

# **Minstrel With Authority Part 1**

By Don Potter

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Have you ever noticed how some people just seem to have authority on their gift or ability to play their instrument? Some singers have the same kind of power when they just open their mouths to sing. This seems to work in sports, the arts, and in general life if we take time to notice it. I once knew a carpenter who was so at ease with a hammer and saw that he seemed like he was born that way. We sometimes say of these people, "They have a feel for it," or "They have a natural gift." In a strange way when someone does have a feel for music or any other art they are sometimes referred to as an authority on the subject. This differs from a know-it-all who merely claims to be an authority on something. If you want to know about the inner workings of football, ask a professional player. If you want to know about dance ask someone who has danced a long time etc. On the other hand, if anyone has just practiced an art form for a long time, they can be thought of as an authority, but this is different from the ones who are born with a God-given gift or ability. These only need to apply themselves and they excel far beyond all others in the same field. Normally this is the equation for some serious jealousy and even sabotage to the ones with this blessing in their lives. If this person survives the jealousy and envy, they can sometimes awaken to realize there may be a greater reason for this natural ability than just entertainment. All this to say, there are minstrels who are carrying the ability to move the demonic back and still the mouth of the accuser, but many of them are either using this gift to entertain, or they are just too afraid to walk in this call. In the times that are ahead, the need for Spiritual clarity will be important. The minstrel with authority will be one tool in God's hands to clear the distractions, move the demonic influences out of the room, and in general make a way for the prophetic to flow. This all sounds exciting but before I get into the authority part of this, let me show you what gifts and abilities mean as they play a role on this.

## **GIFTS AND ABILITIES**

In English a gift is a present or a contribution. Ability is an aptitude or skill and can be called a talent. In the Greek, "ability" means power or force, miraculous power; a power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature. It is the Greek word "dunimus" which is the word describing the power to perform miracles like Jesus. "Gift" in the Greek is "charisma" and it denotes extraordinary power; this is due to the power of divine grace. "Authority" means power, right, influence and in the Greek it means power of choice, the liberty of doing as one pleases; physical and mental power ability or strength. The fact that all these words mean about the same thing, shows me that in order to walk in God-given authority you will first be gifted or able to do whatever the Lord has chosen for that authority to influence. I always thought that the gift of music was innocent and harmless and most talented people spent their lives trying to get another to recognize that gift. Of course that recognition never brings an answer as to why God gave it to you. Fame or riches can sometimes distract you long enough to not care what the gift is for

and keep you headed for destiny malaise. But with all that in mind I never thought this talent was dangerous to anyone but me. Now I see that it is not only dangerous but able to push back demons, protect the anointing of God, call people back to their place in the Lord and open the heavens that the prophetic can flow freely. This explains the refiner's fire and the launderer's soup spoken of in Malachi 3:3. This kind of power must be sanctified unto the Lord. This may all seem too incredible to believe much less envision what some musicians might do with this kind of power. Nevertheless the Lord is releasing this influence on some minstrels and my hope is they won't miss this opportunity to hear the call of the King.

## **WHERE IS THE AUTHORITY?**

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. Luke 9:1 (KJV) I feel many have wondered where the authority and power is that Jesus gave His disciples. Though we have seen a small measure of power and authority on some who believe, for the most part the majority of believers don't feel there is power for them to walk in. The early church was afraid to preach the gifts having power because there were so few manifestations of it. They later made doctrine to fit this idea. That is too long a subject to get into here but, I believe when the true minstrels left their place of playing before the Lord and started trying to make a living with their gifts, a measure of Spiritual clarity was lost and slowly the power diminished with it. The idea of a costless power and authority is coming to an end. But there is more to the idea of power and authority than just expecting it to automatically happen to anyone who gets saved. The part of this Luke scripture that slips by unnoticed is "His disciples." The ones Jesus gave power and authority to were the ones He called to Himself and then made students for three years. After many trials and errors and watching the miracles Jesus performed right in front of them, He said, "I give you power and authority over all devils..." It seems like we want to get saved and in the next minute start raising the dead. The disciples had a strong relationship with Jesus and from that relationship He entrusted them with amazing but sacred power and authority. The same will be today. I feel there is a call going out right now for some (not all) musicians and praise leaders to come aside to the Lord for a season. The reason is to develop a relationship with the Lord that will give the minstrel influence in the heavens. Once that is established, there will be clarity in the Spirit around this minstrel and the benefit goes mostly to the prophetic and any who listen. In my life, it was facing the wall until I was able to truly sense His presence. The Lord had to take me out of leading praise and put me in a quiet place long enough to be able to hear Him and sense what He was saying. If we all don't take the time to have a relationship with the Lord, there will be no real authority or any real change in the church. We will just go on as usual and see nothing of the ministry that is coming. Let me try to give you a little history on this subject.

## **PROPHET/MUSICAN**

I found something interesting one day when I was looking up the word "prophet" in the Greek. I was trying to find the connection between the prophet and the musician. The

