

Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

Session 10: The Gift of Apostle

Two ways of looking at the Fivefold

1. Governmental structure of the church.
 - God appoints five kinds of leaders in the church to nurture, edify, equip, correct, and build her up. These leaders are typically fulltime in the ministry and carry one of the fivefold ministry titles.
2. Every believer has a level of fivefold calling.
 - Though most do not carry one of the fivefold titles, their ministry orientation reflects one of the fivefold gifts. Acknowledging that calling and being faithful to it will bring promotion.

A Word Study on Apostle:

Some excerpts taken from Chapter One of "Apostolic Ministry" by John Eckhardt

1. Of the fivefold, apostle is the least understood and even acknowledged in contemporary Christianity though it is mentioned more than 70 times in the NT
2. Apostle was a brand new title chosen by Jesus Himself to define a new kind of Spiritual leader for His Church
3. This leadership title was never before use in the Hebrew culture nor in any of God's dealings with man.
4. Jesus reached into the Roman military context to pull out this term to define the new kind of ministry He would establish on earth.
5. The Greek word, apostolos literally means "one sent forth." Apo literally means "from," and stolos comes from stello, which means "I send." Within the New Testament and in other classical Greek literature, apostolos has the simple meaning of "one sent as representative of another," the representative deriving his authority and power from the one sending him.
6. The word apostolos was originally a secular term used by the Greeks and the Romans to describe special envoys sent out to establish the dominion of the empire. These envoys were sent to certain territories and charged to subdue, conquer, convert, instruct, train and establish the new subjects in the culture of the empire. Apostles were also known to be commanders of naval expeditions or fleets of ships who led the way into new frontiers.
7. Paul referred to the apostolic team as ambassadors. "So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us..." (2 Cor. 5:20). An ambassador is a diplomat of the highest rank representing a nation. An ambassador is an official envoy, a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government.
8. The apostle is first and foremost a pioneer. "And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets..." (1 Cor.12:28). Apostles are able to pioneer new truths and revelations and bring them into new territories. They have the ability to advance ahead

of the others to instill greater confidence into the heart of the rest of the body. Their forward advancement opens up new doors for effective service for the Church.

9. The concept of apostleship needs to be “de-mystified”. The early apostles have sometimes been almost deified. Although apostles may have extraordinary character and power, they are not super-saints. Apostles are human beings chosen by God and anointed by the Holy Spirit. They are not infallible. They are susceptible to weakness and failure. They do not walk on water or glow in the dark. The apostle is simply a person given grace to function in the fivefold gifting of a “sent one”.
10. Finally, an apostle is one who is called and sent by Christ to have spiritual authority, character, gifts and abilities to successfully reach and establish people in [God’s] Kingdom truth and order, especially through founding and overseeing local churches. ---David Cannistraci

Some Characteristics of New Testament Apostles

1. They travel a lot to reach new territories. They are often missionaries.
2. They typically operate in gifts of healing, deliverance and miracles.
3. They are known for God’s delegated authority in their lives.
4. They usually experience a very vigorous and humbling preparation time before being established in their calling.
5. They are known as much for their character and humility as their miracle ministries.
6. Their greatest joy is to release others into fruitful ministry. They have no interest in building their own “kingdom”.
7. They always minister in teams, realizing they are not very effective alone.
8. They attract more than their share of rejection and persecution, partly because of the pioneering nature of their ministry.
9. They are not necessarily type A personalities; they rely heavily on the demonstration of the Holy Spirit to breakthrough heavy spiritual opposition.
10. A fruitful apostolic ministry will result in the establishment of healthy new churches and the transformation of a territory or region.