

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY:

Steering the Winds

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“For I think, God hath set forth us the Apostles last of all, as men doomed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, both to angels and men.”

Ω 1 Corinthians 4:9

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers ...”

Ω 1 Corinthians 12:28

“The occasion demands thee, as
Pilots steer (**κυβερνῆται**) the winds.”

⊕ Ignatius’ letter to Polycarp

These are two very interesting scriptures for us to meditate on and understand by the Holy Spirit. The first scripture places apostles as “last” whereas the next one places them “first.” Is this a contradiction? No, actually these two scriptures are easy to understand. God is a God of order and principles. We learn these from the Bible if we have the Eye of the Eagle and can discern “what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

In the Church, the Lord organized it the way He saw fit and in church government He placed the apostles first and the prophets second. These two offices are referred to as *foundational* offices in Ephesians 2:20 and as I’ve meditated on this scripture over the years as well as through my own ministry experiences I’ve come to the conclusion that the main *reason* these two are foundational—from which the other three Five-fold offices can build—is because they receive the most revelation and—as we’ve preached

for years since the Lord first spoke it to us in Montana in the '90s—God is building His Church by *revelation*.

Now one of the things we teach pastors and other Five-fold ministers as well as the Saints regarding their gifts and anointing—it's your responsibility to develop them. God doesn't give you an operational manual, e.g., manual of the apostle or manual on working of miracles. It's also the responsibility, however, for other Five-fold ministers—especially apostles and prophets—to help you develop because that is their basic function according to Ephesians 4, but as Jesus' parable of the talents declares you will give an account to the Lord for the gifts (talents) He placed within you at birth.

Because we don't receive an operational manual and because I had nobody to mentor me in these gifts and offices I learned from the Holy Spirit but it took many years, for example, to learn that my spiritual *gift* of being able to know the order of a service, what is wrong, etc., was part of the apostolic anointing. Remember, I didn't call myself to be an apostle. In fact, when it was first prophesied over me in 1988 I was surprised but the Lord confirmed it several times over the next few years. I had received the Five-fold anointing of Teacher seven years before and it was much easier to understand the office of Teacher but not much was being said about the office of apostle back in 1988.

Now I've written this before in some articles and books but I want to include it again because it was directly from the Lord in 1991 and, like most things from the Lord—it is both simple and profound—it is extremely *simple* to comprehend and yet very *profound* to our understanding and it explains perfectly the problem most churches have—why they lack power and direction—it's directly related to the apostolic and prophetic! You see, without either apostles or prophets in the local church or some accountability to them a church cannot have a foundation! It's as simple as that!

The illustration the Lord had me give to a church where I was ministering in Kingman, Arizona, in 1991, when He sent me there to establish their understanding regarding Five-fold ministry. The church had about 7-8 Five-fold ministers and they were all called "pastors." Because I had a gift of being able to "see" anointing I could tell that only one of these was actually called to pastor and the others were apostles, prophets and one was a very anointed evangelist.

Now you may not be aware of it because it's a spiritual thing but when a person calls themselves a pastor and spiritually they are not (i.e., they don't possess the anointing of pastor) then it causes confusion in the spirit realm to those in the congregation. I've actually ministered in churches where a person titled "elder" was actually the person with a Five-fold pastoral anointing whereas the man titled "pastor" had no Five-fold anointing at all! You can see how this can cause confusion to the spirit of those being trained for ministry in such a church.

But at this particular church in Arizona back in '91 because they had a person with a strong evangelist's Five-fold anointing they wanted to evangelize the whole town of 25,000 people but they had encountered resistance (the spirit of jealousy) from other

churches who accused them of “trying to steal our sheep.” The Lord spoke to me about this and gave me the solution—hold a luncheon and invite every pastor in town and feed them and explain the illustration that the Lord had given me to them and that is what we did. After lunch, I got up to speak and told them exactly what the Lord said:

1) This church is going to evangelize the city and it’s from the Lord. They’re not doing it to “steal your sheep” and, in fact, I told the pastors what the Lord told me—“those sheep aren’t their sheep; they are my sheep because I paid the price for the sheep.”

2) The Lord said: “What if I (J.P.) came here today and announced in the newspapers that I was going to build a Hilton Hotel and had purchased 10 acres of land on the Interstate. I was going to solicit bids for building the hotel the next day and all those who wanted to bid on the concrete, electrical, plumbing, structural steel, etc., to meet me at the building site tomorrow morning at 7 A.M. sharp. I arrive at the site and explain the building plans and give each an engineering bidding specification packet which would include, for example for the concrete bidders, the tons of concrete required. Bids are submitted and awards made and those who are awarded contracts I again ask to meet me at the building site. When they arrive, I point them toward the 10-acre field and say: “There’s the building site; get to work.” One by one they arrive and become exasperated when I say this to them over and over again. Finally, one says, “Where are the building plans? I cannot erect the steel without a set of plans.”

You see, without the apostolic and prophetic, a local church cannot “build” because they do not have the plans to do so. You can do some good in your community by helping people, winning souls and teaching the Bible but you cannot have much of an impact without revelation! It requires revelation to know what to do; where to go; when to hold that meeting, etc. Now I realize that there are differences in the Body of Christ between beliefs, doctrine, etc., but the Lord’s desire is to mesh His whole Body into one organism in a community in order to both destroy the work of the enemy and bring salvation and healing to broken lives but churches have difficulty working together and most churches do not have—and in fact don’t even recognize as existing today—apostles, prophets and teachers. Also, they don’t recognize nor appreciate the Five-fold office of Evangelist.

