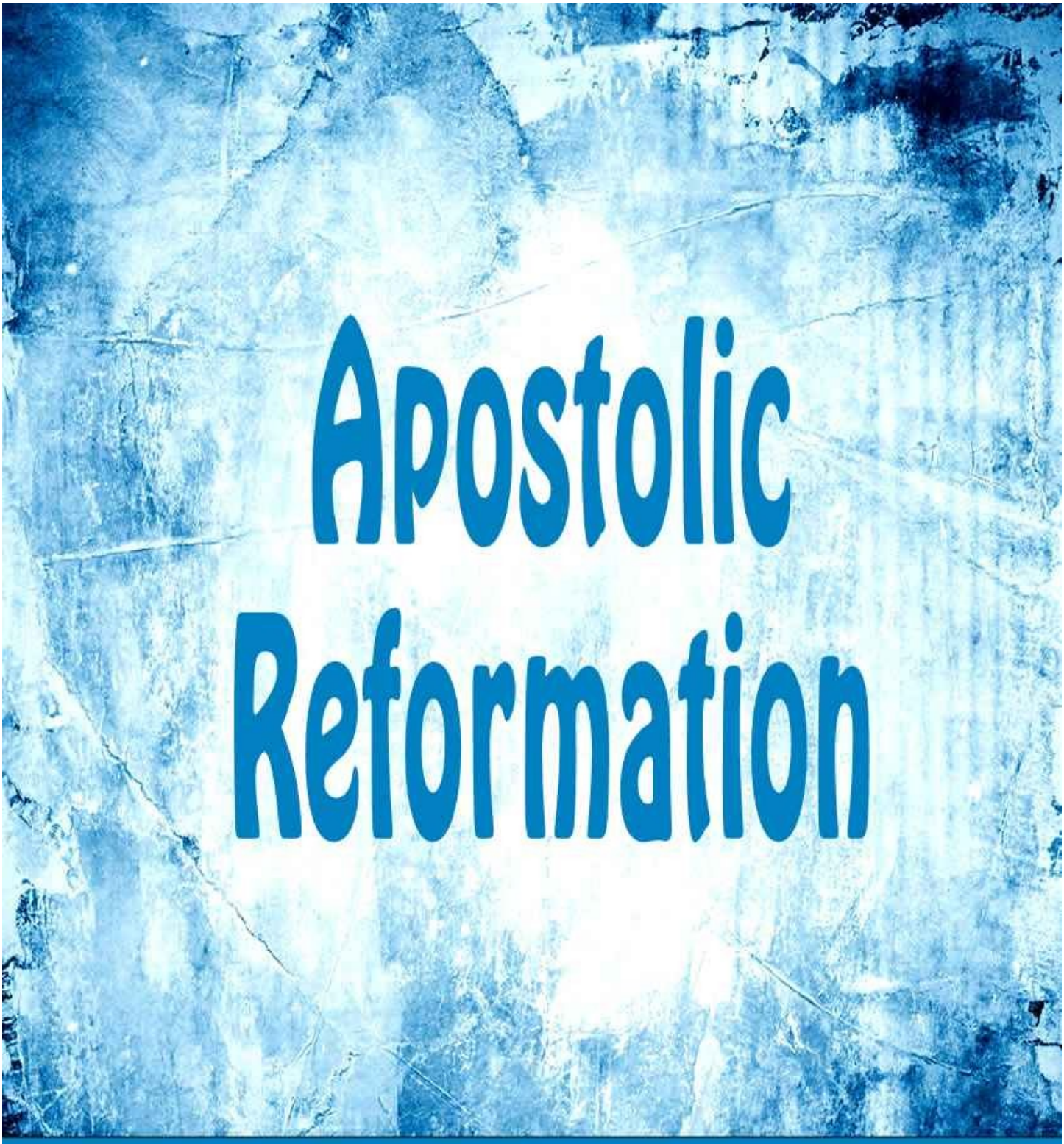


Bible Studies By
Scott McConaughey

APOSTOLIC

REFORMATION

GOD'S WISDOM TO MATURE THE BRIDE AND TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION

SCOTT MCCONAUGHEY

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....3

CHAPTER 1 – THE WISDOM OF GOD IN APOSTLES AND PROPHETS..... 7

CHAPTER 2 – THE PERFECT MODEL APOSTLE – JESUS CHRIST..... 12

CHAPTER 3 – THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF JESUS..... 24

CHAPTER 4 – THE POWER OF APOSTOLIC FAITH..... 30

CHAPTER 5 – THE LOST APOSTLE..... 43

CHAPTER 6 – THE BENJAMITE APOSTLE..... 53

CHAPTER 7 – THE APOSTOLIC POWER OF GOD..... 65

CHAPTER 8 – THE APOSTOLIC REFORMATION..... 73

APOSTOLIC REFORMATION
By Scott McConaughey

Copyright © 2003 by Scott McConaughey

Printed in the United States of America

All commercial rights reserved solely by the author. Any part or this entire book may be reproduced and used to edify the body of Christ without permission of the author but may not be used for commercial gain.

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Contact Information:

The Gathering Place
Pastor Scott McConaughey
http://scottmc.org/
Email: scottmcconaughey@yahoo.com

INTRODUCTION

The title of this book is a prophetic declaration. The Church of Jesus Christ is in the beginning stages of an apostolic reformation. The Apostle and High Priest of our faith will bring us through this reformation season according to His wise plans developed before the foundation of the world.

"Apostolic" is an adjective meaning "of, pertaining to, or contemporary with the apostles and their faith and teaching". Jesus Christ is the Head Apostle and taught His apostles to model His life and ministry. Everything that is truly "apostolic" is connected to the Head Apostle and flows from Him. Apart from the Apostolic Head, the body of Jesus Christ cannot accomplish the mission God has given her.

Reformation is "the act of reforming". To reform is "to improve by alteration, correction of error, or removal of defects; to abolish abuse or malpractice in". Church reformation is a movement of the Holy Spirit that brings radical change to the structures man has created in order to realign them with God's purposes. This will include alteration of terms, correction of error, the removal of defects and the abolishment of abuse and malpractice.

Martin Luther is known as a key leader of the Protestant Reformation. Luther and other reformers brought radical change to the structures and doctrine of the Church in the 16th century. They corrected abuses and stood against the malpractice in the Church of their time.

God used Martin Luther to release vital doctrines, such as the justification by faith and the universal priesthood of all believers. We take these doctrines for granted today. But at the time, these were radical doctrines that caused the martyrdom of many precious saints. There was a violent tearing of the wineskin of the church in this reformation.

The apostolic reformation we are coming into will appear radical, disruptive and heretical to some that hold fast to the religious traditions of the "fathers". The Spirit-filled moves of the past centuries often become "denominationalized" and encumbered with structures and traditions that hinder the life of Jesus flowing through His body with supernatural power.

The apostolic reformation will change all that. The Church of Jesus Christ will become the awesome warrior bride of the last days. She will become fully mature and in complete alignment with her Head. As she does, the body will function in perfect coordination and a

supernatural unity only God can accomplish. The most glorious days of the Church are just ahead of us.

Before we get to the “glory” days, we will have to go through some “gory” days of reformation. There will be an increasing civil war in the “Church”. The house of David and the house of Saul warred for a long time before David emerged to rule in all of Israel. The anointed last day Davidic order is arising and Saul’s people will not give up easily.

The spirit of Saul has resisted the anointing of God on prophets and emerging apostles for decades. The war is on. The apostolic reformation has begun. The end result will be a mature warrior bride who walks in the fullness of Christ-likeness and obeys His commands. The Church will complete the mission Jesus gave her to make disciples in all the nations.

To fulfill God’s commission and vision to reach the nations, we will have to diligently seek God and be patient as He brings about the restoration of office level apostles. We cannot make this reformation happen. Many people are talking about apostles and prophets coming forth and our nature is to be impatient and try to “hurry God” into doing something He plans to do. The people of Israel did this when they asked for a King before God had prepared a David. Some may presume to be commissioned as apostles when they are only called and are still in preparation. Being promoted into a position by man is a prescription for pain. We must wait on God in all things. There will be false apostles just as there are false teachers and preachers. We will need wisdom and godly discernment to know true apostles as God brings them forth.

The purpose of this book is to introduce revelation and understanding from the word of God to point us in the direction of and give us vision for this apostolic reformation. The Spirit of God directed me to focus only on the New Testament revelation (rather than reading other books) to understand God’s apostolic order, which Jesus instituted in the first century. This order was so powerful that the ancient world was turned upside down by the apostles’ ministry.

Satan came against this order with every religious spirit at his disposal to twist and shape what God declared through Jesus into the powerless religious institutions that can be found in every city in America. The Church in America desperately needs this apostolic reformation in order to have the power of God to stand against the demonic assaults invading our land.

Every nation needs apostolic church plant teams to release the power of God to set captives free on an unprecedented level through historic revivals throughout the earth. These new believers must be nurtured in apostolic churches. The new wine of this coming revival will not fit in the old wineskins of traditional church with its programs of man and doctrines of demons.

The resistance against this reformation will be great as the spirit of anti-Christ operates through many "Christian" leaders who are exercised in resisting the Holy Spirit and operating by fleshly control and domination. The judgment of God is upon the household of faith, and the line of demarcation is being drawn. Christians will choose to yield to the river of life in the Holy Spirit or refuse to flow with God and stay planted in tradition. We must choose this day whom we will serve: the Holy Spirit or the traditions of man.

Whole denominations and most churches will be violently shaken in the days ahead as the rushing wind of God sweeps into His house once again. This will be evidenced as the power of God manifested in the works of Jesus will be common in all apostolic churches, but woefully absent in traditional churches.

Right now God is releasing the same life giving power that Jesus walked in to those who will submit to the Holy Spirit's leading in all things. **"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:12-14).**

Someone lied to us that we could not walk in the works of Jesus Christ. We believed the lie and walked in unbelief and little power. The apostolic reformation will crush every lie of the devil and empower us to walk in faith in Jesus' promise. The Apostolic Church will heal the sick, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons, teach with authority, make disciples, perform miracles and walk in signs and wonders greater than what Jesus walked in. This is absolutely certain because Jesus declared it would be so.

God is able and willing to transform churches into powerful mission stations to release the life of God to the region and nations around. We must be willing to pay the price. **"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it'" (Luke 9:23-24).**

We must take up our cross and follow Jesus. We must die to the doctrines of men and the reason of man. These are doctrines of demons. The cessassionist doctrine, which says the gifts of the Holy Spirit no longer operate, is a doctrine of a demon! The doctrine that says there are no apostles or prophets today is a doctrine of a demon! I used to believe and teach these false doctrines. I was deceived and have repented thoroughly.

Apostolic reformation will rise up modern apostles and prophets to teach the doctrines of the Apostle and His apostles as revealed by the Holy Spirit. Today's apostles and prophets do not add to the Holy Scriptures, but receive the revelation of the Holy Spirit to understand what God said. God continues to unveil understanding as to the meaning of the word of God.

In 15th century Germany, no one understood the doctrine of justification by faith, which has become so easily understood today. The false doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church had blinded the eyes of people to this fundamental truth. Satan is a powerful deceiver and liar. He creates more religious doctrines than we could begin to list. Every non-Christian religion of the world is inspired by Satan to build a throne for the Anti-Christ.

The only threat to Satan's kingdom is the true Church of Jesus Christ led by apostles and prophets. They nearly overthrew his evil rule in the first century before Satan was able to get man's fingerprints on the Church and bring her under his control. We look back at the dark ages of Church history and think we are so enlightened that we would never be subject to doctrines of demons. Think again!

The apostolic reformation will release doctrines from the throne of God that will expose Satan's lies that are operating in our churches right now. The apostles and prophets arising will have the anointing of God and His power to bring correction and righteous reform. The Church as we know her today will be so radically overhauled before Jesus returns that we will hardly recognize her.

God has called me to speak into the life of the Church of Jesus Christ. I love the people of God and desire them to mature in Christ and fulfill His glorious commands. The personal reformation God has taken me through over the past few years has been extraordinary. For over two years, I cried out to God like the blind man on the road to Jericho, **"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mark 10:47b)**

God gradually opened my eyes to see the many beams in my own eyes and helped me remove them. I have no stones to throw at others with specks in their eyes. But I have received revelation as God has opened my eyes to the simple truths in the model of Jesus' life and teaching related to the apostolic order.

Once you throw off the beggarly coat of the doctrines of man and look at the Bible through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the apostolic doctrine becomes so clear that you wonder why you never saw it before. It is because we were blind followers of the blind. We have received some good teaching, but we have also received some horrible teaching.

I spent two decades serving Christ in the conservative Evangelical tradition. I love my conservative brethren and bless them in Jesus Christ. Evangelicals have many apostolic characteristics and God has done wonderful things through their ministries. In the past several years, our family has been a part of Pentecostal and Charismatic churches. They also have some tremendous strengths and have been used greatly. However, some of our doctrines and practices are in error. This is especially true in regards to church government issues and the power of God manifested through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the chapters that follow, I pray that God will open your eyes to the truth of the word of God. I pray that God will give you wisdom and understanding so that you will be zealous unto repentance and believe in the apostolic order of which Jesus Christ is the Head. May God give you the wisdom to make applications that will please Him and glorify His Name forever!

CHAPTER 1 - THE WISDOM OF GOD IN APOSTLES AND PROPHETS

Therefore the wisdom of God also said, "I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute". Luke 11:49

Jesus declared that the wisdom of God is involved in the sending of prophets and apostles even though religious leaders would kill and persecute some of them. We know that God is infinite in wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We recognize that God planned history in perfect wisdom before the foundation of the world. We see the wisdom of God in Jesus Christ who was involved in the creation of everything that exists.

