

PHARAOH

PASTORS

BY APOSTLE J.P. TIMMONS

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**“Thus says the Lord, ‘Let my people
Go, that they may serve me.’”**

Ω Exodus 8:1

Today is Easter Sunday and in pulpits all over America and the rest of the world pastors will be dressed in their finery just like Pharaoh was almost 3500 years ago when Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt. And in sanctuaries filled with the smell of Easter lilies these pastors will be preaching eloquent sermons on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave to prove that Jesus is “alive” yet many if not most of these pastors are guilty of the same thing as Pharaoh of old—they are holding the covenant people of God in bondage and in some cases, death!

Pharaoh, of course, is a type of the devil who holds people in captivity to this present world with all of its sins and allures. In the Scriptures he is referred to as “the god of this world” and, unfortunately, so many pastors have both allowed and even encouraged the systems of the world into their churches in an effort to build numbers and increase the appeal of their “gospel”—whatever gospel it is that they are preaching—that it’s often difficult to tell the difference between many churches and secular places in the community. We’ve attended many church services over the past few years that seemed more like a library lecture than the preaching of the gospel and most of these were in what is called Spirit-filled churches.

I’ve preached for many years that the ministry model coming out of America is wrong—it’s not biblical because we certainly don’t see it in either the Old Testament or the New Testament. By ministry model I mean the idea that the pastor is the only minister in the local church and that his only responsibility is to preach a sermon once or twice a week after which everybody goes home and nothing happens for another week. Yes, there may be a choir or other form of music ministry but, generally speaking, these only exist as a form of entertainment for those in the congregation instead of the genuine, anointed form of worship that is acceptable to God and that genuinely produces the presence of God along with healings and miracles.

As I’ve stated many times before in my writings and sermons because I learned it from the Holy Spirit in 1997, the anointing is God’s stamp of approval on a ministry, message or worship. If there’s no anointing then it does not meet with His approval. But I’ve also learned that the degree of anointing—if there is any—can be influenced by many things, especially sin. As noted in the message *Four Levels of Intercession*, most of what is termed worship is either not acceptable to God or else

it must be purified in Heaven before He can accept it. That is why there is intercession going on in Heaven all the time because they know how to do it properly.

But one of the reasons why the Church throughout the world is so weak and immature is easy to find from the Scriptures:

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts ... if the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be ... The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ Ω 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 21

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him, who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ω Ephesians 4:15-16

The body—the Church—is weak because the individual members are weak because they have not been trained and matured for ministry like the Church of the Book of Acts because today’s ministry *model* is entirely different from that found in Acts. In his book *No Place for Truth* professor of theology David Wells writes about his journey to determine why most seminary students today had little interest in theology or truth. His quest led him to discover much that should be of interest to us if we wish to correct what is wrong in most churches. One of his startling conclusions—and this is 20 years ago so the situation is much worse today—is that “the pastorate has become professionalized, how the central function of the pastor has changed from that of truth broker to manager of the small enterprises we call

churches. To the extent that this tendency has taken root, I have concluded that it is producing a new generation of pastoral disablers.”

Another fact he discovered I believe explains one of the *false* gospels I uncovered in the writing of *Another Gospel*—a false gospel I refer to as *The Needs-centered Gospel*. Because of the introduction of psychology into the churches, particularly in the ‘80s in Spirit-filled churches, and so many self-help books, the average Christian has become almost obsessed with getting their own needs met, i.e., physically, that there is no time left for the preaching of the true Gospel or the Great Commission.

With few exceptions, the Church seems to be moving further and further away from the ministry model given in Acts and the Doctrine of the Apostles is rarely preached today because it involves sacrifice and death to self which is not what self-centered Christians want to hear. Of course this was prophesied by the Apostle Paul:

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” Ω 2 Timothy 3:1-5

In essence, this last scripture speaks about nothing more than a religious spirit that has permeated most churches and is why the Lord said to me in 1991: “The Church is not being led by the Holy Spirit—it’s being led by religious spirits.”

The true Church and churches is being led by the Holy Spirit under the direction of the Five-fold ministers to “mature” and “equip the saints for the work of the ministry.” There is no place for Pharaoh Pastors only interested in building and preserving their own kingdoms through slave labor in the true Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord is saying: “Let my people go that they may serve me.”

Pharaoh Pastors also often keep their people in financial bondage through building programs that are uncalled for and not needed or else, in charismatic churches such as one I recently attended in South Carolina, they keep their people in financial bondage by allowing false prophets and false teachers into the church to fleece the people of money. In the service I attended last week the “prophet” preached a good message but then he began to operate in the Balaam spirit by saying: “The Lord showed me there is one person here tonight who will help me with a gift of \$500; then he proceeded to \$350, \$200, etc., until finally a call for “Everybody take a \$20 bill.”

I spoke to a lady at this church about it the next day and she remarked that the last time he was at their church she didn’t attend because “I didn’t have any money.” I said, “Why did that affect your attending?” and she replied: “Well, he always calls for money.” Not only is this financial bondage but it’s also disgraceful in the eyes of the Lord. I would hate to be in this pastor’s shoes on the Judgment Day because she is a Pharaoh Pastor.

If you are a pastor, minister or saint in a church or ministry that is controlled by religious spirits and in bondage then you need to seek the Lord through fasting, repentance and prayer about what you

should do. Make it a matter of utmost importance because your very soul may be at stake.