

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 # 7

"What Is An Apostle?" (Part 4)

9. An Apostle Has His Own Mandate and Unique Pattern

An apostle will receive a specific call, pattern and his own commission or mandate from the Lord. He may get some of that from various different sources just like the builder gets the mortar and the bricks, sand and everything else from different sources. But when he puts it together, it is his house and looks like something unique he designed and constructed. The end-times apostles are not going to build the same kinds of houses. They are not all going to look the same. Some of them are going to be brick, some of them are going to be stone, and some of them are going to be wood.

An apostle sticks out like a sore thumb and does everything quite differently. He has this wayward idea of building something that just looks nothing like what anybody else has built. You will know that he is an apostle. You will see the entrepreneurial qualities of him always wanting to go out and do things differently, with new ideas and new concepts. Apostles know why they are called, where they are called to and think they know how to get there, but actually need to go through a phase called Apostolic Training.

The Apostle leads God's people from the old to the new. He is a pioneer who goes where no one has ever gone before, and does what no one has ever done before. He is usually very misunderstood due to the fact that his ideas are way ahead of his time. The apostle, like his counterpart the prophet, is a visionary who receives instruction from the realm of the supernatural. Usually the things he receives go against the established status quo church, and that usually translates to rejection from his peers and persecution from many in the establishment. An apostle however, will stay faithful to the heavenly vision he has received from the Lord to the very end: *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course and have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).*

10. An Apostle Lays His Own Foundation

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds thereupon. For no other foundation can a man lay than what is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10-11). In a true apostolic church, a person would be mentored, trained, equipped and eventually released to the body, sometimes even sent either overseas or to another city to start an apostolic work there with the assistance of the mother church. In a pastoral status quo church, the apostle usually has no alternative but to leave. He cannot do apostolic work if he is still sitting as a member in the local church, with no hope of ever being trained, equipped and released to fulfill his calling and destiny. It is not going to happen because he cannot build on someone else's foundation. An apostle has to lay his own foundation so he can build upon it.

Most of the time, people will speak of an apostle who is still in the throes of preparation as a rebel or someone who is out of order. The same happens with a prophet. But that is not always true. There are rebels out there, but most of the time he is just being an apostle. There is nothing wrong with submitting to those in authority. It is a biblical principle and something we all need to practice. However, in most churches in America, that concept is abused and misused. Apostles are supposed to be governing churches, but in the church today, it is pastors who govern. Most pastors implement their own vision and plans instead of God's vision for that house. That is why the Kingdom is not being manifested in their midst.

Because of the pastoral mindset prevalent in the church today, the *Ephesians 2:29 and 4:11* mandate is not happening. Only someone who is a real apostle can mentor, train and release others into ministry. He has a father's heart, and is not intimidated by the calling and anointing someone may have on his life. Some Christians might question his leaving the local pastoral church, but how else is he going to build? Most status quo churches in America would not know what to do with an apostle anyway, and he would just get in their way. Because he is an apostle, he is going to ask a lot of questions and come up with many good ideas on how to make things work better at church. This will not go very well with the pastor of the church. Therefore, he has to go and get his own piece of land, build his own foundation, and set up an infrastructure of his own for others to follow. It should not have to be like this, but unfortunately under the present church system in America, this is the only way it can happen.