As Evelyn and I pointed out in *The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit*, because the office of evangelist like the other four is given by Christ Jesus to “train, mature the saints for the work of the ministry” then there must be a function within each local church for this anointing; it should not be just an evangelist coming in to hold revival meetings as many churches have done for years. No, the Five-fold office of evangelist is profitable to both the local church and the Kingdom because that anointing, just like the prophetic, will *flow* from the evangelist down to the local body and enable people to evangelize their community and this will cause local church growth. This is God’s plan for church growth; not goofy Church Growth Seminars which are normally just marketing ideas of men to appeal to the masses. Remember, nothing can really occur spiritually without

the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The powerful anointing in Acts 8 exhibited by Philip the evangelist who had been promoted from a deacon is what would occur at local churches and communities if they would follow God's plan and government of Five-fold ministry.

DOES YOUR CHURCH MATTER?

A prophetic friend of mine wrote almost 20 years ago that most churches don't matter; in fact she wrote that "99% of churches in the world don't matter!" That's a pretty strong statement. Her reasoning is that most churches invalidate the Word of God by their traditions, e.g., placing pastors first in order when the Scriptures clearly show that apostles are first. And she is absolutely right. If you don't believe this is true—if you think that man's model of a pastor being in charge of the church or a church board along with the pastor then please provide me with chapter and verse from the Book of Acts and elsewhere in the New Testament where a pastor is in charge.

I always caution Christians—if they want to know and understand the true Church—to spend much time reading and meditating in the Book of Acts. The model we have in Acts of the birth and operation of the Church—ruled and directed by the Apostles under the leading of the Holy Spirit—was quickly attacked and perverted by Satan. As I've pointed out in my writings as well as some sermons, Acts 2:42 is a pivotal verse about the Church and what's called *Apostolic Authority*. The Apostles knew that they spoke for the Lord but guess what? The Church knew it as well! Now if you look at Acts 2:42 you will notice four key things that the Bible says early Christians in the first Church "devoted themselves to."

- **the apostles' teaching**
- **the fellowship**
- **the breaking of bread**
- **the prayers**

Now my area of expertise in the Body of Christ is not prayer or church growth or other things; it's spiritual warfare and the Dark Kingdom. I am called in the area of teaching and training the Army of Christ for war! Now I can tell you that every single false religion in the world, including the false church Satan has erected, practices 3 out of 4 of these "devotionals." And all false religions omit the same one of the four--the doctrine (teaching) of the apostles. Don't forget this part though; notice what happened when they devoted themselves to these four things: "And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles."

But if you study and meditate in Acts you will see something very interesting: apostles and prophets worked together in teams of two. All five offices are found in the New Testament and all must work together to mature the Body in the image of Jesus. Please don't think that I'm minimizing the Office of Pastor; I'm not. This anointing, if genuine and not just a secular career but truly anointed is very much needed today to

love and grow the Church but without the apostolic and prophetic these churches cannot “birth or build.”

Both birthing and building are important but if they focus on anything most churches focus on building but they are unsure today how to do that unless the pastor attends a “church growth seminar.” Unfortunately, many of these focus on popular things in culture such as rock music, video games, etc. in order to appeal to the masses. In the past days of the Church, including the initial birthing in Acts, churches grew via evangelism. People were excited and they were actively telling others about Jesus on the streets of Jerusalem and later in Antioch and other cities. When I was ordained as a Southern Baptist pastor many years ago the Baptist churches were active in evangelizing their communities by going from house to house and knocking on doors. Today, with the exception of Jehovah’s Witnesses and LDS, few churches evangelize this way. In fact, most churches don’t evangelize at all.

But if most pastors could understand and practice God’s government and especially apostolic and prophetic “birthing” through impartation their churches would necessarily grow because their members would be released into their gifts and callings and this always has a profound impact—just like in Acts with the early Church—on church growth. Unfortunately, as my dear sister wrote years ago: “tradition” and the ministry model of men, i.e., local church run by a pastor and/or board of deacons/elders with no connection to apostolic or prophetic and thus no birthing of young Five-fold ministers leaves any room for church growth.

STEERING THE WINDS

The Greek word used for steer is κυβερνήται, pronounced kubernesis in English. I wrote about this gift of the Holy Spirit (administration) in *The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit*. As noted above in the quote from Ignatius’ letter to Polycarp, the beloved disciple of John the Apostle, its usage applies to the ability of Five-fold ministers, especially the apostles, to “steer” or guide the Church of the Lord Jesus.

The Holy Spirit showed me that the *true* apostles and prophets are able to “steer” the Wind of the Spirit by and through revelation just as a physical captain of a sailing ship in Paul’s day had to be competent at “steering the winds” in order to successfully sail the ship to the destination intended. That is precisely *why* the Lord Jesus kept telling Apostle Evelyn and I after He’d moved us to Montana in the ‘90s that He was “building His Church by revelation.”

It is only those who can “steer the winds” of the Spirit who will successfully captain their souls and the souls of those they lead to arrive in The Promised Land prophesied by the Holy Spirit. We must always strive to follow the Spirit of God—when we do not it leads to Baal worship just like it did for Israel in the Book of Numbers.

I pray today that God will raise up more true apostles and prophets in the Church today for the Spirit of the Lord to speak through. I say as Moses said so long ago to Joshua:

“Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were Prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

2 Corinthians 4:7