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CHANGING THE SPIRITUAL CLIMATE

The Problem:

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

The Solution:

“I am sending you to them to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God.” (Acts 26:17,18)

Hostile Spiritual Climate—chapters 1 thru 9

Favorable Spiritual Climate—chapters 10 thru 24

The Turning Point: Luke Chapter 10

¹⁷ “And the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.’” ¹⁸ “And He said to them, ‘I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.’”

KEY# 1: Gospel of Kingdom (Right message)

“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then, the gospel of the kingdom is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.” (Luke 16:16)

KEY# 2: Deployment to Right Location (Right place)

¹ “Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two and two ahead of Him to every **city** and **place** where He Himself was going to come.”

² “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

³ “Go your ways; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”

KEY# 3: Jesus 4-Step Strategy

- 1. Bless** - ⁵ “And whatever house you enter, first say, **Peace** be to this house.”
- 2. Fellowship** - ⁷ “Stay in that house, **eating and drinking** what they give you.”
- 3. Minister to Felt Needs** - ^{9a} “**Heal** those in it who are sick.”
- 4. Proclaim** - ^{9b} “**Say to them**, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

Biblical Objective:

- To lift up Jesus in the entire city... (John 12:32)
- **SO THAT** Satan will fall down like lightning and all his demons will become subject to the Church... (Luke 10:17-19)
- Which will dismantle his structure of power by taking the kingdom of God all over the city (treading)... (Luke 10:19)
- And as a result sinners will force their way into the kingdom of God... (Luke 16:16)

Where else in the New Testament is prayer evangelism spelled out?

Paul was the most effective church planter of his time. Timothy was one of his closest associates. Let's see what they have to say.

I Timothy 2:1-6,8 "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all men—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness".

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all . . . I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or dissension."

Why have we missed it?

Because of two misconceptions about the original text:

1. No chapter divisions.
2. No breaks. Letters intended to be read, studied and applied as a whole.

Context in the preceding chapter

I Tim. 1:15 "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

v. 16 And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

v.17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

v.18 **This command I entrust to you**, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may **fight the good fight**,

v.19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

v.20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered over to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

CHAPTER 2 is where the command to use prayer as evangelism is spelled out

v.1 **First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,**

v. 2 for kings and all who are in authority in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

v. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

v. 4 **who desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

v. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

v. 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.

v. 7 And for this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

v. 8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension."

WHY ISN'T IT HAPPENING TODAY?

Because we use a condensed version of the Great Commission instead of the full version, which requires the context to be included:

MATTHEW 28:19— “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit ...

versus

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘**ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME** in heaven and **ON EARTH**. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; **AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**, even to the end of the age.’”