Jesus created the order of apostles and prophets by His wisdom. Jesus came to earth as God's Son and modeled the life of an Apostle and Prophet in perfect balance. Jesus' life, which we will examine in the next chapter, is a perfect model for apostolic reformation. In His wisdom, God planned the life of Jesus to be that perfect model. We are called to focus on Jesus and the revelation of His life. As we behold Him and believe, we are gradually transformed to become like Him (II Corinthians 3:18).

God in His wisdom revealed Jesus as the Apostle and High Priest of our confession (Hebrews 3:1). Apostle means "sent one". Jesus was sent by the Father to accomplish an important mission upon the earth.

But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. John 5:36-39

Jesus was clearly sent by the Father who testified to His Apostleship by miraculous works of supernatural power. God's wisdom is evidenced in giving signs to authenticate the authority of an apostle. If a person claims to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, but cannot flow in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders following, he or she is probably not an apostle. The works are an important aspect of demonstrating the Father's approval. The enemy's false apostles will be able to do some signs and wonders so we must also look for the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother. Matthew 10:2

The office of Apostle was not known in the Old Testament. This office of leadership was needed as God revealed His wisdom through Jesus Christ in birthing the Church. Until the birth of the Church, God sent prophets to speak the word of the Lord and also worked through priests, teachers and various leaders including kings.

However, the New Testament Church is a new wine that required a new wineskin. A wineskin represents a structure to hold and release God's purposes on Earth. God's wisdom knew the need and created an apostolic order to be joined to the prophetic order so the new wineskin could release God's love and power to the nations.
Many churches and seminaries teach that the apostles' and prophets' offices ceased after the Bible was written. This doctrine comes from the wisdom of man. Most churches today are based on the wisdom of man and do not allow the Holy Spirit to lead services or the development of the church. James has some harsh words to say about man's wisdom.

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. James 3:14-16

The wisdom of man taught in false doctrines eventually leads to churches that are full of bitter envy, self-seeking, boastful pride, lies, demons, confusion and every evil thing. The word of God makes it painfully clear that our human wisdom is a mess of devilish garbage that stands opposed to the Spirit of God and His wisdom.

Why would God establish an apostolic model in Christ Jesus and then change it to a pastoral model? Why would God in His wisdom establish apostles and prophets as the foundation of the church in the first century only to change it later? God didn't change the model or the order that He established. Man changed it! The pastoral model of church leadership we see in church today is based on the wisdom of man. James told us clearly that the wisdom of man is demonic.

It is hard for us to accept that we have strongholds in our minds that are demonic doctrines. We are filled with pride in our beliefs. Satan counts on our pride so we don't examine the word of God carefully. The pastoral church model we see today simply flows from tradition

and a demonic doctrine. It does not flow from God's throne and therefore the power of God is not seen in the services. What flows in many of these churches is religion, which ultimately causes death.

Religion flows from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is man exalting himself to be like God. We have religious leaders exalting themselves, building monuments unto themselves in the name of Jesus and calling themselves servants of God. They are the blind leading the blind. The revelation of God is being released to open our blind eyes and set us free.

The truth sets us free. The word of God is inspired and infallible. John warned us not to take away from any aspect of God's word lest we be cursed (Revelation 22:19). Most churches are under some form of curse from God Himself because we have not lined up according to His word in the apostolic order. Let's look clearly at the revelation of the apostolic order that God established and revealed to His apostle Paul so we can be properly aligned with God and avoid His judgment.

APOSTOLIC ORDER

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. I Corinthians 12:28

In order to understand this list, I will put it in outline form below and include the offices of Evangelist and Pastor seen in Ephesians 4:11. Each appointment of God has an anointing or gifting to enable the individual to fulfill God's call. I have listed besides each name, the number of times that word or its plural form appears in the New Testament and a simple focus of what God calls them to do.

ANOINTING	**FOCUSED ON**
1. APOSTLE - 79	**God's Commission – Big Picture**
2. PROPHET- 159	**God's Directives – Now Word of the Lord**
3. TEACHER - 66	**God's Written Truth**
MIRACLES - 15	**God's Power**
HEALINGS - 30	**God's Love and Healing**
HELPS - 12	**The Apostles Directives**

ADMINISTRATION - 2 Practical Programs and Goals
TONGUES - 34 Prayer Needs by the Spirit
4. EVANGELIST - 3 The Lost World
5. PASTOR - 1 Needs of the Congregation

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

From this list, we see that God has ordained apostles and prophets as the top two leaders in His church followed by teachers. Pastors are only mentioned one time in the Bible in Ephesians 4:11. Does that bother you a little bit? Why did God speak 79 times about apostles and 159 times about prophets, but only 1 time about pastors in the New Testament? Why are most churches run by pastors that deny the existence of apostles and prophets? How did God's divine order get completely reversed? The wisdom of man in agreement with demonic influences caused this reversal.

There is an important and vital five-fold gifting of Pastor to the body of Christ, but it is not a gifting to be the head of the Church. The leadership of the Church is given to apostles and prophets.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the <u>foundation of the apostles and prophets,</u> Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 (underlining mine)

God said, "first apostles, second prophets". God said, "apostles and prophets are the foundation of the church". Are we dense or what? You cannot find a verse in the Bible that says, "PS God's apostolic order only applies to the first century church and will be changed later by men who are really intelligent". God never changed His mind about His wisdom in releasing apostles and prophets to lead. That would be stupid!

Some pastors in today's churches are apostles although they might think it a term of pride to publicly declare that they are apostles. This has happened because of the religious control spirits and the powerful fear of man that permeates all religion. It is also rooted in false humility.

Christian leaders generally have no hesitation in saying "I'm a pastor", even if he happens to be an office level evangelist or teacher. Prophets have waged a hard war to be recognized as prophets. It's not a sign of pride to admit who you are by God's grace. Paul was not proud in declaring his apostleship. He was seeking to fulfill his calling as an authoritative "sent one" of God.

The pastoral calling is a wonderful gift to the body of Christ. I have briefly outlined below some of the characteristics of a five-fold pastor as I understand them.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BIBLICAL OFFICE OF PASTOR

1. Compassion ministry
2. Love and affirmation – builds people up
3. Encouragement – ministers to emotional needs
4. Comfort in times of need, bereavement
5. Nurtures the faith of young believers - shepherding
6. Biblical counseling
7. Prayer with people
8. Build's relationships – likes to hang out with people
9. Equips the saints to be care givers
10. 1-1 and small group follow up and discipleship
11. Visits the sick, elderly, lonely and needy
12. Pastors may marry, bury and conduct communion services
13. Some preaching, teaching, healing, prophetic and deliverance ministry but more often in small groups
14. Submits to the leadership of the apostles and prophets
15. Relational rather than administrative

HOW TO KILL A TRUE PASTOR

1. Appoint him the head of a church
2. Require him to do long range planning
3. Keep him task oriented rather than relational
4. Have him do lots of fund raising

5. Expect him to do everything

I trust that all true pastors will relate to this list. You can probably add many other thoughts to it, but we need to understand that the gift of pastor is precious to the body of Christ and needed. This office is not called to lead the church. This assignment is for apostles and prophets in a unique teamwork. There will be one apostle who will stand out and lead such as Peter, James or Paul did in the New Testament.

Apostles and prophets lead in team ministry. God shows His wisdom in having apostles and prophets lead because they have different anointings and giftings that counterbalance one another. The anointing to lead the development and ministries of the church is a gift from God. This anointing includes the ability to hear the strategic wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Apostles and prophets must be devoted to prayer and the ministry of the word in order to hear God's voice in community for the leadership of the church. As a result, apostles and prophets must be completely separated from the love for this world and totally yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit. God will train prophets and apostles through difficult wilderness seasons of trials so they can become obedient to every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3,4).

Joseph spent many years in prison being fashioned by God until he could lead the nation and provide bread for the nations. Joseph, the dreamer, whose name means "the Lord will add" is a picture of anointed prophets.

God took Moses into the wilderness for forty years to prepare him to lead God's people out of Egypt. Moses is a picture of an apostle prepared by God to lead. He was of course a mighty prophet and received the anointing needed to lead many people. While we see types and shadows of the apostle anointing in the Old Testament, Jesus introduced the office when He arrived.

Apostles and prophets operate together in community, in humility and love. They focus on worshipping Jesus, prayer, meditating on the word and following the leading of the prophetic through dreams, visions, words, dark sayings and scriptures to know the will of God. There is a dynamic tension between apostles and prophets that God created to provide balance.

CHAPTER 2 – THE PERFECT MODEL APOSTLE – JESUS CHRIST

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus. Hebrews 3:1

God's word admonishes us to consider Jesus as the model Apostle. Every believer is to focus intently on Jesus to become like Him. The Holy Spirit perfectly inspired the New Testament writers to reveal the exact model of Jesus so the Church of all ages could pattern their lives after Him. God's model is perfect in every way. Let's take a close look at the model of Jesus life as an Apostle.

APOSTLE – SENT ONE

Jesus declared that He was sent by the Father to accomplish a specific mission. Jesus' mission was to reveal the love and mercy of God and destroy the works of the devil. Jesus worked the works that God sent Him to do. Every Christian is to be apostolic. We each have good works that God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). Every believer is given gifts by the Holy Spirit to enable them to accomplish the goals God gives them.

As an apostle, Jesus was sent primarily to minister to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus released the teaching the Father gave Him and trained disciples before completing His mission by dying on the cross for our sins. The Father raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in heaven.

PREPARATION

Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:46-52

Jesus spent thirty years in preparation for His ministry. At a young age, Jesus astonished the scholars of Israel with His understanding of the word of God. Jesus had to spend hours in prayer and Bible study to know God's word. He certainly meditated on God's word day and night for many years (Joshua 1:8,9).

As Jesus believed in every aspect of the word of God and understood it by the Holy Spirit, He became the word of God, the embodiment of God's message to the world (John 1:14). Jesus' life became the message. Our lives are to become the message as His word transforms us into His likeness.

Apostolic churches understand the need for preparation and grounding in the word of God. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature in favor with God and men. We are to increase in wisdom, understanding, authority, anointing and we will have God's favor and the favor of some people. We will not be rejected by all. Apostolic people wait on God's timing for release into ministry.

Jesus could have been the greatest teacher ever at 28 years old. He could have been a powerful minister at 29, but God kept Him in preparation to be released at the proper time. Apostolic people must wait on God and continue to prepare through times of worship, prayer, Bible study, meditation and other Christian disciplines as the Spirit leads. God will promote the humble and release them into ministry at the proper time.

The Church we view today tends to release people before they are ready to minister. Sometimes we wait to long, other times we launch people too soon. Only apostolic wisdom by the Spirit will give us the proper timing.

A LIFE DEVOTED TO PRAYER AND THE WORD OF GOD

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.
Luke 6:12-13

Jesus' entire life was characterized by consistent devotion to prayer and the word of God. Before He chose the twelve, Jesus continued all night in prayer to God. He did not receive instant revelation on every detail that the Holy Spirit would reveal. Jesus had to labor in prayer. Jesus' life on Earth was a house of prayer.

Jesus devotion to the word of God became evident in His teaching ministry. He understood the scriptures and could overcome every temptation or attack from Pharisees by quoting the word of God. Apostolic people must follow Jesus' example.

IDENTIFICATIONAL REPENTANCE

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. Matthew 3:13-15

Jesus never sinned but He submitted to John's baptism first as He was being released into ministry. Jesus submitted to water baptism as a picture that we all must repent and be baptized as we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus identified with the sinful nature of the people and stood in the gap in identificational repentance before God to intercede on their behalf. He did not come and claim to be better than the sinners around Him although He clearly was better. Jesus humbled Himself and lowered Himself to be numbered with the transgressors.

Religion would have us develop a Pharisee mentality that we are holier than sinners are. Religious pride keeps us separate from sinners and aloof. Jesus modeled the apostolic characteristic of identifying with sinners and submitting to baptism.

BAPTISM IN WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. Matthew 3:16

After Jesus went through the waters of baptism, which pictures our salvation from sin, He received the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. This pictures the baptism of the Holy Spirit we all need to have the power of God to accomplish our mission. Without the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit operating in our lives, we cannot fulfill God's great commission or the full destiny of what He calls us to do.

REVELATION OF FATHER'S LOVE

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased". Matthew 3:17

As a Man, Jesus needed to receive the revelation of the Father's love by audible voice. This declaration of love came before Jesus did any of the works the Father would have Him do. Again, this is an apostolic model. Everything we do must be motivated by love.

We often assume that Jesus was perfectly secure and loved at home. The circumstances around His birth were not forgotten. His mother was pregnant before marriage. This was a scandalous situation that followed Jesus through His childhood and into His ministry. **"Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary" (Mark 6:3).**

A man was known by his father's name, not his mother's. Jesus hometown folk were saying in a sense, **"Isn't this the little bastard boy Mary had out of wedlock? Who does He think He is?"** As fully man, Jesus needed assurance of the Father's love to strengthen Him for ministry. Most of us have had difficulties in childhood and various rejections and insults. We need the Father's love revealed deep in our hearts to accomplish His mission.

SPIRIT LED WARFARE

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with

you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. Matthew 4:1-11

The Spirit of God led Jesus into fasting and prayer before leading Him into public ministry. Jesus modeled the apostolic principle of spiritual warfare during this wilderness testing time. God tests His apostolic people and calls them to overcome the temptations of the evil one. Fasting and prayer is required to overcome the enemy.

Jesus' actions in the wilderness season of fasting and prayer effectively bound the strong man Satan so that Jesus could go into towns and plunder his goods through powerful ministry. Luke mentions that Jesus returned from the wilderness filled with the power of the Holy Spirit (see Luke 4:14).

This principle is true for apostles and prophets today as well as all apostolic people. The Lord has called many believers in North America into forty-day fasts during the last five years in order to prepare them for things to come. The Holy Spirit led me to do a forty-day fast in order to receive revelation to write the book, **THE SPEAR OF PHINEHAS**, which talks about overcoming the queen of heaven by a passionate zeal for holiness.

