

THE APPEARANCE



Ephesians 2:20-22

Ephesians 4:11-16

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



APOSTOLIC PREPARATION # 1

"INTRODUCTION"

Every single person has a picture in their minds of what an apostle looks like. He is about medium height, rather senior, has built a couple of churches, and is established in a good organization. This looks like a good picture, but that picture does not line up with the greatest apostle who ever lived. He was a relatively young man at the age of about thirty. He likely still had the original color of His hair and He never built a single church throughout His ministry, yet He left behind a foundation that still exists to this day. If you know the Word at all, you know I just described the author and finisher of our faith - Jesus Christ. When it comes to the fivefold ministry, the Lord is not looking for your works as a qualification; He is looking for a lot more than that. To begin with, Jesus had a face to face relationship with the Father.

Jesus had also received a specific mandate from the Father to carry out upon the earth, and then He imparted that mandate to others. That mandate could have taken the form of establishing a church, or it could have taken the form of building an organization, but the mandate that Jesus had took the form of establishing the church in the hearts of men and women. His church was built in spirit and in truth, not as the temple of the day. When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, they had a debate over where they should worship, to which He replied in **John 4:23: "But the time is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him"**. Jesus' mandate was to bring God to the people and to establish a New Covenant between God and man. He did this successfully by first establishing that mandate in His disciples, and then through dying on the cross and enabling us to have the Holy Spirit dwelling within our hearts.

What an Apostle Looks Like

We are going to look again of what a person thinks an apostle should look like, and what he really looks like. On one hand we have the Pharisees, who traveled far and wide to make a proselyte. They established the temple and kept it. They set themselves up as rulers over the people and appeared to be very spiritually mature in their smug faces and comfortable clothing. Matthew 23:5 says: "But all their works they do in order to be seen by men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments". On the other hand we have Jesus. He was the kind of person who enjoyed a good feast and mingled with the commoners. He did not stand out. In fact He had to be identified by His disciples. Yet He left behind a heritage that has remained for thousands of years, and a pattern and foundation that is solid. Which would you rather be? And then you would need to ask yourself, what price would you pay for it? Would you forgo the appearance of being so very spiritually mature? Are you willing to come down to where the people are? For when you are willing to pay that price, the Holy Spirit will give you the mandate that will set you apart and forge you into someone that does not just look like they *could be an apostle*, but someone who *is an apostle*.

The Reality of Apostolic Office

So as we begin to look at what an apostle is and what an apostle does, begin now by looking at your own life and the various roads you have traveled in ministry and personal experience. For this voyage that you are about to embark on, can be a treacherous one at times. It is filled with the nails of death and the storms of preparation. Yet when you reach your destination, you will find yourself on new soil and with a new vision in your heart. For it is only once you have been tossed by the waves and winds of apostolic preparation, that you will be ready for the training that will lead you into Apostolic Office. So if you have received the call to apostleship and have been looking for a starting point, this would be that landmark in your life. Along each step of this journey, you will learn what an apostle is, what a mandate is and how to begin implementing that mandate.

We will show you how the Holy Spirit has already been preparing you for the calling on your life, even when you did not know it. We will also be preparing you for the rest of the journey that lies ahead of you. I do not know what you hope to find or what answers are you seeking. Maybe you have cried out to the Lord in desperation asking why you are so different, and why it is that no one else does things like you or sees the things you see. Perhaps you feel that since the day He called you, your life seems to have fallen apart. We have these answers for you. If you are diligent to see this apostolic preparation through, you will understand the calling of God that has been on your life since the day you were born.