

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 # 4

“What Is An Apostle?”

Everyone who is called to be an apostle will go through times of transformations during the preparation and training phase of his calling. The apostle begins as a private in the army of the Lord, and is made to work his way up the ranks as he eventually takes his place as a general. He will see his share of scrubbing and hard work, and will also get his days in the sunlight of public appearance. However, there is one thing that the apostle will carry with him always, and that is the knowledge that without the Lord, he is nothing. If this is the feeling that you have in your heart, then you are well on your way to fulfilling the apostolic calling on your life.

In [John 12:24-26](#) Jesus said: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone: but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit. He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serves me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serves me, him will my Father honor.”* The road you have been walking has been a time of letting go and of death. This happened for the purpose of bringing you to a place of humility, faith and trust upon the Lord.

In this lesson we are going to take a look at some of the characteristics of an apostle and practical ways of how this applies to you, so you may identify the apostolic calling on your own life.

1. An Apostle Has an Apostolic Calling

Has the Lord told you that He has called you to be an apostle, or to do apostolic work? Have you received an inner conviction of that calling? Then you are well on your way to begin walking this road of apostolic preparation. The Apostle will receive a call from the Lord directly. It will be miraculous, personal and confirmed later by others. Without this personal call and conviction, there is nothing to base your apostolic calling on. It is not about you, nor your ability. It is not your strengths and your great leadership skills. It is about His image. It is what He will take you through and birth in you and make out of you. You are not there right now, and you can look at yourself and be ashamed to even think that you may have been called to be an apostle. It is only when you can come to that place of realization, does the real work can begin.

In [John 9:39-41](#) the Pharisees thought they had arrived and could not see how blind they truly were. If only they would admit that they were weak and blind, the Lord could have done something with them. If you are not teachable and willing to be trained by the Lord through someone He is using to mentor you, then you are blind and the Lord cannot shape you. But if you are, then God will then place His hand upon you to shape and to mold you. The Lord will do the work, and when He is finished, you will reflect Jesus Christ.

2. An Apostle is Trained in Obscurity

The Lord will often call the Apostle to leave his country, home, family, friends and church many times as part of his training. Before the Lord uses an apostle, He will put you in His quiver and train you there in obscurity where no one can see you or notice you. Every man or woman of God must be trained by the Lord in the desert, not in the limelight of public ministry. These are the years where you may feel as if you are meaningless and good for nothing. No one seems to notice you, and it seems as if all the doors are shut. Many tests and trials come to test you, break you and forge you in the wilderness. The Lord will strip you of every last trace of self, ambition and religious leaven and teach you His Truth. You will be taught by the Spirit of Truth. This is the only way you will develop the discernment to tell revelation truth from religion and traditions of men.

You will go through times of loneliness where you will think you the only one left, like Elijah. But through it all, He will nurture, comfort and strengthen you in the power of His Spirit. There in the wilderness, He will teach you to trust Him and depend upon Him. You will learn to discern His voice and His presence as you spend lots of time in His presence developing a close relationship with Him. You must never forget that in the kingdom of God everything is by relationship. God will not use anyone, no matter how talented and gifted they may be, unless you first develop a relationship with Him. He will only use someone who has spent time with Him in the secret place. Anyone who has been used by the Lord knows that what I am sharing with you is the truth. A person, who spends lots of time with the Anointed One, will become His friend and walk in anointing.