



Are You Qualified for Royalty?

Karen E. Connell

Heb 5:8-9

Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered... In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, NLT

I have to wonder how many professing Christians actually understand the power, privilege and authority we have in being part of God's ROYAL PRIESTHOOD (1 Pet 2:9). God has given His "chosen generation" known as the HOLY NATION the priestly ministry of showing forth His praises. The word *show forth* means to "make manifest or make known"... God's "praises". The word "praises" is the Greek word *arête* (strong's #703) which refers to God's worth—perfection—goodness. In other words, our ministry as the "royal priesthood" will demonstrate God's worth—goodness—perfection when we minister to His people. As God's priests we are His messengers who have been empowered by Him to reflect His glory and demonstrate His authority. As priests of the true and living God we are called to use His authority to bless His people. *"Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them... The LORD bless thee... And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them"* (Num 6:23-24 KJV).

Please notice it is the **words we speak** as priests that place God's NAME upon His people resulting in His blessing. The word "name" (strong's #8034) literally means authority—character—reputation. What we speak in our priestly ministry to others has the authority to make known God's true character so He can be clearly seen and His reputation rightly honored and feared. *"O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, call upon His name, make known His doings among thy peoples!... Glory in His holy name... remember the marvelous deeds that He has done, His miracles and wonders, the judgments and sentences which He pronounced"* (Ps 105:1 AMP).

What a privilege it is for us to bless others by making very clear God's miracles, judgments and reputation! It is not only a wonderful privilege but it also an awesome responsibility to accurately represent our holy God. As members of this royal priesthood must be aware of how

much weight our words carry. It brings shame upon us and our priestly ministry when we who are to be dedicated to holiness and righteousness, fall into complaining about and criticizing those we are called to bless. Jesus said faultfinding was akin to murder! *You have heard that it was said to the men of old, You shall not kill, and whoever kills shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the court... But I say to you that everyone who continues to be angry with his brother or harbor enmity of heart against him shall be liable to and unable to escape punishment; and whoever speaks contemptuously and insultingly to his brother shall be liable to and unable to escape punishment... and whoever says, You... idiot! shall be liable to and unable to escape the fire of hell "* (Matt 5:21-22 Amp).

As priests unto God our words are to be life giving and not death bearing. *Those who love to talk will experience the consequences, for the tongue can kill or nourish life"* (Prov 18:21 NLT).

It takes spiritual authority to bless others. We often say things like "God bless you," in order to express a nice thought but do our words have the authority to really bless others? We must realize there is genuine spiritual authority through the redemptive power of Jesus that can be released upon others through our pronouncing blessing that will move the arm of God on their behalf.

I recall hearing a story about a priestly-minded Christian woman who told about a spirit of unrest that had entered her home through one of her new tenants. The tenant was an ill-tempered person who was bent on making life miserable for this Christian woman. The Holy Spirit reminded her not to criticize or complain about this tenant but to use her priestly authority to bless them. She began to proclaim the name of Jesus as the Redeemer over her home, asking Him to rule it with His redemptive power, so no other spirit could remain there. She also pronounced the Redeemer's name as a blessing upon this troubled tenant and asked that the blood of Jesus would cleanse this tenant from all evil. As she continued day after day to pray in this way, it was not long before the oppressive spirit left the tenant; instead of restlessness and anger there was a sense of divine peace. If we only realized the difference we could make in families, homes, churches and in our communities if more Christians would take

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seriously their priestly ministry! When we operate in our priestly ministry, our prayers have great authority because they are heard by God.

We probably all know certain Christians who seem to have more power when it comes to praying. It seems their prayers get answered when others do not. Why is this? Aren't ALL Christians suppose to be part of the ROYAL PRIESTHOOD? If we are true priests unto God our voices should be heard, and what we ask should be granted. *"And whatever we ask we receive from Him..."* (1 John 3:22 KJV). Many Christians claim this promise as well as many other verses promising we can receive what we ask for in prayer. However, it seems God does not hear or answer the prayers of many who claim these promises, because the conditions are not met. *"...we receive—because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight"* (1 John 3:22 NKJV).

There was a time in Israel's history that the priests of God had neglected their priestly ministry. It wasn't until King Hezekiah began his reforms within the nation of Israel that the priestly ministry was also restored. For over 200 years, from the time of King Solomon to Hezekiah, there had been no one to bless or intercede for the people. When the priestly ministry was restored the people were then blessed. *"There was great joy in the city, for Jerusalem had not seen a celebration like this one since the days of Solomon, King David's son... Then the Levitical priests stood and blessed the people, and God heard them from his holy dwelling in heaven"* (2 Chron 30:26-27 NLT).

