



SPIRITUAL GIFTS: APOSTLESHIP

DESCRIPTION

The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. Apostles motivate the body to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11).

ABOUT APOSTLESHIP

Apostles love to start things.

The Greek word “*apostolos*” means “a delegate, messenger” or “one set forth with orders.” Jesus has this idea in mind when he says “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” in Acts 1:8.

The original 12 Apostles were specifically charged with establishing the Early Church both locally and abroad, and history tells us they did just that. Jesus himself also commissioned Paul to do the work of being an “Apostle to the Gentiles” as time went on. These Apostles had authority, power, and the ability to move and act as the Holy Spirit directed them to plant, cultivate, and empower Church communities everywhere they went.

The Spiritual Gift of Apostleship, then, is all about carrying on this same kind of work in the modern day. While the original Apostles had a unique role and office in spreading something that had not yet taken root, people with this gift today are still called to lay the groundwork for the local Church wherever God may be calling them. When the gift of Apostleship is active in the lives of Christians, new opportunities, endeavors, and expressions of God’s Kingdom spring up everywhere.

This gift gives people the ability to see all the raw materials that God has already placed in a situation, and effectively organize them to carry out God’s mission.

We see this most clearly in the way Paul establishes the Church in Philippi, from Acts 16. He goes to the place God calls him, and utilizes his gifts of Teaching and Evangelism to draw in a group of women who are already there. Lydia, a local wealthy businesswoman, becomes a Christian, (the first official Christian in Europe). Later, Paul gets thrown in prison and manages to bring his jailer to Christ as well. From there, the Church in Philippi goes on to become one of the most healthy and thriving churches in that period. How did it happen? Paul was obedient and faithful, and used a combination of gifts to draw a group of people together to start something that had never existed before. He led the leaders who would lead the people of Philippi.

Apostleship is an absolutely necessary gift to the Body of Christ. It needs to be nurtured and shaped in a way that benefits the whole Church, and utilized in combination with other gifts to be most effective.

SHADOW SIDE OF APOSTLESHIP

Because Apostleship often involves an entrepreneurial mindset, it can be confused with dynamic work or excellent organizational leadership. While Apostleship would certainly include these qualities, it's also possible to have them without possessing the Spiritual Gift of Apostleship. Apostleship requires surrender and obedience to a will that is not our own, a complete abandonment to the Kingdom agenda of Jesus. Figuring out the difference between the will, desires, and attractions of our own heart in contrast to the heart of God is key for us to exercise this gift in a healthy way. Where humility and surrender reign, the Spiritual Gift of Apostleship will flourish.

SCRIPTURE

- Ephesians 4:7-12
- 1 Corinthians 12:28
- Acts 1:21-22, 9:1

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Impact Trips
- HEART
- New Campus Start

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- “Team Essentials: Apostle” [CLICK HERE](#)