We cannot accomplish the mission of God with the power of the Holy Spirit unless we learn to fast. My wife recently fasted forty days asking God to release the anointing to heal mentally ill people. She prayed earnestly for a woman we know who has been demonized for many years with this illness. We have prayed many times without the power to bring this woman healing. Jesus Christ wants to heal her through His people. We have to pray and fast and ask God for higher levels of power so we can bind the strong man and plunder his goods. I am confident that God will eventually release this powerful anointing to set the captives free.

SPIRIT FILLED MINISTRY

Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. Luke 4:14-15

Jesus was anointed from on high to do ministry by the power of the Holy Spirit. **"And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.' Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him" (Luke 4:17-21).**

And Jesus went about all Galilee, <u>teaching</u> in their synagogues, <u>preaching</u> the gospel of the kingdom, and <u>healing</u> all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were <u>demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them</u>. Great multitudes followed Him--from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. Matthew 4:23-25 (underlining mine)

Jesus overcame Satan in prayer and was anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish His mission. His mission included teaching, preaching, healing and deliverance. Jesus modeled what the apostolic church must do in these last days. His disciples walked in this same powerful ministry that set people free from the lies of the enemy. They healed sicknesses and diseases and cast many demons out of people. There is a great need in our world for this same level of power to be released today.

CHOSE AND TRAINED APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. Luke 6:40

Jesus chose and perfectly trained His disciples to be just like Him. He had at least seventy disciples including twelve He chose as apostles. Jesus has not changed His model since the first century. He is still training disciples and choosing apostles. Man changed Jesus' model and have perfectly trained disciples to become like them rather than Jesus.

The apostolic church will make disciples and train them perfectly to be like the Teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ. New believers will be taught to lay their hands on the sick and they will recover. They will

not be taught unbelief or doctrines of demons nor the traditions of man. They will be taught to read the Bible and do what Jesus did. There will be no limits placed on the apostolic community.

DEVELOPED COMMUNITY AND TEAM WORK

And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons. Mark 3:13-15

Jesus appointed the twelve to be part of His apostolic community. They were chosen to be close members of the team. Jesus provided the perfect model of team ministry. He sent his disciples in small teams of two to minister to the towns that He would later travel to. Jesus involved his team members in every aspect of the ministry so they could learn and grow to be like Him.

He sent them out to do what He was doing. This included healing sicknesses and casting out demons. This is basic apostolic training 101. As I was praying for a woman in a church I heard the Spirit say, "Heal the sick". Jane had a terrible headache and I prayed for her to be healed but she only received partial relief. I silently prayed, "Lord, you commanded me to heal her, but I don't know what else to do." Then I heard the Spirit say to have my fourteen-year-old daughter Mary pray for her.

When Mary laid her hands on Jane, Mary simply said, "Cry!" After a few moments, Jane began to release tears and more tears and experienced a powerful emotional healing and release. The headache was gone. God healed her by one word from a teenager. I always seek to minister with a team and often this includes members of my family.

We are teaching our children to heal the sick, prophesy, cast out demons and do the works that Jesus did. They are learning to walk by faith in God's word and have not had to overcome all the unbelief we did through our "religious training".

TRAVELING MINISTRY

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 15:24

Jesus understood the specific assignment the Father gave Him to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. While His sacrifice on the cross was for the whole world, His traveling ministry was primarily within the borders of Israel as He and his disciples went from city to city to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

Apostolic ministry will include traveling to places the Spirit of God indicates. Hudson Taylor was an apostle sent to China and the underground church in China today undoubtedly comes from the stream of Taylor's apostleship.

God calls apostles and prophets to minister both locally and regionally. He also calls many to specific nations or continents. The pastoral model often restricts an apostle from traveling and ministering out of the local context. This hinders the flow of the Holy Spirit. We are blessed in America to have many traveling ministries that are apostolic.

COMPASSION MINISTRY

And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?" But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish." Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men. Mark 6:34-44

Jesus had compassion on the multitudes and fed them both the word of God and miraculous bread and fish. God calls us to minister in compassion to the whole needs of people. We must keep the declaration and teaching of the word of God first and primary, but we

must also minister to the whole person as Jesus did. We notice the apostles made sure that the widows were cared for as they appointed deacons to tend to this important matter (see Acts 6:1-6).

SENT HIS DISCIPLES OUT TO MINISTER THE SAME LIFE & POWER

These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 10:5-8

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves". Luke 10:1-3

"He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:16-20

Jesus' twelve apostles were later joined by 58 disciples who were sent out in teams to preach, teach, heal and deliver in preparation for Jesus' arrival. We notice that they were first sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Paul modeled this as he traveled to foreign lands as he first went to the synagogues.

As last days apostles and prophets are sent traveling by the Lord, they will often first go to the lost sheep of the churches in a region before turning to the lost in the world. God will offer the new wine of His Spirit to the Church first and then the lost in the world. Those who choose to welcome the ministry of the apostles and prophets will enter into the apostolic church order and be blessed. Those who

refuse this ministry are in danger of resisting the Holy Spirit and standing against God as the Pharisees once did.

CONFRONTED RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF MAN

I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father. "Then they said to Him, 'We were not born of fornication; we have one Father--God.'" Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." John 8:37-47

Jesus confronted the religious traditions of man brought in by the scribes, Pharisees, Saducees and chief priests. He spoke clearly and accurately to them about their true spiritual condition and the source of their religion. Jesus cleansed the temple courts of those who would merchandise religion and desecrate the house of prayer.

Apostles and prophets thunder against the religions traditions of man that put a deadly choke hold on the life of Christ flowing through His people. Apostolic churches reject the traditions of man and yield to the daily leading of the Holy Spirit as the leaders devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. They allow the fire of God to cleanse His house from all defilement of flesh and Spirit in the fear of God. As they yield to the Spirit in all things, the Lord releases the wisdom to build the church according to the model of His perfect life.

JESUS WALKED THROUGH REJECTION AND PERSECUTION

Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. John 15:20

Jesus was rejected at His hometown of Nazareth as He gave His first message (see Luke 4:16-30). Jesus walked right through the midst of former friends and relatives who wanted to kill Him. Throughout His ministry Jesus faced continual opposition and persecution.

Anointed apostles and prophets will have to walk through rejection and persecution. Jesus modeled this and we are blessed if we are persecuted when following Him. **"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12).**

WALKED BY FAITH AT ALL TIMES

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel". John 5:19-20

For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak. John 12:49-50

Faith comes by hearing the voice of God and seeing the things God wants us to walk in by the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Jesus walked by faith in the revelation He received from the Father. The apostolic church must walk by the revelation of God through His voice. We must hear the Holy Spirit's application of the word of God and apply it with wisdom from above.

WALKED IN PERFECT LOVE, TRUTH, HOLINESS AND SERVANTHOOD

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all

will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

Jesus walked in perfect love towards all mankind. He loved His disciples and called them to love one another. Jesus is the truth and always spoke the truth in love. Jesus walked in complete purity and holiness. He took up the towel and washed the apostles feet to model servanthood. In every aspect of His life, Jesus set the standard and modeled how we are to live. We are to develop Christ-like character in every aspect of our lives. We must especially perfect holiness in the fear of God (II Corinthians 7:1).

The apostolic church must grow to walk in perfect love, truth, holiness and servanthood to be like her Master. This will release such a glorious witness to the world that many will want to come and become like us. This Church will become the living representation of the Body of Christ. How the world responds to the apostolic sent ones is how they would respond to Jesus. They will be judged according to the standard we establish.

PROPHETIC MINISTRY

The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet". John 4:17-19

The woman at the well perceived correctly. Jesus operated in prophetic words of knowledge in order to open up the gospel to this needy Samaritan woman. Jesus continuously received prophetic guidance about people around Him. He could discern by the Spirit the thoughts of men. Jesus looked deep into hearts by the Spirit and could tell the rich young ruler to go and sell all that he had since his riches were an idol (see Matthew 19:21).

Jesus prophesied the signs of the times at the end of the age in Matthew 24. He flowed in the office of prophet as well as all of the five fold ministry gifts. Prophetic ministry is an essential ingredient of the apostolic. Paul flowed in the prophetic and taught us that **"you can all prophesy one by one" (I Corinthians 14:21).** Prophetic ministry is powerful in opening hearts to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus used it continuously and so should we. Prophetic ministry is listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit and operating by His supernatural gifts.

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND ROSE AGAIN

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. II Corinthians 5:14-15

Jesus demonstrated His love by laying down His life for His people. We are called to be living martyrs for Jesus each day, laying down our lives in love for Him and the people He created. God loves the lost and wants to flow His love to them through us. Apostolic people lay down their lives as a demonstration of the life of Jesus working in them.

Jesus modeled the laying down of His life so we could follow in His pattern. Missionaries have given their lives in service to reach a single convert in foreign lands. Some died before winning a single soul. God honors the martyr's blood and gives them eternal rewards.

SENT APOSTLES TO MAKE DISCIPLES IN ALL NATIONS

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus chose His apostles, trained them and commanded them to accomplish the task we call "The Great Commission". This command is still operational today and the authority and power of Jesus to carry out this command still flows to His people. As the Church comes into apostolic order, the power flow will increase to do the miraculous works of Jesus to attract more people to the gospel, set the demonized free so they can be discipled faster.

MIRACULOUS WORKS CONFIRM THE AUTHORITY GOD HAS GIVEN

If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him. John 10:37-38

Jesus showed us that an apostle will have the confirmation of powerful works from God. If a person claims to be an apostle today and cannot heal the sick or cast out demons, I would be reluctant to follow him or even listen to his teaching.

Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. II Corinthians 12:12

Paul demonstrated what Jesus lived and taught. Apostles' doctrine is confirmed by signs and wonders and mighty deeds of the Holy Spirit. Apostles will be led by the Spirit to release the life of Jesus and perform many miracles. These powerful works authenticate that their doctrine and teaching has authority from God.

When we look at the scriptures closely, we see that Jesus left us a perfect apostolic model by His life and teaching to follow today. The bottom line of apostolic reformation is that we will be restored to minister like Jesus and His 1st century church did. We have the certain hope that God wants us to live and walk as Jesus did. This is wonderful good news!

The apostolic church will do the works that Jesus did and even greater works (John 14:12-14).In order to help you clearly see what God wants us to walk in as part of the apostolic reformation, I have summarized the model of Jesus on the next page.

JESUS - THE APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST OF OUR CONFESSION

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, Hebrews 3:1

1. APOSTLE – SENT ONE – Jesus sent by the Father to accomplish a mission

2. PREPARATION – Time to grow in wisdom of God and stature

3. LIFE DEVOTED TO PRAYER AND THE WORD OF GOD

4. IDENTIFICATIONAL REPENTANCE - Holiness and humility in love

5. BAPTISM – In water and Holy Spirit

6. REVELATION OF FATHER'S LOVE

7. SPIRIT LED WARFARE – Overcome temptations – Bind the Strong Man

8. SPIRIT FILLED MINISTRY - Preach, teach, heal, deliver and perform miracles

9. CHOSE AND TRAINED APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES

10. DEVELOPED COMMUNITY AND TEAMWORK

11. TRAVELED AROUND ISRAEL TO MINISTER – Specific Regional Target

12. COMPASSION MINISTRY – Fed the poor

13. SENT HIS DISCIPLES OUT TO MINISTER THE SAME LIFE & POWER

14. CONFRONTED RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF MAN – Cleansed the temple

15. WALKED THROUGH REJECTION AND PERSECUTION

16. WALKED BY FAITH AT ALL TIMES

17. WALKED IN PERFECT LOVE, TRUTH, HOLINESS AND SERVANTHOOD

18. PROPHETIC MINISTRY

19. JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND ROSE AGAIN

20. SENT APOSTLES TO MAKE DISCIPLES IN ALL NATIONS

21. MIRACULOUS WORKS CONFIRM THE AUTHORITY GOD HAS GIVEN

CHAPTER 3 – THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF JESUS

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. Luke 6:40

If Jesus completed His training mission correctly, then His twelve apostles would be like Him in the twenty-one characteristics listed in the last chapter. As we examine the life of the Apostles through the book of Acts, we discover that they conformed perfectly to the life of Jesus and operated just as He did. This demonstrates the wisdom of God in giving us a clear model of how we are to operate in the church today. God calls us to operate in supernatural power.

Jesus trained Peter, James, John and the other apostles to be completely like Him. Jesus sent them on a mission to take the gospel to the world. The apostles devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4) so they could continue to be led by the Holy Spirit in all things. They walked in humility, love and holiness. They were baptized in water and by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2).

The apostles knew the Father's love. They prayed and overcame the enemy. Their ministry was filled with the same signs and wonders that Jesus did. The New Testament book of Acts is a record of the "Acts of the Apostles". We discover in this book preaching, teaching, healings, deliverances and extraordinary miracles by the hands of the apostles. Not only did they raise the dead, but Peter judged Annanias and Sapphira and they died (Acts 5:1-11). God entrusted great authority to the apostles. The apostles evangelized and trained others to be apostles and leaders.

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were

increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Acts 5:12-16

The life of Jesus continued to flow through His apostles and the anointing for healing increased as Peter's shadow healed people. All sick and demonized were healed. The apostles also established compassion ministries and did not neglect the poor (see Acts 6:1-7). They walked in the model of Jesus Christ. The apostles had confrontations with the Jewish leaders as well as the traditions of men in other religions. They walked through rejection and persecution of all types.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. Acts 4:13-14

Peter and John had boldness and walked in supernatural power because they had been with the Lord. Jesus taught them perfectly and they walked by faith in love, truth, holiness, servanthood and power. Many of the apostles died martyrs'deaths. All of them poured out their lives to minister to people. The miraculous works of Jesus authenticated the authority God had given them.

A casual reading of the gospels and the book of Acts demonstrates that Jesus perfectly trained His disciples to be just like Him and flow in the same power and gifts. **"Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles" (Acts 2:43).** They became like their teacher and established a solid New Testament model for us to follow. We agree with the wisdom of God when we follow the model Jesus and His apostles established.

