

THE APPEARANCE

APOSTLES AND
PROPHETS
PREPARING THE
EMERGING
ARMY
RELEASING THE
ABILITIES AND
NATURAL
CALLINGS OF
EVERYONE



Ephesians 2:20-22

Ephesians 4:11-16



THE APOSTOLIC PASTOR #3

"The Apostolic Reformation"

A. The Reformation

God is moving the Church, the body of Christ into a new reformation. The Lord revealed to me that we have just entered into a year of double portion, the beginnings of a mighty pouring of the Holy Spirit that will release the people of God into a new anointing, and bring about the greatest and last outpouring of the Holy Spirit the world has ever known. *This outpouring from the Lord is going to necessitate a change of wineskin, if the Church is going to handle the new wine of the Spirit, and reap the harvest of souls about to come in.* It is impossible to pour new wine into an old wineskin without ripping it (Luke 5:37-38). One of the major changes has to do with the full development and operation of the five-fold ministry (Ephesians 4:11). The church will never reach its fullness until all five ministries are functioning in the Church the way they are meant to. For a church to develop a strong healthy foundation, it must have strong, healthy leaders. A church is only as strong as its foundation, and the foundation of the church is only as strong as its leaders.

If the church is going to move in that direction, the leadership, organization and structure of the church is going to have to be re-aligned, reformed or re-structured. *This stretching and expanding of the existing wineskins (mindset) is going to require the leaders from the local church to be willing to move to higher level of character, consecration, accountability and servant hood, causing them to work together in unity and power.* A person who is not able to submit to Godly leadership will never be able to become a good leader. Before becoming a good leader, you must first be a good follower, and submit yourself to the delegated authority God has placed you under. The Lord will never trust you if you are not able to submit to the authority he has placed over you. His reasoning is simple: "How can you say you will submit to God whom you cannot see, if you cannot submit and obey a man whom you can see?" We need God's order and authority in the house.

B. The New Wineskin

Everybody has a certain idea of how the local church should be run. Some have adopted concepts from their particular denomination, church council, organization, fellowship or personal experience. *However, many of these concepts that we have developed through the years are more man-made and traditional than biblically accurate, thus creating a wineskin (mindset) in us that makes it very difficult to accept the New Testament Church Model.* When you go to most churches in America today, you quickly find out that they all have a pastoral flavor and structure. The pastor is at the head, and the congregation is under him in varying degrees. Everybody wants to know who the pastor is. However, nowhere in the Bible do you find a "pastor leading a congregation". The word

pastor is found only once in Ephesians 4:11 and that is in relation to the five-fold ministries. However, the word apostle or apostles is mentioned 79 times in the N. T. (1 Corinthians 3:11; Eph. 2:20).

These preconceived ideas and concepts we are using in the church today can very easily cloud our judgment and lead to misunderstand the Word of God. We can read in the Bible that in the New Testament Church, the apostles had councils at different times to resolve issues regarding church dogma and creed. In Acts 15, it was James who made the final judgment and decision. If you recall, James was the apostle (not pastor) of the church at Jerusalem (Galatians 1:19). *Apostles established and laid the foundation for a specific church.* Once the work was stable, the founding apostle would appoint a group of elders to shepherd the work, and either remain there as the Apostle of the house or chose and appointed one of the elders as the governing Apostle of the local church.

Most scholars today believe refer to Paul's letters as the Pastoral Epistles, including his letters to Timothy. Actually, Paul refers to Timothy as an Apostle, and he was the apostle to the Church in Ephesus (1Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6). The apostles had fellowship and were accountable to one another. *Apostles chose and appointed elders to oversee every church; they were not elected or voted in by an organization.* The Apostle Paul gave instruction to Apostle Timothy (his spiritual son) in how to select and appoint elders in the task of overseeing churches and other things (1Timothy 3:2-7, 5:17).

The main responsibility of an elder was to feed, take care of and protect the flock. They were to teach, instruct and *shepherd* them as the Apostle Paul spoke to the church of Ephesus (Acts 20:18, 28-30). *Apostle Paul kept in touch with the churches visiting them often & providing training, teaching, direction and oversight (1 Thessalonians 2:6; 2 Corinthians 13:10).* This is a process of change that may take several years to fully develop. If the apostle remained as head over the local church, sometimes he was a part of the presbytery, other times he was not, preferring to remain accountable and submitted to them. Sometimes apostles refer to themselves as one of the elders (1 Peter 5:1). It is important to notice, however, that even though an Apostle may have remained in one location and ruled or governed over a local church, he was never referred to as a pastor; he remained an Apostle because his calling and anointing is different.

We already saw that James was the Apostle governing over the Church at Jerusalem; Peter was the governing Apostle over the Church at Corinth; and as we saw before, Timothy was the Apostle over the church at Ephesus. Apollos became the Apostle to Church at Corinth after Paul left. *Many times people have associated Apostles as traveling ministers only, and not the local church. Some of them, like Paul, did just that because that was their calling.* The New Testament Church was always made up of a group of elders or shepherds who provided oversight to the entire church under the headship of a governing Apostle. This was the blueprint used for church government in the New Testament. You will never see a pastor heading a church anywhere.

FLOW CHART

REFORMATION OR RESTRUCTURING OF THE LOCAL CHURCH INTO A NEW TESTAMENT APOSTOLIC CHURCH

