For many years whenever I have begun to feel the sense of drifting,—not outside the shadow of the Almighty, but somehow not as close. His Grace would begin to woo me back. I’ve wondered sometimes if He created that sense of drifting it being His way of initiating a call to renewal. But in any case my heart’s cry was, Lord give me a mantle of prayer. It never failed, usually a night watch, the call would come at 3:00 a.m. when sleep became the cost and I would arise.

This time was a little different—already in a season of prayer and fasting a greater call came to separate myself. It happened in this manner.

The month of January always rings with a call to prayer and fasting—this year was no different other than the way I heard the call. I received an invitation from a local pastor to ‘do something on prayer’—something beyond teaching or preaching—something that would be experiential. I immediately sensed God was working through this to draw me aside. Just thirty minutes earlier I had received a call from England with another invitation: Would I like a week away for retreat—and did I know where Big Canoe was!!! [For those not familiar with this area, Big Canoe is just around the mountain from where we live]

God was weaving something together, I responded and away I went to ‘be still’ and listen.
During that time I was given a blueprint for *Five Mantles of Prayer*. A renewed prayer emphasis to bring repentance, renewal, refreshing and embolden God’s people. Not just a teaching but a message that included corporate-involvement-in-action. So along with the podcast I will share in these pages the message the Lord has given us as a way forward for 2012.

The Word says much about PRAYER --- Scriptures

The ‘back-drop’ for this renewed prayer emphasis is taken from 1 Samuel 13—and the story of Tamar daughter of King David.

When Tamar daughter of King David and half sister of Amnon,[David’s son] was raped by Amnon, it is written that “Tamar put ashes on her head and tore off the ornamental robe she was wearing. [2 Samuel 13:19] It was a sign of great mourning and the intensity of her pain at losing her purity. Her ornamental gown was a sign of her position as daughter of royalty; it was torn from her body, exposing the sin done against her and the pursuant loss of her position, purity, or any hope of marriage.

The unimaginable has happened in our nation—over and over again—the church is being raped of its purity, false doctrine abounds ,the likes of which should make the church shudder in the fear of the Lord. Only repentance can turn the church and our nation back to God.

This nation has been blessed like no other nation on earth. Yet like Korazin and Bethsaida I hear down through the ages the echo of the voice of Jesus saying, “Woe to you...if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes”. [Matthew 11:21]

The sack cloth, signifying loss of all human dignity leaves man naked before a Holy God. It is the same nakedness portrayed by Christ on the Cross of Calvary.

We no longer use sack cloth and ashes in our society but fasting and mantles of prayer are the garments to be worn.

The church has lost her covering, it is time to cry out for the Five Mantles of Prayer to cover and restore our families, our cities and our nation.

The purpose of the message is:

To center on the Cross of Jesus Christ; to receive the prayer mantles each time we enter our prayer closets and to experience ascendency of prayer.

It is not a time to ‘study’ about prayer but to experience prayer and receive the fresh mantles God in His mercy has prepared for us.

Mantle of Mercy

“Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father’s nakedness and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took garment [mantle] and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father’s nakedness.
Their face were turned the other way so that they would not see their father’s nakedness.” [Genesis 9:22-23]

God’s people have a choice—they can mock, ridicule or judge others whether the family of God or the world or they can choose to turn their eyes toward God and allow a mantle of mercy to cover them personally enabling them to show mercy. James 2:13 says “...judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

The response of making his father a mockery brought the curse down on the head of Ham and the whole lineage of Canaanites were cursed. “When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. So he said, “Cursed by Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers.” [Genesis 9:24-25] By comparison the mercy shown to Shem and Japheth brought great blessing to the lineage of the Hebrew nation and Gentiles. “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. May God extend the territory of Japheth; my Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave.” When Mercy covers judgment the blessing is released! For what seemed like a simple act of spreading a mantle of Mercy over Noah, Shem and Japheth were blessed with position and increase. Great is the revelation shining through this promise of living in the tent of the Shem-the elder brother. As the elder brother the Hebrew nation reflects the position of Jesus Christ who is the elder brother of every born again believer. The attitude of MERCY is the attitude that releases a mantle of PRAISE.

Of course Jesus was the resounding answer. And then the revelation came that Shem being the progenitor of the Hebrews and Japheth the Gentiles---Jesus has brought the two together under the covering of the Lord Jesus Christ –We have been grafted into the same vine as the Jew – in Christ we are one. [Romans 11 – John 15]

Living and dwelling in His tent is to live in the Presence of Almighty God—where Jew and Gentile live in unity!

It is this same blessing that the sons and daughters of God have been given even today. We need to cry out to God, repent of our judgmental attitudes and receive a mantle of mercy. Mercy that prepares our hearts to pray God’s mercy on those around us.

MANTLE OF MERCY - PRAYER FOR SELF AND OTHERS

Mercy covers judgment

Psalm 51 – Matthew 6:12-14
No explaining/simple confession of sin and judgment against self and others

Repentance and release of forgiveness---crying out for God’s mercy

Notes:

Mantle of Praise

Acceptance of our own tendency to judge others and our need to receive a mantle of mercy releases a mantle of praise.. For God is near and dear to a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

When we meet the mountain of our own pride where poverty of spirit cries out to God and His Spirit meets us we find it is the place of unattainable heights it is the place of ascent. Like Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah in 2 Chronicles 20 the place of ascent is reached by the power of praise and will suddenly cause the power of ascension to enter the soul. Even if you find yourself in the wilderness as Judah did the place of insurmountable problems will turn into the place of ascension through Praise. In the tomb death was overcome by the power of the resurrection and Jesus walked upon the earth—he was seen by many—that was before the power of ascension was released and He was then raised up to heaven to be seated with His Father. Just so the place of resurrection power is altered by the power of praise to raise you up to the high places.