Pray for Signs and Wonders

We must begin to pray for miracles to be released through our ministries. The apostles prayed for God to release signs and wonders through their ministry after being severely persecuted. **"'Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through**

the name of Your holy Servant Jesus'. And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:29-31).

The result of being trained to be like Jesus was a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the salvation of tens of thousands of souls. **"These who have turned the world upside down have come here too" (Acts 17:6).** As the apostolic teams moved out into the ancient world, change came everywhere they went. They overturned the kingdom of darkness by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit just like Jesus did. We must have this same power to evangelize the world today.

Prophetic Ministry

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were <u>certain prophets</u> and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. Acts 13:1-4 (underlining mine)

We notice that the church at Antioch had prophets and teachers ministering along with apostles. As they fasted and prayed, the Holy Spirit released a prophetic word to call Barnabas and Saul (Paul) into ministry as an apostolic team. Barnabas appears to be more of a teacher and Paul was the apostle of the team. They traveled around their mission field just as Jesus modeled.
"Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words" (Acts 15:32). Prophetic ministry was actively carried on in the New Testament Church. Paul chose Silas to journey with him so as to have a prophet on the team. This happened after Paul had a sharp disagreement with Barnabas over John Mark (Acts 15:39). The team of Barnabas and John Mark do not appear again in scripture. The team of the Apostle Paul and the Prophet Silas dominate the remainder of the book of Acts. This is an important observation in building teams. Paul was a pioneering apostle that needed a strong prophet teammate.

Supernatural Signs Will Follow those who Believe

Jesus promised us that His church of all ages would see signs of His presence as they believed in Him. **"'And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.' So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen" (Mark 16:17-20).**

Mark's gospel ends on the triumphant note declaring that the apostles did exactly what Jesus said they should do. They believed in the Lord, cast out demons, spoke with new tongues, were supernaturally protected and laid hands on the sick to heal them. God confirmed their words through accompanying signs. This is normal kingdom of God activity.

Jesus simply declared that these signs would follow those who believe. Many of us were taught unbelief by the doctrines of men and devils. We believed a lie and walked in a powerless form of Christianity. We embraced the form but denied the power.

We used to pray for sick people and ask God to heal them "if it be Your will". I don't ever remember anyone getting miraculously healed that way. After God brought me through fiery trials, years of repentance and retraining in the word by His Spirit, I began to pray for the sick and some were miraculously healed. A conservative Christian man who suffered a bad back for many years was instantly healed when I prayed for him recently. I heard the Spirit say, "Command the healing". I placed my hand on his back and simply said, "I command your back to be healed in Jesus Name!" Then I immediately declared, "Your back should be feeling better now." The man agreed and was completely healed. I must admit, I was a little amazed that it actually worked. I'm still new in seeing God work like this. Weeks later the man confirmed to me that his back was in perfect working order. Praise God.

This is the kingdom of God that all of His children are called to walk in. Walking by faith enables us to set captives free. A person with a chronic back injury can experience a life changing touch from Jesus through your hands or mine as we believe in God and flow in His Holy Spirit.

Our faith certainly has to grow to various levels so that we can heal cancers, aids, mental illness and do creative miracles, restore limbs, raise the dead and so forth. We've recently seen common colds being healed by laying on of hands and the prayer of faith.

Many American Christians have been trapped in unbelief when it comes to healing. Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and the affects of it including sickness and disease. He can restore limbs and do the miraculous through us as we believe. This is our destiny and birth right as the last days Church of Jesus. I am confident that my children will walk in a much greater level of healing and miraculous faith because they are being taught the word of God according to Jesus not according to man.

We are activating them at a young age in prophetic intercession, healing prayer ministry so they will learn that Christ in them can flow His life through them no matter how young they are. One Baptist pastor preferred to have my child pray for him rather than me. I don't blame him! Recently, two of my children laid hands on a man with a hip injury and God instantly healed him. They simply prayed in faith as they were taught.

Scholars believe that some of Jesus' disciples were teenagers. They were probably all under 30 years old. This doesn't discount us older folks from walking with Jesus, but it calls us to release the younger ones into ministry and not hold them back. There is nothing more captivating to a teenager than to be used by God in miraculous power.

At our church, we have seen children as young as five years old standing against demons and commanding them out. Why should children suffer demonic attacks and not stand against them? God has been giving high level prophetic dreams to two seven-year-old girls in our church. We are paying close attention to what the Spirit is showing our children.

When one child's dream from our church was shared at The River, a well known revival church in Tampa, the power of God came down upon the people so astonishing that brother Rodney Howard-Browne didn't know how to close the service. God is releasing signs and wonders already and He is using children.

On the morning I taught the principles of this book in our church and established the apostolic order, our lead apostle was ministering 35 miles away in another church. I declared that the power of God was going to be demonstrated as a sign of His pleasure and there was a great outpouring on the church where our team was ministering.

Children ran forward at the altar call and began crying and weeping before the Lord. The power of God was hitting the room so greatly that the host pastor stared in wonder and awe. He had never seen the fire of God hit people. The service lasted so long, the Hispanic church that came in later joined in and received the fire also. The revival fire is to purge us of sin and give us passion for Jesus and zeal for His kingdom.

The Spirit of God wants us to do more than the book of Acts church did. He wants us to take nations in Jesus' power and glory. He wants us to do the works of Jesus and greater works as we believe in Him.

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:23-24

We all need help in our unbelief. We will study apostolic faith in our next chapter. Let me just say that God is pleased with our faith that works by love. He cherishes faith and wants to help us with our unbelief as we cry out with tears and ask Him to increase our faith.

Servants Flow in Power

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Acts 6:8,10

Stephen was a servant who was chosen to minister to the needs of widows (see Acts 6:1-7). He faithfully served God by distributing food and ministering the love of God to needy people. God had an evangelistic call on his life and gave Stephen the grace to give one of the greatest sermons in the Bible (see Acts 7). Stephen was not an apostle, but he flowed in power and vision.

But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Acts 7:55-56

Philip was also chosen to wait tables and distribute food. God used Philip in powerful ways to preach the gospel followed by signs and wonders. **"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the**

miracles, which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:5-8).

The apostolic reformation will enable faithful body members to flow in miraculous power with signs and wonders. In order to flow in this power, we must believe the word of God and be devoted to prayer. **"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22).**

Jesus is still making disciples today. He teaches them to be just like Him and flow in the same power. During 21 years of active ministry I was discipled by several godly men. They had Christ-like character but did not flow in the gifts or the power of God. I became like them and trained others to be like me.

Then God called me out of this mission and personally trained me during a three-year wilderness season. Jesus began to disciple me by His Spirit through revelation as to the word of God according to apostolic wisdom. Once I began to agree with God's word at face value without diluting or cutting out miracles, healings, gifts, signs and wonders, God began to flow all of those things through my ministry. What a coincidence?

The Christian life is lived by faith. A person can be a wonderful Christian and go to heaven through faith in Jesus Christ and never operate in the gifts or walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't have to operate in the gifts and the power of God in order to be saved. But we do need to operate in the gifts and the power to be more like Jesus.

We also need these gifts and God's power to accomplish the great task ahead of us in the 21st century. We must reach the entire world with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the next forty years. We have technology and enough people in the Church to do it. We only need to set in the apostolic order and release the power of God to see the impossible become possible. In order to do this we need apostolic faith, which is our subject in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 4 – THE POWER OF APOSTOLIC FAITH

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." Luke 17:5

The apostles followed Jesus and observed His incredible life and miraculous faith. Jesus Christ demonstrated a perfect security and confidence in God's ability to provide for all his needs and direct His steps. Jesus trusted God with all His heart. Jesus lived on Earth with a certainty, boldness and power that was rooted in faith. His apostles longed to be like Him and wisely requested Him to increase their faith so power could flow through them.

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? <u>How is it that you have no faith?"</u> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" Mark 4:35-41 (underlining mine)

Jesus demonstrated the power of His faith when He rebuked the wind and commanded the sea to be still. This illustrates a principle of apostolic faith. When you hear the Holy Spirit tell you to command a healing, bind a demon or cause the wind to be still, you must "say it" with authority and believe that it will happen. This is the release of miraculous faith in the voice of God to meet the need of the moment.

We want to examine what faith is and see how Jesus helped increase His apostles' faith so they could walk in the miraculous power He walked in.

The Substance of Faith

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Faith is spiritual substance. It is tangible "stuff" in the spiritual realm. Biblical faith is more real than the world we live in. The substance of Biblical faith has eternal and powerful implications. The

Greek word used for faith is “pistis” which means “a firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing God’s word”. It includes knowing God’s revelation, a personal surrender to Him and incorporates a belief system that transforms us to become like Him. Faith is all about believing in God and His word.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Paul is teaching us to agree with the voice of God to have faith. The voice of God is the substance of things hoped for. When we receive a covenant promise by God’s voice, we have the spiritual substance to walk by faith in it.

A person could listen to Bible tapes of the word of God all day long and not increase in faith at all. Faith comes by the inner hearing of the voice God through His word. A housewife could be folding laundry and hear the still small voice of God tell her to pray for the protection of her mother who lives a thousand miles away. As she prays in faith for protection, she has a knowing that God has answered her prayers. Later she finds out there was a terrible automobile accident and her mother came through it without a scratch although others were injured.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

Faith pleases God. We must diligently seek God to hear His voice. I spend a lot of time studying the word of God. After two weeks of study and a great deal of prayer over a topic, I often just begin to clearly hear the revelation of the Holy Spirit over a passage. The Spirit often broods over a passage and calls me to pray in tongues for weeks before the message begins to open up to me. I certainly understand the texts and have acquired a lot of information and research, but until I hear the voice of God by His Spirit, I won’t have true faith.

“Whatever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). Faith comes by hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit give direction in agreement with the principles of the word of God. Whenever we launch out in life decisions without hearing God’s voice, we sin. Most people operate by reason or sight nearly all of the time. They are walking in lawless rebellion against God and His Spirit. Many Christians live this way and are in great danger of falling away from the faith since they walk by sight.

Jesus never did anything on His own initiative, but only did what He saw the Father doing or heard the Spirit telling Him to do. He walked by faith at all times. In order to walk this way, He had to be completely devoted to prayer and pouring over the word of God on a regular basis. Jesus modeled this life and trained his disciples to live the same way.

The apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith to perform miracles. This kind of faith is a special spiritual gift given by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:9). We are encouraged to earnestly desire spiritual gifts and to ask for them. Through diligent prayer God will probably give you the spiritual gift of faith.

This spiritual gift of faith is a supernatural ability to release God's power on the earth by way of miracles, healings, deliverances, spiritual warfare and mighty acts. This powerful faith gift is given "as the Spirit wills" and is not operational at all times. Since it is the God type of faith that created the universe by a word, the Holy Spirit controls it completely. Jesus demonstrated this spiritual gift on many occasions and the apostles desired to increase in this kind of faith. After Pentecost, the apostles operated in this spiritual gift and many miracles, signs and wonders were performed.

This miraculous gift of faith operates by the voice of God or the prophetic anointing. One of my great joys is to pray for people after ministering the word of God. It is always an adventure to simply flow with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to do as He wills. I prefer that people don't tell me anything. Sometimes, a person will ask for healing for a certain sickness and I don't hear a thing from God about it. At that point, I don't have "God faith" to release a word of healing.

Many other times, as I am praying, I will hear a word of knowledge or a directive of the Holy Spirit that will give me faith to pray for them. At some meetings, I might pray for thirty or more people and God may choose to heal only one or two. As I go completely by the Holy Spirit God uses me in the way that He wills. One night as I was praying for a woman, the Spirit said, "Heart disease". As I prayed about this asking for more understanding, the Lord directed me to pray for the woman's heart.

As I prayed for her and called on God to heal her heart, she began to cry and rejoice at the same time. A doctor had recently told her that she had some heart problems and was doing extensive testing. When she went the to doctor after that meeting, her heart was healed. I did not heal her. God healed her. But God gave me a word and gave me

faith to agree with His word so He could partner with me to heal the woman. That is one way God releases miraculous faith.

Have Faith in God

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:22-24

Jesus taught His disciples to have "God faith", the supernatural gift of God that enabled Jesus to curse the fig tree. His word, led by the Spirit and empowered by God faith, declared into the spiritual realm a curse, which manifested in the natural realm as the fig tree withered. The Spirit of God has absolute dominion over the natural world and a holy word from God released through an anointed vessel with the gift of faith operating will cause the declaration to occur. This gift of faith is so powerful, the Holy Spirit controls it completely. No person walks in it at all times. Jesus only said what the Spirit led Him to say and He had complete faith that whatever the Spirit told Him to say would happen.

Jesus taught that a person with this kind of faith could speak to a mountain and whatever he said would come to pass. The spoken word under miraculous faith by the Spirit has creative power. **"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3).** God spoke and created by the power of His voice united with perfect faith. God spoke into nothing and created the universe by the power of His Being.

The release of the gift of faith works the same way. The Spirit gives us the faith and direction to pray for the miraculous work and we simply say as He directs us. When we say a command by faith, it is the voice of God speaking through us into the spiritual realm to cause the event to occur in the natural realm. Prophetic words by the Spirit operate in the same principle. It doesn't matter what God tells us to say. Anything is possible if God speaks it to us and we agree and release the word by faith.

Elijah had "God faith" when he prayed that it would not rain except by his word. The Spirit led him to pray this way. After three and a half years, Elijah prayed seven times in the agony of child birth until this

kind of faith arose from God so that through Elijah's prayers of faith, the weather patterns over ancient Israel were controlled (see I Kings 17,18). This is the kind of faith the apostles saw in Jesus and said, **"Increase our faith".** While we are not all called to be apostles, I believe seeds of this kind of faith are available today to all of God's children who meet God's conditions. We understand that this faith will only operate within the measure of God's specific calling and will be initiated and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Mustard Seed Faith

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Luke 17:5,6

Jesus' response indicated that the apostles were seeking an increase in the supernatural gift of faith in which the word released had the power to uproot a mulberry tree and cause it to be thrown into the sea. This is a mighty miracle kind of faith. Jesus cannot lie or even exaggerate slightly so His words are absolutely true for all times.