Zodhiates Greek/Hebrew Key study bible shares Strong's definition of prophet: speaker of oracles, one who was actuated by a divine Spirit. But it goes on to say In the time of Samuel, there were men who followed him, praising God in song and attempting to call the people back to God. This really caught my attention. I was aware of the 2 Kings 3:15 scripture that tells of Elisha the prophet, requesting a minstrel to play before he would prophesy; but I wasn't aware of this part of the definition of the word prophet before. I always knew that the minstrel could prophesy, but now I'm seeing something different emerge. The music the Lord is releasing to the minstrel who will wait on Him and seek a relationship with Him, will call people back to God. The attracting ability of music has a much more important purpose than blessing the musician—its intent is evangelistic. Elisha called for a minstrel to help him hear the voice of the Lord concerning an upcoming battle that Israel was about to enter into. The king of Israel was asking Elisha to seek the Lord for a word about the battle. However, Elisha was angry at the king for the false prophets who had already influenced him, and this was noted when he answered the king's request by saying, "What do I have to do with thee? Get thee to the prophets of thy father..." (2 Kings 3:13) I believe Elisha had more than one reason to call upon a minstrel in order to prophesy. I think the first reason was to sooth the anger he had for the king of Israel. The second was to have the heavens open so he could hear the Lord. There was something in the sound of a skillful musician that stills the mouth of the enemy. This idea is proven much earlier in scripture when David was called upon to play the harp before Saul to quiet the tormenting spirits that troubled him. (1 Samuel 16:15-16) Saul's men somehow knew that if a "cunning" and "skillful" musician would play when Saul was being tormented, he would be free. Saul's men were right, and when David played Saul experienced peace. My first thought when I read this was, "What is a cunning musician like?" So I looked up cunning and found the Hebrew word "yada." This means to know, to perceive, to experience, be skillful, it describes an intimate knowing, and it actually uses my favorite word to describe music—feel. In order to become intimate with music you will have to become intimate with the Creator of that music. In order to go deep in any art form, you will run into the Architect of all art forms—Almighty God.

## **SAUL SINGS WITH THE PROPHETS**

Before Saul was made Israel's first king, Samuel the prophet had some things he wanted Saul to experience. "After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. 1 Sam. 10:5-6 (NAS) These are the musicians that are spoken of in Strong's definition of prophet. These are the ones who were playing and prophesying for the purpose of calling the people back to God. Samuel knew that these musician/prophets carried enough authority to be able to change the spiritual atmosphere so Saul could get his first dose of the prophetic awareness he would need to be king.

## **MINSTREL USED AS PROTECTION**

In spite of this life-changing event, Saul later embraced jealousy and fear of David displacing him after he had gone against the instructions of Samuel the prophet. When he realized that David was anointed to be king in his place, Saul ordered David to be taken. Now the very same prophet/musicians who led Saul in his first song of the Spirit would be used by God to be a protection for His anointed. And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. 1 Sam. 19:20-21 (KJV) Saul went himself to this place to take David and he also prophesied. Scripture says Saul stripped himself, fell on the ground and spoke the word of God all night. (1 Sam. 19:24) The Spirit of the Lord came on Saul like it did on the other men sent to take David. Though we read this scripture and don't think anything of it, imagine a leader of a nation deciding to kill his competition and during the attempt he strips himself and falls down on the ground prophesying the will of God all day and all night. And all this just because he got within earshot of some musicians with a prophet standing there. This is the power that can be released when those who are called to this are in their place. I want to remind you that these musicians were at this all the time. They spent all their waking hours playing in the Spirit and prophesying in the Spirit. Again, it's the relationship with God that gives the authority.

## **OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. Ps 8:2 (KJV) Many know this scripture especially the Matthew 21:16 version which Jesus quotes. Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? (KJV) Whenever Jesus quotes a scripture and changes it from the original, He is translating it for us. This means praise equals strength. The reason it is strength is because praise has been established in them by God from the time they were infants. Anyone who has carried praise in them from early childhood will always relate to it during trials and tribulation. This is the same for the minstrel who carries the ability to push back the demonic. This minstrel has played from early on and carried a natural gifting with an understanding of music. Still, there will be no real authority without a relationship with the Lord. David played his harp as a child and spent much of his young life with the sheep. He would sing to the Lord and play his harp to quiet the sheep. He was well practiced at quieting the tormenter and when he was selected to play for Saul, they knew his sound would bring peace. Guided by these early experiences in David's life, he established the way praise would be offered in the tabernacle he built. He instructed the Levites to go into the tabernacle and minister to the Lord continually after he became king. These musicians had played from the time they were old enough to hold an instrument. They had to be at least thirty years old before they could be chosen, by casting lots, to minister. (1Chron.23:3-5 & 1Chron.25:8) Most of them had to have made their own instruments, and have studied the Torah. The reason for casting lots to find out who would be in the tabernacle ministering to God, was to be sure the choice was left up to God. Do we leave it up to God to decide who will minister to Him? This is the

tabernacle that God says He is rebuilding. (Acts15:16 & Amos9:11) This is the tabernacle where God chooses who will minister to Him. A tabernacle where the veil does not separate us from access to the presence of God, the mercy of God, the power and provision of God and all the things we only talk about wanting. One of the most important things about David and his instruction to the Levites was his ability and understanding about how to play with authority. His experiences with the Lord, when he spent long days and months alone with Him and his harp, were only training for his later life as king of Israel. His relationship and favor with God is what gave him the authority to drive back demons. This is still the requirement today. We must know the Lord intimately, know our instrument, know music and stay in a place of humility before the Lord. From there, the sound you make will be a sweet sound to all who love the Lord and strike terror in the hearts of His enemies.

## **CONCLUSION**

In our present time the minstrel is not often thought of as the one to still the mouth of the avenger. As I have said on other occasions, if the minstrel plays with any other spirit like selfish-ambition, lust or strife, the opposite affect can happen. Instead of stilling the mouth of the enemy it will give place for him to come in. I don't want to make too much of a distinction between the minstrel with authority and the musician who serves in the church every week. They are both servants of the Lord and if they are obeying a call from God they are walking in some authority. But there are some who are hiding from this call to authority and others that are simply caught up in the world trying to make a living. These are the ones I am praying will awaken and come to the place of brokenness before the Lord and take their position as minstrels with authority to push back and still the tormenting mouth of the enemy.