It is written “When Judah came to the ‘lookout’—high place, a vantage point. God often takes His people to the high places to see more of Who He Is. Balaam was taken to the high places [Numbers 23] to prove God was a God of blessing. Jesus was take to a high place in Matthew 4 to prove He had all power over the temptations of the evil one. John was taken to a high place Revelation 4, to hear a fresh Word and vision from God. Peter, James and John were taken to a high place and told—“this is my Son—listen to Him’.
We are raised with Christ to be seated in heavenly places, a high place where God dwells and God’s perspective is our perspective. We ‘see’ with the eye of the Spirit. All of the enemies of our soul—the weaknesses that hold us down.

“...everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does...” All of those things that hinder our walk and create caves and strongholds for lies to hide are exposed by the prisms of light and palmistry of praise.

God’s perspective is given to those who persevere in praise and worship. When the people of God turn to see from a higher vantage point all they can see is a defeated and slain enemy. Christ says, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy, Nothing will harm you” [Luke 10:18-20] and in the fullness of time on the Cross of Calvary He crushed Satan under His heel.

Praise causes confusion in the enemies camp and the cry of victory increases the overwhelming sound of high praises.

The enemy is a defeated for—his deception is torn away and we are winners.

So let the reality of God’s mercy cause your heart to break and bring forth a panoply or Praise for who He is and what He has accomplished in you. Let your prayer time be filled with the praises of God!

It is in this place of praise that the ‘rich ornamental robe’ of royalty is being restored to cover God’s sons and daughters through ascension they enter into God’s Holy dwelling place.

**MANTLEOF PRAISE-FOR WHO HE IS**

Philippians 4:4-8

Psalm 150
Mantle of Blessing

God has blessed both the Jew and the Gentile in Jesus Christ—this is the covenant of Almighty God—every time we see the rainbow in the sky we are assured of God's blessing—God’s blessing is multifaceted, multicolored. Turn with me to this third mantle—the Mantle of Blessing found in Genesis 37:3 – Genesis 4

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.”

This mantle of prayer is a mantle of BLESSING/LOVE ---it is rich---those who are the sons and daughters of royalty always wear fine robes. The colors are the blessings, the anointing that is bequeathed to the family of God. It is a mantle of prayer that prays blessing on family members, neighbors, friends all people everywhere. When the ‘blessing’ of God is poured out as it was at Calvary it meets the need, it convicts, it converts, it releases compassion, it brings commitment---- When this blessing of the third person of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit, is released through our prayers it will reconcile the whole family just as Joseph’s did---before it saved a nation it first brought reconciliation to the family. “Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph!...come close to me” [Genesis 45:3-4]
Joseph knew that the lineage of Shem made him the vessel God would use to bring great increase—those who are the lineage of the Gentiles have been given this same rich robe of righteousness. The Father’s reception to the sons repentance in Luke 15 reveals not just pardon but complete restoration. “….bring forth the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet”.

The ornamental robe of Tamar, the richly ornamented robe give to Joseph—these are the mantles of blessing God’s people put on in the place of prayer.

When sons and daughters of God walk, talk, live and wear this mantle of LOVE the authority of Jesus Christ is theirs. Paul said in Philippians 2:5 Let this same attitude be in you that was in Christ Jesus! There is power in God’s Love, because God is LOVE—it is the mantle of blessing.

Pray for the release of the blessing/anointing of the Father’s Love for Families

Notes

Mantle of Authority

2 Kings 3:13-14

“He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. “where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” he asked, When he

MANTLE OF BLESSING – PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Genesis 37:3 – 1 John 3:1
struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed. “

Elisha had followed Elijah from Bethel, to the Jordon and to Jericho—it was in these places he had experienced the demonstration of God’s power. What man or woman does not want to see the supernatural power of God! Elisha knew to receive the power was to use the power. He had to act on what he had seen and believed. His attitude was one of “if I’m going to believe and act on what I’ve seen then God you have to be here just like you were for Elijah—where else would you be at such a time as this?”

His attitude of love for Elijah – his perseverance – gave him the boldness to speak with authority and expect miracles.

The prayers of God’s people will have a mantle of authority over them—their prayers will be powerful and bring down the principalities and powers of wickedness in high places.

Prayer in authority and cry out to God expecting miracles. Stand against the wiles of the enemy in our cities our nation and the world. Jesus said, “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you” Luke 10:19 – It’s time to stand in the authority that Christ has given us in His Name.

“Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops” James 5:17-18

Just as Elisha ‘saw’ Elijah rise and stooped to pick-up the mantle of power the sons and daughters of God

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities and the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:10-18

The enemy is a defeated for—his deception is torn away and we are winners.

MANTLE OF AUTHORITY – PRAYER FOR OUR CITY/NATION AND WORLD


Prayer with authority for miracles.

Stand against the wiles of the enemy in our city/nation/world
Mantle of Unity

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”  Micah 6:8

Remember the covering of mercy that brought both Shem and Japheth into a place of dwelling together. As we pray we must wear the MANTLE OF UNITY and pray for the Unity of the Body of Christ. This mantle is the Robe of Jesus – the seamless robe that even evil men knew not to rip apart or destroy.

Paul said; “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” Ephesians 4:5  God is looking for a people who come out of the prayer closet wearing the seamless robe of humility and holiness

As we wear the Mantle of mercy, praise, love, authority and unity we must keep in mind the words of Paul—

2 Thessalonians 5:16-24