This kind of faith is able to cast out the most powerful demons as Jesus taught the apostles in Matthew 17:15-18. The disciples wondered why they could not cast the demon out of a boy and Jesus replied, **"Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:20).** We note from this that prayer and fasting can enable us to receive this supernatural faith to cast out demons.

This kind of faith does not operate by asking God to do something. Miraculous faith combines with the voice of God and releases a command. We have to "say" to the mountain 'Move from here to there' for it to happen. This is why we must pray in the Holy Spirit and learn to hear the voice of God in our spirits. **"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jude 20).**

As you pray in the Holy Spirit, He will give you directions for the things He wants you to pray for. This is called "prophetic intercession". It is Spirit-led and empowered. This builds up our faith since we see dramatic answers to this type of prayer. Sometimes we don't hear the voice of God in the Spirit, but we feel a deep unction or

burden to pray. Prayers of faith may also flow from vision or a knowing in your spirit as well.

The Tiny Mustard Seed

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32

The Lord of the Universe has an infinite capacity for spiritual seeds of faith to plant in our hearts. It only takes one seed sown in the good soil of our hearts to begin a development process that will grow into a mighty tree which will provide shelter for the birds of the air to come and nest in its branches. This represents compassion to care for others.

Since faith works by love (Galatians 5:6), we recognize the heavenly seed produces a tree that reaches out in love to care for others including newborn babes in Christ. Love provides covering and protective shade, a place to find rest, safety and nurture (see also Mark 4:30-32).

It is absolutely essential that we establish that apostolic faith is united with God's love. This faith operates by self-sacrificing love (agape). The motivational force of operating in miraculous faith must be the love of God, for His glory to set people free to worship Him. The disciple must lay down His life in love to walk in this level of faith.

The carnal nature of man under the influence of powerful principalities is vulnerable to attack in this area to desire miraculous faith for personal prosperity, prominence, fame, success, self-promotion and personal glory. This Satanic characteristic is more subtle and influential than most of us realize. Powerful seductive spirits are constantly seeking to creep into the church and turn the most anointed ministers into self-seeking individuals that begin to desire the glory for themselves. We must always seek holy faith.

Receiving Apostolic Faith from God

"And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve

me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' Luke 17:5-10

In this parable, Jesus described the necessary attitudes and actions required to position oneself in the heart condition to receive an impartation of holy faith that can move mountains, cast out demons, obey God with boldness or manifest God's miraculous power in whatever way the Spirit leads.

In the parable, the servant is plowing or tending sheep. The servant represents the believer who has a Master in heaven. The believer works in the field of the Lord, which is the region where God has geographically stationed him. He may work in a secular position or he may be a full time laborer in the vineyard of the Lord.

After a long day in the field, the servant comes into the house, which represents the presence of God and His house. The servant must not enter into the house of the Master with the idea that the Master will wait on him and feed him. The servant is required to first serve the Master.

Many believers enter into the house of God on Sundays with the desire to rest and be spoon-fed after a long week at work. God does not feed powerful faith to the self-centered ones who tend to look for entertainment and a program, but calls us to do three clear things to receive miraculous faith:

1. Gird yourself and serve Me - Prepare something for My (God's) supper
2. Til I have eaten – Spiritual Food
3. Til I have drunk – Spiritual Drink

After the servant faithfully waits on the Master, then and only then does the Master promise to give food and drink to the servant. Jesus demonstrates infinite wisdom by hiding the secrets to receiving miraculous working apostolic faith in this parable. Only the hungry of heart will understand and apply these principles.

1. Gird yourself and serve me – Prepare something for my supper

To gird is “to encircle with a belt or band; to equip and endow with attributes that prepare one for action”. In this context, to gird implies a state of readiness to serve dinner to the Master. This would include thoroughly cleansing oneself and putting on fresh garments after a day in the field. We must be willing to serve the Master in whatever way He desires. This is a vital attitude in receiving faith for miracles.

As we prepare to enter the presence of God, we must wash by confessing our sins, pleading the blood of Jesus over them and receiving washing by the word of God. We are dressed in readiness to serve God by the white linen garments of the righteousness of Christ and our righteous deeds. As we approach God in worship and prayer to ask Him for apostolic faith, we first must come clean and confess our motives and allow His Spirit to search our hearts. This is not reserved for Sunday mornings, but is a continuous lifestyle.

We must prepare ourselves to wait on God like a good waiter at a restaurant. Our whole focus is to serve God and please Him. Our attitude is to give God whatever He desires and as much as He desires. This translates into ministering unto the Lord in worship.

2. Til I have eaten – Spiritual Food

The servant that comes properly girded and prepared into the presence of God must first of all feed Him spiritual food until He is satisfied. The good servant will pay close attention to his master and respond to all His requests. Jesus taught us that His body, the bread of life is true spiritual food, which comes down from heaven (John 6:22-40). By faith in God**, “we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones” (Ephesians 5:30).** We have become one with Christ.

Spiritual worship involves presenting our bodies to God as **“a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).** The spiritual food that God requires first of all, is that we absolutely and completely consecrate ourselves unto Him. We must present all of who we are before Him. We feed Him our bodies through laying our entire lives on His altar in pure holy worship. We die to ourselves to live in Christ.

In seasons of intense prayer and pressing into God, we pour our lives before His altar and at times completely exhaust our bodies in seeking God. The Creator of the Universe expects and demands this at times before we break through into the heavenly realms where we may receive apostolic faith.

We also must pray the word of God back to God in this phase of feeding God spiritual food. Almighty God is not hungry and does not need to hear His word quoted back to Him, but Jesus is teaching us how to acquire a mustard seed of apostolic faith. **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).** The Greek word "rhema" is translated "word" referring to that specific Holy Spirit anointed word to be applied to the heart at that moment. This revelation word gives clarity and direction that is needed or reveals a special truth to be learned and taught. This is in contrast to the word "logos" which refers to the entire counsel of God's word or the general revelation of the mind of God contained in the Bible.

It is possible for an individual to study the logos of God and never hear a rhema from God. The Pharisees Jesus confronted did not "hear" His words even though their auditory faculties were in excellent condition (see John 8:43-47). They memorized most of the Old Testament but did not recognize the Author when He stood in their midst. Hearing the word of God implies a spiritual faculty that receives, believes and agrees with the declaration of truth. Only the humble of heart will hear rhema words. Jesus taught, **"Let him who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 11:15)**

Many Bible students are under the assumption that they are hearing God because they study His word and develop elaborate systematic theologies. The mind of man cannot discern the word of God. It is spiritually discerned by the power of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 2:14). Jesus' sheep hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:27).

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:8-10

As we confess the word of God, saying it with our mouth, by God's grace it may enter our heart and become united with faith. We must believe in our heart to become righteous and we must confess with our mouth to experience salvation and its benefits.

After Moses died, the Lord spoke to Joshua and said, **"This Book of the Law shall not depart <u>from your mouth</u>, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make**

your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:8,9; underlining mine).

This timely rhema to Joshua teaches the same principle. The Hebrews meditated on the word of God by "saying" it or reciting it out loud over and over again. There is great power in speaking the word of God out loud and by the Spirit of God it will enter our believing hearts so that we will be careful to obey all that God requires.

When the word of faith enters our heart, a spiritual substance is imparted to us that gives us a "witness" or knowing in our spirit that God has clearly spoken to us. Our attitude must be of absolute obedience to the word of God at that point to do that which He commands us to do. This spiritual seed will grow mightily when the heart is in good soil condition.

During a financial trial, God's Spirit led me to recite **"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1)** out loud over and over again. My mouth was telling my heart to believe the absolute truth of God's word rather than worry or fear the future. As I prayed this and many other verses back to God, by His grace and Spirit, the word began to sow into my heart and faith in God's provision began to grow no matter what the circumstances looked like. I also was led to repent for doubting God's word and goodness in providing for our future.

I want to caution the reader that we should not try and manipulate God by praying certain powerful scriptures back to Him unless He directs us to. Ask God if He wants you to pray the scripture and claim it for your life. He may agree or lead you to pray prayers of confession first. Our motivations must be pure to operate in pure power.

3. Til I have drunk – Spiritual Drink

Jesus taught us that in addition to giving God our bodies and praying His word, the avenue to receive apostolic faith includes giving Him spiritual drink. This refers to the water of the Holy Spirit which includes thanksgiving, praise, worship, intercession, rejoicing, celebrating, dancing, raising hands, testifying and glorifying God. Since we release living waters by the Holy Spirit within us (see John 7:37-39), only the Holy Spirit can enable us to worship in spirit and truth. As servants we are totally dependent upon God to enable us to minister unto Him both food and drink acceptable in His sight.

Offering God spiritual drink includes much praying in the Holy Spirit or praying in tongues. There is a flow of spiritual water to God as we pray in tongues. As we praise, worship and pray for extended periods of time, we are by God's grace allowed access into the throne room of God's presence. It is there that God will begin to feed us with the Bread of heaven and the drink of the wine of His Spirit in such a powerful way that we will hear rhema from God receiving direction, illumination and life changing guidance according to His purposes. God changes the water we offer Him into the new wine which intoxicates us with great joy that brings renewed strength.

After extended times of worship, God will begin to flow apostolic faith into our hearts so we may be able to do the works of Jesus as the Spirit gives the leading. God wants to work miracles through you. In order to get you into position to flow in apostolic faith, He will usually first cut sin out of your life so the miraculous faith won't cause you to be elevated in pride.

Ways in Which God Speaks to our Hearts

There are fourteen ways I've discovered that God speaks to our hearts so that we might obey Him and release apostolic faith to accomplish the works that He has for us. I have listed them for your benefit and will not go into a long discussion on each. I listed them in the order I believe most believers will experience them. We start with hearing by the word of God and end by hearing the audible voice of God. All believers will hear through the word, but only a few will hear the audible voice of God.

1. The word of God – speaks to us by "rhema" word – Personal study or through preaching and teaching – Acts 5:42
2. Still small voice – the Holy Spirit – John 14:26
3. Word of knowledge – specific revelation – Acts 5:1-11
4. Word of wisdom – interpretation and understanding – Acts 27
5. A prophetic word – Acts 21:10,11
6. A prophetic picture – Mark 4:30
7. A vision or a dream – Acts 16:9
8. A knowing in your spirit – intuition – Matthew 9:4
9. Feeling the unction of the Spirit – Acts 3:4-6
10. The interpretation of a tongue – I Corinthians 12:10
11. Dark saying – Numbers 12:8
12. A trance – Acts 11
13. The voice of an angel – Luke 1:38
14. The audible voice of God – Luke 5:5

These Spirit-directed ways God speaks to us work in harmony with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and there may be overlap of several areas. We must verify everything through the word of God. Obeying God's voice may include the release of the gift of faith, healing and miracles operating in a mighty combination to accomplish God's purposes. It is not our purpose to study those gifts in this book, but the disciple must grow in God's spiritual gifts to flow in the power of apostolic faith (see I Corinthians 12,14).

The Surgery of God to Produce Holy Faith

And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Revelation 4:5

John accurately described what he saw in the throne room of God. Lightning represents the powerful sudden illumination or revelation that comes from God that exposes all that darkness hides. Thunderings are the result of the lightning on our hearts which shakes us into repentance and awakens us from slumber imparting to us the fear of the Lord. God must expose our heart motivations and cleanse us from all unrighteousness before He can fill us with His glory. And the scriptures declare that our hearts are purified by faith (Acts 15:9; 26:18; Philippians 3:9). The lightning of God is a consuming fire that purifies the faith we have through many trials and hardships and imparts additional seeds of faith.

When the Israelites **"witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off……but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was" (Exodus 20:18,21).** Entering into the throne room presence of God is an overwhelming experience few saints embrace. Most believers stand afar off when it comes to seeking God. Moses, the great deliverer of God had "God faith" and boldly approached the thick darkness where God was.

After I received an impartation of God's faith for holiness in 1995, the consuming fire of testings came for years to prove the genuineness of my faith. Many sins were burned up in the process. One time I encountered the fear of the Lord so strongly that I shook internally for three days. Moses' faith challenged me to continue to approach God to be made holy. Being made holy is a lifelong process and I do not claim to have come close to arrival, but I seek to **"perfect holiness in the fear of God" (II Corinthians 7:1).**

Paul had to experience the lightning and thundering of God before he could be used. On the road to Damascus, Saul intended to persecute the church and the believers knew of his reputation and mission. The apostles were undoubtedly fervently praying to God for a miracle. Jesus taught them to love their enemies and pray for those who persecuted them (see Luke 6:27,28). I believe a mustard seed of faith was given to the apostles and a "word" to pray for the lightning of God to proceed from His throne to arrest Saul and save the saints.

Perhaps the apostles were led to pray in faith Psalm 97:2-4, **"Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. A fire goes before Him and burns up His enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; the earth sees and trembles".** One of the greatest miracles of all history took place in answer to apostolic faith prayer. The zealous Benjamite named Saul who violently persecuted the church was stopped on the road to Damascus by the lightning and thunderous presence of Jesus Christ Himself and His audible voice. Blinded by the light, Paul humbled himself before Jesus and fasted and prayed without food or water in crisis repentant mode for three days. The transformation of Saul to Paul was incredible.

The "voices" from God's throne declare the specific rhema of God that give us clear direction and the substance of apostolic faith to walk in God's holiness, authority, confidence and power. Saul's life was changed by the lightning, thunder and voice he heard. The apostles' prayers made a tremendous difference and added one to their number who then added many millions since through his life and writings.