Please notice how this states *"God heard the priests from his holy dwelling in heaven"*. This tells us that their ministry had the "spiritual authority" to bless the people, because God heard their prayers. Before God could hear them, these priests had to do some "house-cleaning" in their own lives! We are told before they ministered in their priestly ministry they had to deal with any hindrances in their own lives. *Then the priests and Levites became ashamed, so they purified themselves and brought burnt offerings to the*

Temple of the LORD" (2 Chron 30:15 NLT)

We cannot function in our priestly ministry of intercession and expect to see others set free and to have God's blessing come upon those we are praying for—if we have not confessed and repented of our own sin. *Listen! The LORD is not too weak to save, and he is not becoming deaf. He can hear you when you call... But there is a problem — your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore... Your hands are the hands of murderers (anger), and your fingers are filthy with sin. Your mouth is full of lies, and your lips (speech) is tainted with corruption... No one cares about being right and honest... They spend their time and energy spinning harmful plans that end up in deadly actions... Nothing they do is productive; all their activity is filled with sin... Wherever they go, misery and destruction follow them... They do not know what true peace is or what it means to be just and good... It is because of all this evil that deliverance is far from us"* (Isa 59:1-9 NLT).

Disqualified As Priests

Like God's son Jesus, we too must learn obedience by suffering and depriving ourselves of all fleshly lusts, so sin will cease. *"...for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin...that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God"* (1 Peter 4:1-2NKJV).

Obedience to God and His word is the only way to deal a death blow to our carnal nature and sin. If we remain carnal and materialistic minded we will not qualify for the priestly ministry. God does not overlook our sin, no matter how many "spiritual " or "good" looking things we may be involved in. If we are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit and obedient to the word of God, we are only deceiving ourselves. **Without cleansing from all sin we are not qualified to come before God's throne as His representatives** which means we will lack authority and the demonic rulers of this present world will know it!

We as God's HOLY NATION are to be a kingdom of KINGS and PRIESTS. This means we have been given God's authority to contend for the possession of all creation

including all (unholy) nations. One of Satan's chief strategies to keep us from taking dominion over the invisible ruling principalities and powers that influence the conduct of individuals and nations, is to keep us indifferent to and ignorant of their presence. As kings and priests unto our God we are called to be not only involved with these demonic forces, but to be engaged in a struggle against them that has been going on for thousands of years. Deliverance is not just a personal issue. It is a cosmic issue! We must operate in the apostolic authority of our kingly and priestly ministry because there is a final defeat that is to be inflicted upon Satan and his forces when the church becomes the true apostolic church. This can only be achieved by corporate unity where we are of one heart, mind and spirit, otherwise we have no power or authority to participate in this battle of the ages.

We must guard against our preoccupation with anything carnal that will keep us from being occupied with "spiritual realities" and with truth. When this happens we will not see our true spiritual condition. If Satan's demonic powers can keep God's people carnal minded, he knows they will become easily offended and they will fight and argue and become critical when they don't get their way. In this carnal state the desire for what is natural or material will become their focus and this preoccupation with natural things will cause them to become "spiritually dull". Our preoccupation with non-essential matters will rob us of our eternal and kingdom focus.

The powers of the air find a place of influence in the minds of those whose focus is on "non-essential" matters. They become intoxicated by demonic perceptions that result in divisions and conflicts within families, churches and nations. We are told to live "soberly" which means we are not to allow the intoxicating influence of carnality to give place to the devil in our lives. *"And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God ... while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus*

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Christ, will be revealed... He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right... You must teach these things and encourage your people to do them, correcting them when necessary. You have the authority to do this, so don't let anyone ignore you or disregard what you say" (Titus 2:12-15 NLT).

