. It does not mean to relinquish leadership and have an “anything goes” mentality.
 - b. Exhibitionism or Emotionalism
 - i. We should not draw attention to ourselves. We must not add anything to the Spirit’s manifestation.
 - ii. Do not stir up hype and exaggeration. We should focus on God, and not on the manifestation itself.
 - c. Neglecting the Word
 - i. The Scripture is the chariot that Holy Spirit rides on. He works within the glorious “holy boundary” of the Word of God.
 - ii. The Word of God does not stifle but it “confirms” and enhances.
 - iii. The Word tests all things (1 Thes. 5:21). It provides Biblical leadership for us.
 - d. Laziness (Rom. 12:11-12)
 - i. We must be diligent in pursuing the things of God.
 - e. Seek to fully obey God without compromising
 - i. Prayer and fasting is not a substitution for obedience. It is not the issue of attaining but we must keep on pursuing.
 - ii. There is a powerful dynamic that occurs in our hearts when we pursue 100% obedience.
5. Prepare to face Reproach – There is always a stigma of carrying the anointing (Matt. 5:11-12; 1 Cor. 4:9-12; 2 Cor. 12:7).

G. CONCLUSION

1. In Matt. 17:14-21, the disciples had no power to cure the epileptic who was suffering severely.
 2. It has to bother us, that the Body of Christ has no answer to certain things. We cannot accept being faithless and powerless.
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3. The disciples did not explain it away, but asked Jesus about it.
4. We need to believe God for fullness of power. Let's *pray and contend for the Biblical promises* even though we are not seeing it now.