Religious spirits have caught hold of many zealous saints who have gotten lost in persecuting new moves of the Spirit or have become bound by tradition. We must diligently fast and pray for the faith to see a worldwide manifestation of God's lightning to suddenly arrest the Sauls of our day so they will become mighty Pauls. I believe God is about to release the Damascus road visitation again on a global scale. Perhaps He will visit the entire Muslim world in one moment to honor Abraham's prayer, **"Let Ishmael live before you" (Genesis 17:18).** God is able to do it beloved if we will learn to pray "God faith" prayers.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:19-20

The humble apostolic servant of God is zealous unto repentance. The pathway to apostolic faith is paved with tears of confession and contrite repentance. The Lord meets us as servants and raises us up to become friends that dine with Him. What an incredible invitation!

The Unprofitable Servant

Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do. Luke 17:9,10 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 25:30

We now finish the parable of Jesus that we began with. The servant has fed the master. The master commanded him to do certain tasks. God commands us to heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead, preach the gospel to the poor and perform other miracles. Are we to receive glory when we simply obey? No! We are to have the attitude that we are simply "unprofitable servants".

In the only other use of the phrase, **"unprofitable servant" (Matthew 25:30),** Jesus declared that the unprofitable servant shall spend all eternity in outer darkness separated from His marvelous light. While the apostles were not unprofitable servants, when God used them to do mighty deeds by apostolic faith, they gave all glory to God recognizing that they deserved to go to hell forever. This is a heart attitude of deep humility that prevents the miracle worker from getting into pride.

The disciple with holy faith does not look for thanks, affirmation, fame, prestige or fortune for his obedience. He recognizes that he has been saved from hell by grace alone through the gift of God's faith. He has only done his duty in serving his Master. This is the kind of humble attitude the Spirit of the Living Lord is looking for before He will impart apostolic faith. Otherwise, the believer could fall into pride and the condemnation of the devil (see I Timothy 3:6).

God bought us with the blood of Jesus Christ. We all deserve to go to hell forever. We now belong to Jesus Christ. Whatever task Jesus calls us to do, we can joyfully do in light of the absolute fact that He rescued us out of the domain of darkness. We must fervently pray that God will develop Christ-like character in equal or greater measure than powerful anointings. Selfish spiritual ambition is a road that has

a bridge out in the middle of it. We must simply obey Jesus whatever He commands.

The Apostles Followed Jesus Teaching

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

Jesus' first apostles learned the lesson well. Along with prophets, they spent many hours ministering unto the Lord in praise, worship and prayer; they prayed in tongues and prayed the word of God and waited on the Lord in humble dependence for the fresh bread that comes down out of heaven, the powerful rhema words that break yokes, destroy bondages and feed the deepest needs of the people. Yielding to the Holy Spirit's leading, the apostles led the church in supernatural growth with supernatural faith.

This kind of faith is available today to all of God's children within their sphere of influence. God will give His faith to each of us so we can fulfill His purposes in this late hour if we apply His teaching on how to increase faith.

Apostolic reformation will result in the massive impartation and increase of apostolic faith. Beloved, there is great urgency that we lay hold of apostolic faith in these last days. Billions of souls are in need of saving and we can increase in apostolic faith to reach them. Jesus taught us to humble ourselves as servants, gird ourselves through confession and repentance, feed the Father by offering our lives and praying His word to Him, giving Him drink through praise and worship, and then eating at His table, hearing the word deep in our hearts, receiving the Holy Spirit and obeying everything He tells us to do as thankful servants who deserved to go to hell but have everlasting life through His grace. What an adventure! Lord, increase our faith!

CHAPTER 5 – THE LOST APOSTLE

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. 1 Timothy 1:18-20

Apostles must hold fast to faith in prophetic words. Paul instructed Timothy to wage warfare over the prophetic words he received over his life. Prophetic words are signposts of vision given by the Holy Spirit to provide direction and focus of ministry. If we fail to follow the signposts, we can easily get off track in the destiny God has for us. We wage warfare over prophetic words by spending a great deal of time in prayer and waiting on the Lord for their fulfillment.

Elijah heard the sound of the abundance of rain in his spirit and prophesied to Ahab that it was going to rain. Then Elijah went into seven intense prayers of travail to bring forth the word that he had spoken. God heard his prayers and the rain came (see 1 Kings 18:41-46). God calls man into a partnership of prayer and perseverance to bring forth the manifestation of His words.

Daniel fasted and prayed to receive additional revelation regarding Jeremiah's word that Israel would be released from captivity after 70 years (see Daniel 9 & 10). Jeremiah's infallible word required additional intercession to bring it to fruitfulness. There is usually a great deal of testing between the time a prophetic word is given and its fulfillment.

Faith is tested in the fiery furnace of affliction to prove its genuineness. Hymenaeus and Alexander failed the tests of faith and were shipwrecked. Ships are destroyed by severe storms, poor navigation, or shallow waters. Our faith can be overcome by storms, faulty decision making or a shallow life. We need to get into the deep waters of God and be fully prepared for storms by building our lives upon the Rock of Jesus Christ.

Prophetic words are the "voice" of God. They are words that "proceed from the mouth of God" (Deuteronomy 8:3,4) and provide targets of intercession and promises that we must build our lives upon.

Hymanaeus' name means "the god of weddings or the god of marriage". Prophetically, he represents the type of person who loves

sensuality, entertainment, comfort and personal pleasures. These sorts of people make up doctrines in order to justify their carnal living. Hymanaeus is disqualified from any apostleship because of lust in his heart.

But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. II Timothy 2:16-18

Hymanaeus denied the resurrection and the faith of a future judgment before God. He lived for the now pleasures of life and shipwrecked what little faith he once may have had and blasphemed God. I preceive that Hymanaeus as lustful fun loving man who probably indulged in sexual immorality as his name denotes.

Alexander means “defender of man or man defender”. He may have been the same person who tried to make a defence in Ephesis (Acts 19:33) or the coppersmith who did Paul much harm (II Timothy 2:14). Prophetically, Alexander speaks of a man’s man, strong, rugged, determined and goal oriented. An Alexander type gets things done and makes things happen. He is trully humanistic and down to earth. Consequently, he is full of pride and natural wisdom which is demonic. Alexander would be one of those to eat food sacrificed to idols in order to keep his position in the trade guild.

Paul uses the examples of Hymanaeus and Alexander to show Timothy and us that a life of sensuality or self-will does not lead to a life of faith. It wouldn’t take much to see these two lost disciples being deceived by the spirit of Jezebel. **“Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols” (Revelation 2:20).**

Hymanaeus types fall into sexual immorality and Alexanders compromise in the work place and eat things sacrificed to idols. Alexander loves money more than purity. While there may be many ways to be shipwrecked in faith sexual immorality and the love of money top the list. In order to qualify for a last days apostleship or be a part of the true apostolic community, we will have to walk holy in purity and in finances.

Jesus lived as the perfect model Apostle and waged war over the prophetic words spoken in the scriptures about His life. As I prayed

about this, the Holy Spirit immediately took me to the fact that Jesus kept Judas Iscariot on his staff because of prophetic words. There is a great depth of insight here that we must look at closely to understand the significance of Jesus' model.

"Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9). The Holy Spirit spoke to Jesus as He read this verse and applied it to His life. Jesus must have prayed and labored over this word and began to see its fulfillment near the end of His earthly mission.

I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, "He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me." Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He. John 13:17-19

Jesus warred over the prophetic word and understood that God had chosen Judas to fulfill that word. God gave the revelation to choose Judas during all night prayer (Luke 6:12-16). Jesus may not have immediately known that Judas would betray Him, but it became evident after being with him for a few years. Jesus knew that Judas was stealing from the money box, but kept him on the team and handling the finances in order to fulfill the prophetic word.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. John 17:12

Keep in mind that Judas walked with Jesus for nearly three and a half years. Judas was chosen and called to be a founding Apostle. Judas heard every message Jesus preached many times. Judas saw the healings, deliverances and miracles. Judas himself was anointed to preach, heal and cast out demons. Yet the Bible teaches us that Judas was lost as a son of perdition. Why was Judas lost? To answer this question, we need to look at several scriptures.

And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor

with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him. Matthew 26:6-16

Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. John 12:4-6

Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude. Luke 22:3-6

Judas Iscariot was lost because he loved money. Jesus taught him that he could not have two masters. Judas tried to maintain two masters and in the end, he chose to love the master of money and hated Jesus. Judas followed Jesus for personal gain. When Jesus allowed the woman to bathe His feet with $50,000 worth of perfume, Judas was outraged.

Perhaps Judas was doing a reverse tithe by taking 10% of the money that was given to the mission and putting it into his own pocket. This extravagent "waste" of resources could have netted Judas a cool $5,000. Judas made a pious religious argment to hide his greedy heart. **"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"** John revealed Judas true motive as greed. Judas was not opposed to giving to the poor as long as it benefited him too.

My wife and I ministered to the urban poor for 21 years. I would never have thought my heart had any greed in it until the Lord took us out of ministry and called us to seek Him and wait on Him for everything. When the reserve funds ran out, all kinds of love for

money, fear and unbelief began to float to the surface in my life. Many of the poor that we ministered to were consumed with a love of money. Many play the lottery or gamble for the fantacy of winning the big prize and being rich. North America is filled with a love of money and glorifies those who are wealthy.

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. I Timothy 6:9-10

Judas strayed from the faith in his greediness. He was a few weeks away from graduation to become an Apostle in the first Church of Jesus Christ and lost his office due to greed (Acts 1:25). Judas was loved and trained personally by Jesus, yet he betrayed the Lord due to offence over money. I believe that Judas is a warning and a model to all of us that in order to qualify to be a last days apostle, a person will have to pass the "money test" that Judas failed.

God will test all of His people in this vital arena of God versus Mammon. He will severely test those called to be Apostles in order to purify their hearts so that He can build His last days church on a pure foundation. Apostolic people will have to learn to walk in God's ways in the area of money.

Do Not be Offended at God

And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me. Matthew 11:6

John the Baptist was in prison questioning whether Jesus was the Messiah or should they be looking for someone else. After Jesus told John's disiples to tell him of the evidences of Jesus' Messiahship, the Lord added a declaration that we must understand. Jesus did not want John or his disciples to become offended by the outcome of John's imprisonment.

Jesus most likely knew that John would die in prison. John's disciples may have reasoned that if Jesus was the Messiah in the way they expected Him to come, that He would certainly release the great prophet from Herod's dungeon. No such release was forthcoming. Our expectations of what God will do are often framed by our personal desires and human hopes.

God orchestrates His universe in ways that are infinitely higher than we can comprehend. We think He should run His kingdom in a certain way. When we hear a prophetic word about our life or receive a promise from God and His word, we begin to frame mental images of what we expect the outcome to be. Consistently, our expectations become frustrated because God's ways are higher and He intends other outcomes to achieve His purposes, which He is not obliged to inform us of.

This is quite humbling and humiliating at times when you are in the training and qualification school of the Lord. It boils down to learn to trust the Lord and keep your expectations pure and simple.

Judas expected to be a successful minister as part of the chosen 12. He was one of the in crowd and was trusted with the money box. We don't have an accurate picture of the kind of giving Jesus received, but with all the miracles, healings and deliverances taking place, it is reasonable to assume that many people were giving generously to Jesus' itinerant ministry.

This may have impacted the giving at the local synogoges and at the temple in Jerusalem. The chief priests were certainly concerned about money issues as their hearts were also filled with a love for money and power.

Jesus was severely tested by God in that He was required to keep a man handling the money who was stealing money. No church in the world would allow the church treasurer to keep handling the money knowing that he was pilfering the offerings on a regular basis. Jesus knew that Judas was part of His prophetic destiny to be turned over to sinful men and to die a horrible death. Jesus past the test and was not offended that God would orchestrate His life in this way.

When God deals severely with our hearts as He is preparing us for ministry, we must not be offended at His treatment as Judas was. Offended means "to be angry, resentful, indignant, outraged or to have hurt feelings". Judas was offended at Jesus' rebuke about the money issue and determined to betray Him for money. Judas was determined to profit from Jesus ministry one way or another.

The Greek word for offence is "skandalizo" which means "to entrap, i.e. trip up or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure): to offend. We get the word scandalize or scandal from this Greek word. People are offended at God and fall away because of displeasure, frustration, self-motivation, love of money or various forms of carnality.

An offence is something that causes a stumbling block or an occasion to stand away from another in opposition to them. The word for stand away or fall away in the Greek is the word “apostasia” which means “defection from truth [“apostasy”]: apostacy means to stand away from, to revolt, to rebel – an abandonment of one’s religious faith – to fall away from the truth” . Apostacy comes from a root word meaning “to divorce or separate from, to forsake”. The idea of a violent separation by revolt is indicated. Offence towards God leads many to rebel against Him and forsake following Him.

When my father was 12 years old his father died suddenly of heart disease. Many years later Dad confided in me his offence towards God at this event. Dad said that if God was a God of love, how could He take his father away from him whom he loved so much? For the next 45 years, Dad stood away from a relationship with God because of this offence. By God’s mercy, Dad reconciled to God just a month before he died of terminal illness. We cannot understand the mysteries of God’s ways and we must guard against offences.

As we pursue the deeper things of God, He deals with us very harshly at times. **“The LORD has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death” (Psalm 118:18).** Things don’t work out the way we expect. Prophesies are delayed or don’t seem to come. We have set backs, challenges, betrayals, heart aches. When God captures our hearts in passionate love, He lures us into a wilderness where He burns the Babylonian spirit out of us and prepares to give us new vineyards (Hosea 2:14-15) in righteousness and truth.

Offended by Persecution

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Matthew 13:20-21

Shallow believers are deeply offended by trials and difficulties to the point that the word of the Lord does not bear fruit in their lives. Prophetic words must be sown into the deep soil of a heart plowed by much prayer, repentance and watered by tears. Apostolic people of the last days must have a deep walk with God and be prepared to go through much tribulation and persecution without stubmling in offence.