It is our priestly ministry to bring correction to God's people when they fall into carnality. In order to bring correction this requires the presence of God's authority in our lives as kings and priests. Only those free from ALL sin and who have clean hands and hearts are given this authority from God. Only to the extent that we overcome our own sin do we have the power and authority to deal with sin and demonic influence through our priestly ministry. Where are those who have wholly dedicated themselves to holiness and righteousness as God's priestly people who like the priests under King Hezekiah feel shame for their sin and are willing to openly repent before others? Where are the priestly Christians who can stand in the gap with power and authority for captives and the victims within the nations of the world? Where are fellowships that labor to bring repentance and effective prayer for impending judgments from God? *"The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger... So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one"* (Ezek 22:29-30 NKJV)

Coming Under the Influence

The powers of the air want to keep us divided and out of true union with one another so we will not become the corporate power God has intended the body of Christ to be; and never function as priestly ministers for those held captive. To think we have any authority over the powers of the air when we are all wrapped up in our own self-interests is ridiculous! Satan and his minions don't care how much we know or teach and preach about the Bible or Biblical concepts, but they DO shake in their booties when they see us live an authentic crucified life that exhibits the true character of Christ. It is only then that the resurrection power of God in us can overcome their influence in and around us!

The resurrection life and power of God in us is His own nature which causes demons to flee in terror. If we live by the wisdom of this world which feeds our fallen human nature,

the resurrection life and the wisdom of God is not in us. The powers of darkness FEAR the wisdom of God and they will do anything they can to keep the church from demonstrating that wisdom. *"To the intent that NOW the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places"* (Eph 3:10 NKJV)

When God's wisdom is present demonic forces are rendered powerless. The cosmic struggle is over which wisdom, value system, or perception is going to rule our lives. Therefore the powers of darkness keep humans focused on what they can see and keep them so distracted that eternal realities are not the focus. How much does your average Christian think about standing in judgment before God for all that he has done as a Christian? For that matter, how much does your average Christian think about death and dying? *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"* (Heb 9:27 NKJV). Who wants to think about things like judgment and death, which are true eternal realities, when you can think about things that please our carnal mind! The powers of the air recognize those who keep themselves from their influence and the spirit and wisdom of this world. Those who keep themselves will become targets for attack by those compromising Christians who are more comfortable with feeling accepted and respected by others who are carnal minded. Those distracted by this world and the affairs and cares of this world will have little tolerance for the truly spiritually minded Christian. Art Katz in his book "Apostolic

Foundations" says the following: *"God has chosen the foolish and weak thing to confound the wisdom of this world. He chooses those who live without the need to possess, who do not seek prestige, who do not need to be recognized or acknowledged. The guileless and childlike manifest the wisdom that defeats the powers. A Christianity that becomes prestigious, dignified, acceptable and respectable is no longer apostolic."*

We must remain pure in our lives and motives if we are going to overcome the deceptive powers of the enemy. We must never become complacent or satisfied with our spiritual state or relationship with God. The priests in the Old Testament put their confidence in their temple and in their offerings, giving them a false sense of confidence before God. *"But do not be fooled by those who repeatedly promise your safety because the Temple of the LORD is here... I will be merciful only if you stop your wicked thoughts and deeds..."* (Jer 7:4-5 NLT)

Many New Testament believers accept the benefits of Jesus' sacrifice but still show little or no repentance in response to God's word. This makes their priestly ministry ineffective as kings and priests—prolonging Satan's reign and delaying the inevitably prophesied theocratic kingdom of God upon the earth. According to the Bible God is going to use the true church through its priestly ministry to bring the nation of Israel into its restored place from where God's theocratic world rule must come. *"Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the Temple of the God of*



He that has an ear let him hear...

Trumpet Sounds

Volume #1

Karen E. Connell

He who has an ear... let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death. (Rev 2:11)

Far too many professing Christians are not overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil but are instead being overcome by them. This booklet contains a series of articles from past issues of Extended Life C.T.M *Trumpet Sounds Newsletters*. God has given this ministry the mandate to sound the alarm in this hour in order to awaken God's people to hear what the Spirit is saying to His church in these end times. These messages are worth sharing and re-reading time and again!

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Israel. There he will teach us his ways, so that we may obey him." For in those days the LORD's teaching and his word will go out from Jerusalem....(from there) The LORD will settle international disputes..." (Isa 2:3-4 NLT parenthesis mine).

Satan and his fallen angels know this better than the church does, which is why they want to destroy Israel and true Christianity. The backslidden nation of Israel along with backslidden Christians, who possess only a "form of godliness", are going to face the ruthless dealings of God through many terrible judgments that are meant to awaken as well as punish them. The voice of God is even now clearly speaking through the terrible destruction and devastation we are facing in our nations. In view of this how many of us are still ignoring God's hand of judgment and continue to live self-centered, spiritually complacent lives that are preoccupied with worldly things? Our pursuit of happiness and pleasure is causing conformity to this world and is arousing the wrath of God and we don't even see it or just plain don't care! *They have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel... That is why the anger of the LORD burns against his people (the church and Israel). That is why he has raised his fist to crush them. The hills tremble, and the rotting bodies of his people are thrown as garbage into the streets. But even then the LORD's anger will not be satisfied. His fist is still poised to strike!" (Isaiah 5:24-25 NLT parenthesis mine).*

