



Apostolic Notes

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BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED



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Have you ever purchased an electronic item and when you get it home anticipating it's use, you find that it requires batteries to power it - and they are not included. How frustrating, you have this wonderfully advertised, do all gadget in your hands - yet it cannot deliver - because it lacks power. How often do we sense this happening in our spiritual lives when we attempt to minister.

Operating in apostolic authority is putting the batteries into our spiritual lives. When we speak of apostolic, we are referring to the type of ministry that was exhibited in the life of Jesus as the Chief Apostle and the original apostles. The Greek for apostle is *apostolos*. According to Holman's Bible Dictionary it is "a person sent to accomplish a mission. An apostle represents the one sending and **has authority to represent** the sender in business, political or educational situations." In short, the one sending empowers the one sent.

Along with this, the scripture shows us that the Greek for apostle and sent are similar. Thayer's tells us there are four components to being sent (for clarification see [AN Vol 1 No 3](#) on our website) the first being an order to go.

A primary principle of apostolic authority is that there is someone else who gives the orders and empowers the individual to carry them out. Basically the **batteries are included** by the one who gives the orders. The amount of authority is based on the power of the entity or individual who has given the order. A simple example is an ambassador from a super power nation has more power backing them, then a smaller nation. Apostolic authority is a life transforming power, because it's source is from the Apostle, Jesus, himself.

Jesus instructs that we will receive power after the Holy Ghost is come on us, and we are to then use this power to be witnesses of Him (Acts 1:8). In the Darby translation of 1 Timothy 1:12, Paul's statement shows that he understood this source of power. The verse states; "[And] I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me power, that he has counted me faithful, appointing to ministry..." The word translated for "given me power," basically means *dunamis* or power was placed in him and he was set or appointed to

minister. Therefore, Paul had the faith to operate within this authority.

This is much like the centurion of Luke chapter 7. He was a man "set" under authority, obviously this was done by a greater authority. Since this greater authority set him, he empowered (think batteries) the centurion to act with authority within the confines of his placement. No questions asked, no doubt, no fear but faith (that is what Jesus recognized about him - faith).

The liberating truth of this is that because the Lord is our power, we can expect results when we operate in the ministry or gifting that He has given us. When that gadget you bought finally gets connected to its power source, it is just natural to operate the way it was designed.

Apostolic Authority is putting the batteries into our spiritual lives

Now take a look at this text; "and to Him who is able above all things to do exceeding abundantly what we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us," (Young's Literal Translation). The results are based on that power that

comes from Him, working in us. This power is activated when we are obedient and operate in the ministry or gifting He has given us.

Food for thought - If I am not seeing the results in the ministry or gifting I am operating in, am I sure it is His or one of my choice. His is where the power will be.

Till next time.....
Martin

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