And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Matthew 24:10,11

Jesus told us the last days would be characterized by a great deal of offence and betrayal. False ministers will rise up and lead many astray. We must have a pure heart full of God's truth and grace in order to navigate through the troubled waters of the days to come. All of Jesus' disciples stumble at one time or another.

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" Matthew 26:31

In his pride, Peter declared, **"Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended" (Matthew 26:33 KJV).** Peter denied Jesus three times and fled at the garden, but he was not disqualified from becoming a great apostle and leader of the early church. We can fail miserably at times and get into some offence towards God, but we must be quick to repent and humble ourselves before Him.

Peter spoke by revelation of the Spirit one moment and spoke by revelation of Satan the next (see Matthew 16:16,23). This did not make him a false prophet or disqualify him either. We need to have a lot more grace towards people who are operating in mixture. God may be training them for a great apostleship and the fire is just on them in a great way. God's dealings are severe and He calls us to love one another as He loved us.

We get so easily offended at immaturity and the sins of our brothers and sisters. We give up faith and hope in those who fall into sin so quickly. We stop trusting a pastor if they speak one word of false doctrine. If one part of a prophet's word does not come true, we are ready to stone him. This should not be so. We need to know people by the Spirit and realize what the Lord is doing in their lives.

Judas was the only apostle lost although all stumbled badly. Judas was lost because he chose to love money and betray Jesus. I believe the money test will be the final test for most called to be apostles. Those who fail may not kill themselves like Judas, but they will not be serving in God's true church.

The Potter's Field

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me." Matthew 27:3-10

The potter's field is a burial ground for aliens and strangers. It became filled with dead people's bones. It was a burial ground of shame and disgrace. Those who chose to betray Jesus for money die in shame and insignifance. They are not honored in death, but die as aliens and strangers of the covenant of promise. The potter's field is filled with those offended at God for one reason or another.

The Second Son of Perdition

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. II Thessalonians 2:3-12

Judas was the first son of perdition. The Anti-Christ, the lawless one, will be the second son of perdition. They are the only two men in the Bible called by this title (compare John 17:12 and II Thessalonians 2:3). The Bible often places portraits on its pages of those who will come in the future. The Anti-Christ will be like Judas in many ways.

He will certainly be a religious figure of great personality who will be able to move "with all power, signs and lying wonders". He will be a smooth talker and will deceive those who have not loved the truth. God will allow a strong delusion to overtake people including offended "Christians" who love money rather than God. Many will fall way for the love of money. The mark of the beast will be an ecconomic enablement (Revelation 13:16-18). Those who live in fear and unbelief regarding money and God's provision will take the mark of the beast.

God is testing many of His people now in this vital area to prove our faith so we can endure when more difficult times come upon the earth. When we learn of God's ability to provide for us supernaturally, we learn to have faith in Him no matter what the ecconomy does or what the government requires. We will obey God rather than man.

God has taken my wife and I through a most severe wilderness test including this area of money. He revealed to me that this was the test Judas failed and by His grace and holding on to His mercy, we have passed the test. God spoke to my wife and I through many

confirming prophetic words and scriptures that we were to walk out of our ministry position by faith to a place that He would show us.

During that long wilderness season, Glenda primarily took care of our children as I sought God for His will. Sometimes, I prayed many hours each day and often rarely left the house or neighborhood for days. This went on for many months as I sought God day and night for His voice. I studied the scriptures and cried out to God for direction.

The Lord gave us clear guidence time and again. Most of these directions ended up wilderness camping grounds where our hearts

were exposed, especially mine. As I obeyed God's voice, He led me right into disappointments and failures that would crush my pride and male ego. With a wife and six children to provide for, God called me to pray in the finances rather than write letters, start a non-profit 501 (c) (3) ministry or seek to raise funds in any way.

As missionaries for over two decades, we knew how to raise money and had an extensive support team. But God wanted us to learn to trust Him for miraculous provisions without earning it in any way or asking for it. He specifically told me not to write any letters asking for support. He would not permit me to get a job either. That may sound unreasonable and unbiblical to some of you, but that is exactly what God called us to do and we lived that way for over five years.

God told me clearly from His word, **"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent" (John 6:29).** God told me it was my full time employment to "believe in Him". I nearly got offended over that. I would rather have worked to earn money than have to trust God for it. The Lord showed me that this was the attitude of the Israelites who wandered in the wildereness for forty years. They would rather have remained in bondage in Egypt working for their food than to walk with the tabernacle of God trusting Him to provide food daily.

During the season of "unemployed wildereness" God began giving me revelation from the word and in response to several prophetic words, I started to write what God spoke to me. By His grace, I've written sixteen books and have many teaching papers not included in books yet. He's given me a vision to write many more books and start a missionary training school to equip saints to minister in apostolic teams to nations. I have been busy seeking God, but I have not been out much. That will come in the timing of God.

God in His mercy wants to dismantle every human ideal or lofty thing that would exalt itself above Him. Most of us in the church have become so full of man's ideas that we don't even realize how little we actually represent Jesus. The Apostolic reformation is going to change the way we look in a big way. There will be extreme trials and tribulations before we arrive.

Let the reader be warned in advance that God will test you in the area of money. If you stumble and fail that test, you may become like the lost apostle. I encourage you to embrace the dealings of God and learn to trust Him for everything. Walk by faith and not by sight! God provided supernaturally for over two million people in the wilderness

and He easily managed to take care of my family as we obeyed His voice.

God is able and willing to provide for all who obey His voice and walk by faith. He will call some of you into radical obedience to deliver you from fear, unbelief and the love of money. In return, you will receive boldness, authority, faith, vision and holiness that are essential to avoid deception in the last days. May God give you great grace to endure the fiery trials of the money test.

CHAPTER 6 – THE BENJAMITE APOSTLE

And as he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Acts 9:3-7

But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. Acts 26:16-18

The apostle Paul had the most dramatic conversion experience of anyone in the New Testament. He had a commission from the old high priest one moment and received a new commission from the True High Priest in the next. Jesus appeared to Paul in a blinding light and humbled the Pharisee of Pharisees and converted him to be a follower. He commissioned Paul to take the gospel to the gentiles and turn them from the power of Satan to God. Jesus has continued to appear dramatically throughout history to certain individuals to call them into service.

Paul became a model missionary for all generations. He is a picture of the apostolic Church of the last days. Paul's life gives us a prophetic first fruit glimpse of how the Church will look after the apostolic reformation is completed. Paul is the only apostle who reveals the specific tribe of his origin. The Holy Spirit wanted us to know that Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin (Romans 11:1; Philippians 3:5) the 12th and last son of Jacob (Israel) and Rachel.

God provided us with a prophetic picture of the last day apostolic Church in Benjamin. I want you to see it from the scriptures and how the Apostle Paul was the prototype Benjamite who walked in this anointing. To do so, we will have to dig into the Old Testament record about Benjamin.

The Ravenous Wolf Church

And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the <u>last days</u>". Genesis 49:1 underlining mine

God anointed Jacob to declare prophetic words over his sons that would point to anointings or major streams of ministry released in the last days. Benjamin was the last of the sons to be prophesied over. Paul was the twelfth original apostle whom I believe God chose to replace Judas who betrayed Jesus. Jacob spoke over Benjamin.

Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil. Genesis 49:27

Under God's anointing, Jacob accurately prophesied the characteristics of the Church of Jesus Christ at the end of the age. The Benjamin church will have supernatural hunger for the things of God. This church will do mighty exploits on the earth. She will bind the strong man and plunder his goods.

Of Benjamin he said, "May the beloved of the Lord dwell in security by Him, who shields him all the day, and he dwells between His shoulders". Deuteronomy 33:12 NASB

Moses prophetically declared that Benjamin, the twelfth and last-born son of Israel and Rachel would be especially loved and shielded by God. Benjamin occupies a special place in the heart of God pictured as a child held securely in the arms of the Father, dwelling **"between His shoulders",** listening to the heartbeat of God. To properly grasp this incredible portrait, we must review the history of Benjamin.

Jacob's Ladder

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Genesis 28:12

After deceiving Isaac and stealing the blessing from Esau, Jacob fled for his life toward Haran. God revealed Himself to Jacob in a dream, and Jacob saw a picture of the last days Church where heaven would open and the angels of God would ascend and descend upon man. The rungs of the ladder represent ages in which God's kingdom program would begin to measure up to the fullness of Christ Jesus, where the body would grow up to be joined to the Head.

Jacob was not measuring up and rather than camp at Bethel, the House of God, he kept running from his sin and went to Uncle Laban's house in the general region of Babylon. Before Jacob left Bethel, he made a vow that if God would take care of him, when he came back, **"then the Lord shall be my God" (Genesis 28:21).** Jacob made an immature prayer deal with God. "If you keep me alive and save me, then when I grow up I will truly follow you". Most of us have made these types of prayers. God had a great deal of work to do in Jacob over the next twenty years and used the land of Babylon to teach him many things.

Jacob Meets Rachel

Rachel was a shepherdess, the daughter of Laban. Jacob met her at the well near Haran and began to love her at first sight. His love was so great he was willing to serve seven years for her. After being tricked by Laban to marry Leah, Jacob agreed to work another seven years for the bride of his dream. **Rachel** means "a ewe; a sheep (root=to cherish)". Rachel is a picture of the Church that gives birth to the last days Church through two sons. Joseph, the first born, represents the prophets of God introduced in one generation. Benjamin represents the apostles that will come in the generation following.

Joseph means "the Lord will add" (another son). Joseph's name is prophetic. As the prophetic dreamer, Joseph was hated by his older brothers for a season, sold into slavery and stayed pure in the midst of Egypt. God prepared Joseph through a long wilderness season including prison time to position his heart and life to be a great ruler over Egypt and the world. Joseph's gift was to provide bread for the world in need. We see Joseph's ministries being raised up on the Earth today.

Rachel was barren for a season and quite jealous of Leah. Rachel was **"beautiful in form and appearance" (Genesis 29:17b)** but she **"had stolen the household idols that were her father's" (Genesis 31:19).** The Church in America is beautiful in form and appearance but has taken the gods of Babylon and hidden them in her saddlebags. As Rachel lied to Laban when he searched for the gods, today's Church is in denial about her mixture with the world.

Back to the Promised Land

I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family. Genesis 31:13

The Church is prophetically following the footsteps of Jacob. We are on the way out of Babylon as we mature and journey to the Promised Land. Rachel refused to leave her comfortable idols behind and brought them with her. We cannot take idols with us into the Holy of Holies where God is taking us.

And Jacob said to his household and to all that were with him, **"Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone…. And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob" (Genesis 35:2-3,5).**

The Church of Jesus Christ must put away foreign gods, purify herself and change her identity. She cannot enter the promised land of God's destiny with idols hidden in her heart. The church needs apostolic reformation to put the idols away. When she puts them away, the terror of God will be upon the enemies of God on the earth. I do not believe Rachel gave up the household idols she had so carefully hidden in her saddlebags. As we enter the Land of God's manifested presence in days ahead, those who refuse to repent of idolatry will die (spiritually and some even physically).

Jacob was confronted by Laban from the East and the prospect of an angry Esau riding from the West with 400 men. En route to our destiny in Christ, we must thoroughly deal with our past sins and face them. Laban confronted Jacob for stealing his idols and Jacob accurately declared that whoever took those gods should die. Rachel would not give up her idols and later died giving birth to Benjamin.

Jacob wrestled all night with the angel of the Lord and confessed his name was Jacob, the supplanter. In close dealing with God, Jacob acknowledged his sins and was broken before the Lord. Nevertheless, he held on for the blessing (see Genesis 32:22-32). God answered prayer and Jacob was reconciled with Esau.

After dealing with past issues and being touched by the angel, Jacob became Israel, the "prince with God". Then Benjamin was conceived in Rachel who chose not to give up her idols. Israel ceased to operate by the flesh and became ruled by God, a true man of God. He climbed the ladder, measured up to God's standards and the heavens opened, the angel of the Lord came down and the womb of Rachel opened to receive a second son.

The Birth of Benjamin

Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor. Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also." And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin. So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is , Bethlehem). Genesis 35:16-19

The Church of this hour is in hard labor, and much of that is the labor of the flesh. The midwives who represent the intercessors are prophesying a son to be born. As the last days Church is birthed it will cause a great pain in the institutional Rachel Church. She will think of this new move as Ben-Oni, the son of my sorrow. There will be great tearing as God births Benjamin through the apostolic reformation.

Rachel and Leah had named all the other sons. Benjamin is the only son named by his father, prophetic of the last days church being **"the son of the right hand".** This represents the authority of the apostles that will be released in the final "apostolic" Church.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and is the Son of the right hand. Jesus Christ is our Apostle and the High Priest of our faith. His birth and the subsequent birth of the Church caused great sorrow and tore the kingdom away from natural Israel. The Pharisee religion was beautiful in form and appearance when Jesus came but had idolatry hidden in it. Even so, at the end of the age, the full fruit of man's religion will be seen as the Rachel Church becomes more like the Pharisee religion and dies while giving birth to the true move of God.

The Benjamin Church will grow up into the full measure of the stature of Christ and be empowered to walk as Jesus walked, the son of the right hand people. Incredible apostolic authority will be given to bind the principalities and powers, tear down strongholds, bind the strongman himself and plunder his goods, the lost souls of millions. The days of Benjamin shall be the most exciting days of all times and the birth pangs have begun.

Joseph Loses His Mother and Brothers

When Rachel died giving birth, Joseph was still a young boy about ten years old. He lost his dear mother. The prophets of this age have

been thrown out of many churches that have rejected their ministry. They will lose their mother, fear God and abide in the Father. Prophets have prophetically seen the birth of Benjamin, the apostles, and long to connect with them and build the Church according to the plans shown by God. They will have to endure much hardship, refined by God's fire, in preparation to walk in great authority as Joseph had.