When sickness, financial ruin, and trouble of all manner devastate us and our families, churches and nations, do we turn to God and ask Him to closely examine our lives and turn in repentance from our wicked ways? No! We assume the role of a victim to "mother earth" or blame God and others for our devastation. Until we take God's judgments seriously by turning to Him with prayer and fasting and give up our worldly enjoyments, only then can we minister true salvation to the suffering masses during times of divine chastening. God is waiting for His true saints to stand in the gap through repentance, first for themselves, then leading others to God through repentance. *"Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who tries to live a godly life is soon attacked. The LORD looked and was displeased to find that there was no justice (NLT)...He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor"* (Isa 59:15-16 NKJV).

If our love for this world and for ourselves continues we will go on living as if

nothing has happened and neglect our priestly ministry of bringing repentance and salvation to those under God's judgment. The priestly ministry requires that we deal with the sins of the people. When sin goes unchecked judgment and devastation is the only just course of action by God. God's word is very clear concerning this. *"And I will punish the world for their evil"* (Isa 13:11 KJV).

The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again" (Isa 24:20 NKJV).

Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are found guilty: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are consumed, and few men left" (Isa 24:6 ASV).

Many people, including Christians often say things like "How can God be a God of love if he allows and brings such horrible devastation and misery by making people suffer with sickness, starvation and death?" Our sins—not God are to blame! It is our lack of fear for God, our worldliness, pride, self-centeredness and lack of love for Him that cause us to experience judgment. Even as Christians, instead of interceding for one another, we complain and criticize those we are called to bless. When God speaks to us through judgment, we must hear His voice. *While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation"* (Heb 3:15 KJV).

The time of God's grace is swiftly coming to a close, the world is like a house on fire! We as kings and priests of God must rescue those who are trapped in their sin. The day of the Lord's appearing is near and the Bible is clear that it will be preceded by waves of preliminary divine judgments. *"The courage of many people will falter because of the fearful fate they see coming upon the earth..."* (Luke 21:26 NLT).

There is a great price to be paid for entering into our priestly ministry to save the souls of men. Those who take seriously their priestly ministry are willing to suffer by sacrificing their creature comforts, be misunderstood and forego the love and respect of others. They are willing to do without food, sleep, homes and times of fun. Those who are not willing to lose these things will not fulfill their God ordained destiny. The Apostle Paul compares those who are willing to suffer to professing Christians who are not. *"We have become a spectacle to the entire world — to people and angels alike... Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but you (look) so wise! We are weak, but you (look) so powerful! You are well*

thought of, but we are laughed at... To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, without enough clothes to keep us warm. We have endured many beatings, and we have no homes of our own... We have worked wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us... We respond gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash — right up to the present moment...I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children." (1 Cor 4:9-13 NLT parenthesis mine).

Also as true priests we must be willing to enter into the distress of sin and God's divine judgments in order to bring protection and deliverance to the lost. Like Daniel, our priestly ministry requires us to suffer by identifying with and experiencing the sins and judgments of those we minister on behalf of by humbling ourselves for their sakes. *"I learned from the word of the LORD ... that Jerusalem must lie desolate (undergo judgment)... So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I wore rough sackcloth and sprinkled myself with ashes... I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed...we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations... We have refused to listen to your servants the prophet...O our God, hear your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary..."O my God, listen to me and hear my request. Open your eyes and see our wretchedness... We do not ask because we deserve help, but because you are so merciful..."O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, O my God, do not delay, for your people and your city bear your name"* (Dan 9:2-20 NLT parenthesis mine).

In the on going devastating events of these end times our priestly ministry must be clearly seen amid the darkness and despair. God needs messengers who have come from His presence who are empowered by Him to reflect His **goodness** to all who will repent and to warn of his **severity** to all who reject His truth. Our prayers are powerful when we stand in our priestly ministry as God intended. Who is willing to take up this priestly ministry and answer the call to enter the "royal priesthood?" The Lord is asking whom will I send? Who will be my messenger? Who will serve Me as a royal king and priest and minister to a world headed for hell in a hand basket? May we hear this call and may our response be the same as that of the prophet Isaiah. *"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And He said, "Go, and tell the people..."* (Isa 6:8-9 NKJV) ●