Even as David warred and suffered greatly to make preparations for the House of God Solomon would build, the Josephs are warring now to make preparations for Benjamin to walk in leadership authority. Prophets have been cut off from their own brothers in past decades, but those days are coming to an end. The world leaders are having nightmares about the coming economic collapse and are beginning to turn to true prophets for advice. Joseph is being raised up to prominence to prepare for the worldwide famine while Benjamin is growing up under the watchful hovering care of his father.

Joseph and Benjamin Reunited

The familiar story of Joseph is too long to include here. As ruler of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, Joseph stored grain during the prosperous years to feed the world in time of famine. His ten brothers minus Benjamin were sent to Egypt to buy grain, and one of Joseph's dreams was fulfilled as the brothers bowed down to him.

Joseph longed to see Benjamin and his father and demanded to see Benjamin when they returned. After a season, the brothers returned with Benjamin and Joseph declared **"God be gracious to you, my son" (Genesis 43:29).** The prophets will bless the apostles and welcome them as brothers. The prophets will weep to see the apostles arrive in the full mature office God intends.

Joseph gave Benjamin five times as much food as the brothers. We recall that Benjamin is a ravenous wolf. I believe he ate all five plates of food. This represents the last day people of God who are ravenous for the word of God and His Spirit. They voraciously hunger and thirst for righteousness and will be satisfied by God. The five-fold ministry of Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists will be in full operation. Great grace will be abundant to serve the Lord.

Joseph tested his brothers by putting his cup of "divination" in the sack of Benjamin. The last day Church will be accused of divination, witchcraft and all manners of evil by the Rachel Church, which has died and did not know it. Even as Judah interceded for Benjamin, Jesus will intercede to bring Benjamin through.

Judah declared that the Father's **"life is bound up in the lad's life" (Genesis 44:30b).** Israel loved his son dearly and ever fiber of his being was bound up in the life of the son living and growing to full maturity. The Heavenly Father's life is bound up in the body of His Son coming to full maturity. Nothing shall stop the life of God our Father nor shall any scheme of Satan stop the life of Benjamin coming forth on the earth to bring mercy and judgment.

Joseph Provides for Benjamin

When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers **"he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brother talked with him" (Genesis 45:14,15).** All the streams of the last days Church will be united and love one another deeply from the heart. There shall be weeping, reconciliation and complete harmony in the body of Christ. This will release unprecedented light, glory and power to deliver millions, perhaps billions from Satan's hold.

"He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments" (Genesis 45:22). In a time of worldwide famine, the body of Christ is completely provided for by Joseph who was sent before by God to prepare the way. We need have no fear of God's ability to provide for us in the last days.

Benjamin was extremely blessed to receive abundant spoils of Egypt financially. The apostles shall have abundant provision to steward so as to bring in the great harvest and disciple the nations. The five changes of garments represent the five-fold ministry that the apostles will flow in. God will use them as evangelists, teachers, pastors, prophets and apostles at different times in their ministry. God will pour out great favor on His apostles.

The House of Benjamin was destined for kingly authority, but the appointment of King Saul was premature and ended in disaster. Saul the Apostle walked in a kingly authority that began to take dominion on earth. The House of David (Judah) warred against the House of Saul (Benjamin) for seven years after Saul was tragically killed on Mount Gilboa. Once David was fully installed as King of all Israel, Benjamin became such loyal subjects that they were the only tribe, which stayed with Judah when the kingdom split after Solomon's son Rehoboam acted the fool.

The tribe of Benjamin had a territory in the heart of Israel that included portions of the Jordan River, Jericho, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The very place that Joshua entered the promised land became the possession of Benjamin. The apostles of God that come forth will enable the Church of Jesus Christ to enter the land and begin the last days war. They will be instrumental in establishing the new Jerusalem and will intimately know the heart of the Father. The apostolic Church shall become the heart of God expressed upon the earth as His life is bound up in her.

The Mighty Warriors of Benjamin

And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered twenty-six thousand men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred select men. Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss. Judges 20:15-16

Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was till a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren.
I Chronicles 12:1,2

The Benjamite warriors are singled out in their ability to shoot arrows and sling stones with supernatural accuracy. Arrows and stones are sent into the atmosphere to reach God's enemies at a distance. We recall David's sling and stone brought down the giant Goliath.

Arrows are often prophetically spoken of as lightning from God. **"Then the Lord will be seen over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning" (Zechariah 9:14a). "He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them" (Psalm 18:14). "Flash forth lightning and scatter them; shoot out Your arrows and destroy them" (Psalm 144:6).** Spiritual arrows represent God's words spoken in faith by God's holy prophets. Prophetic prayers release the lightning of God to hit their mark with supernatural accuracy and bring down the enemy.

"And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and

nothing shall by any means hurt you'" (Luke 10:18-19). The arrows of God bring Satan down from ruling in the second heaven. God uses the arrows and stones of the Benjamites to bring him down and trample on him.

Arrows may also represent children or missionaries trained and sent to take territory from the enemy. **"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate" (Psalm 127:4-5).** Trained missionaries are shot out all over the world to hit the mark and release the words of God to bind the strong man and plunder his goods, releasing captives unto salvation.

Benjamites are the living stones of God placed in His holy sling and sent out to build the house of God and offer up sacrifices. **"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:4-5).**

The apostles are the sent ones of God. They are powerful stones sent out by God with supernatural power and accuracy to build the house of God connected to the Chief Cornerstone, the Rock Jesus Christ. They have been given authority by God to release His Voice that shakes the world (Hebrews 12:26-29).

They are given power in their hands to lay hands on the sick so they may recover (Mark 16:18). They can lay hands upon converts to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17). **"His brightness was like the light; he had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden" (Habakkuk 3:4).** God hides His power in the hands of Benjamin, the last days Church of the right hand. **"Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle" (Psalm 144:1).**

In the warfare Psalm 68, the Holy Spirit declares: **"There is little Benjamin, their leader" (Psalm 68:27a).** In the last days Church, warfare is so essential that only those hands that are trained to war with God's word, prophetic prayers and the apostolic anointing will be able to lead through to victory.

In the prophetic picture of arrows and stones, using our hands for war, we can include anointed prophetic musicians, dancers, tambourines, banners, flags, singers and all manners of servants who

work with their hands on building the Church unto God. The Lord is using audiotapes, videotapes and writing as stones that can be hurled around the world to equip the saints for the battle.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14). Jesus declared that we are the lightning of God, we are His arrows shot out to do His will so that the world may see our good works and glorify the Father. The Lord gave us a great picture of the prototype last days Benjamite in Paul who saw the Lord last and declared he was untimely born (1 Corinthians 15:8).

The Apostle Paul

Saul was a zealous Pharisee of the highest caliber who persecuted the new move of God in Christ and His Church. Saul was determined to stop what he thought was an anti-God movement. Instead, God's throne landed on Saul's head on the road to Damascus in answer to many prayers. Saul's radical conversion and training by the Lord in the wilderness shows us a picture of what the Lord will do in these last days.

In some ways, I was a Saul who had an intense zeal for the things of God when converted in 1974. Due to various events, I ended up in the conservative Church and chose to be anti-charismatic. I thank God and cherish most of what I learned in the conservative Church. Discipleship and integrity were great strengths. We emphasized the fruit of the spirit, hard work and God's love. We preached the gospel and won souls to Jesus.

Insecure and proud as I was, I had to be right on doctrine so I tried to prove that I was right and others were wrong. Like some conservative and fundamental leaders who wrote books, I began to sell my brother Joseph down the river with my speech and beliefs. Fortunately, I never wrote any books back then and had only a small audience. God has brought me to much repentance over my hatred of brothers from different streams. He is teaching me to weep on the necks of all my brothers and to wash their feet. All of the streams will be purified and flow together in the Father's time. We must diligently allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and expose any hidden idols so we can enter the land without dying early.

Paul was supernaturally changed, and God is transforming the hearts of "religious" Christians today. God used this converted Benjamite to plant many churches and write nearly one half of the New Testament. God flowed through Paul in a miraculous fashion and gave him a

tenacious zeal for the cross that was astounding to all who knew him before.

The apostle Paul is the first fruit of what God plans to do in the Benjamin Church. Just as the light of God shone around him due to fervent intercession, the fiery intercession today will bring forth light from heaven to arrest many zealous believers from every stream controlled by religious spirits who are persecuting Jesus.

When they are radically touched by God's light, they shall receive great revelation at the feet of Jesus whom they will love much since they are forgiven much. Their tremendous love for people will allow God to give them unprecedented authority and power. Paul is an incredible picture of God's ability to change the most stubborn religious zealot into a pure vessel for His glory.

The enemy has influenced many Benjamites of this hour to be under a spirit of religion. Like Saul of Tarsus, this manifests in zeal, hard work, scholarship and political contacts. Saul worshipped the works of his hands, had idols in his heart and ended up persecuting Jesus! Many pastors today do the same.

Religious spirits gain a foothold through man's pride and insecurity. They manifest through a leadership style of flattery, manipulation and control. Root motivations include fear and selfish ambition. Like Saul, kingdom building and conquering "cults" may be offered of evidence of God's favor, but in reality many religious zealots are servants of the enemy. The light of God blinded Saul revealing his true spiritual condition. As long as religious leaders today walk in the darkness, they think they can see. When God shines his light upon them, they will be blinded and learn to repent. Pray for religious leaders that God will shine His light upon them.

Wolves and Eagles

"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together" (Matthew 24:27-28). Jesus prophetically described a characteristic of the last days before His coming with a parable. There will be sudden dramatic manifestations of light upon the earth such as we have seen in the Pensacola revival.

There also will be eagles gathered together around the carcass. The Bible teaches us that those who wait upon the Lord shall be raised up like eagles (Isaiah 40:31). They shall be empowered to run and not be

weary and walk and not faint. This is only possible if they live in complete agreement with God's word empowered by His Spirit. While we can all become eagles in one sense, I believe the eagle portrays the ministry of prophets and the prophetic move of the Spirit.

Prophets are given the ability to rise up above the landscape and view things accurately from a great distance. They learn to soar in the wind of God's Spirit and move with the currents of what God is doing in the Church. They become fearless and bold in the Lord and are used to war against principalities and powers of the air.

The carcass represents the spoils of spiritual warfare when a ruling principality is pulled down over a region allowing the heavens to open and angels to manifest God's miraculous presence in many ways. When God moves in a mighty way, eagles come from all over to devour the carcass and receive from the spoils of war.

Remember the prophecy of Benjamin who represents the apostles. **"Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil" (Genesis 49:27).** The apostle must be more "down to earth" than the prophet, but none the less, he is a warrior. Wolves work in packs to bring down prey much larger than they are. Their keen sense of smell (spiritual discernment) and eyes that see in the dark (prophetic vision) enable them to stalk their prey (spiritual mapping). They cannot work alone. There must be a team as the pack closes in on the principality.

Ezekiel prophesied against the powerful spirits that controlled Pharaoh and Egypt saying:

But I will put hooks in your jaws, and cause the fish of your rivers to stick to your scales; I will bring you up out of the midst of your rivers, and all the fish in your rivers will stick to your scales. I will leave you in the wilderness, you and all the fish of your rivers; you shall fall on the open field; you shall not be picked up or gathered. I have given you as food to the <u>beasts of the field and to the birds</u> of the heavens. Ezekiel 29:4,5 (underlining mine)

Thus says the Lord God: "I will therefore spread My net over you with a company of many people, and they will draw you up in My net. Then I will leave you on the land; I will cast you out on the open fields. And cause to settle on you all <u>the birds of the heavens, and with you I will fill the beasts of the whole earth</u>. I will lay your flesh on the mountains, and fill the valleys with your carcass." Ezekiel 32:3-5 (underlining mine)

God is prophesying the demise of the powerful world-ruling spirits who control the spiritual rivers that flow to the hearts of idol worshippers. Prophets (Joseph) are represented by the birds of the heavens (eagles). The beasts of the field (ravenous wolf) represent apostles (Benjamin). Please notice the word "carcass" at the end of the above passage. Jesus told us that the sign of his coming would be when these prophecies were fulfilled. How will they occur?

When apostles and prophets train a company of Christians in spiritual warfare who pray and fast in unity, they will be given the understanding to pray down the fallen angels who rule in the second heaven and capture the foul demonic beasts that rule the rivers and control territories.

I have written more on the strategic warfare required to bring these powers down in **EXPOSING THE DRAGON** and **SPIRITUAL WARFARE TRAINING**. I must caution you that we are in a beginning stage of learning in this hour. God has enabled me to be involved in regional warfare praying for only a few years and there is much more to learn.

I can testify that when led by the Holy Spirit, we always experience victory and eat the spiritual spoil in many ways. God may give us increased revelation, anointing, personal breakthroughs, financial blessings or special new friends (divine connections). We see the heavens partially opened and the impact on local churches where change occurs; worship breakthroughs, salvations, repentance, healings and other signs and wonders occur when there is spiritual warfare victory.

The ultimate spoil is to plunder the souls held captive by Satan and his demons. God intends His Church to set millions of captives free in the last days through prayer, fasting, spiritual warfare and preaching the gospel.

We must be diligent to study and grow in spiritual warfare to become the ravenous wolves that devour the prey and divide the spoil at night. We must become eagles and fight the battle in the air for Michael and his angels will be empowered to overcome the dragon and his fallen angels as we learn to overcome (see Revelation 12:7-11).

The Powerful Prototype Missionary

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear,

and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. I Corinthians 2:2-5

Paul was a prototype missionary apostle. He focused intently on knowing Jesus Christ and being crucified to his flesh. Paul did not operate in human wisdom, personality or physical strength. This Benjamite apostle walked in the demonstration of the power of the Spirit. We must learn to do the same to accomplish the task at hand. We will focus on the power of God that flowed through Paul in our next chapter.

CHAPTER 7 – THE APOSTOLIC POWER OF GOD

Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord. Acts 13:9-12

Paul flowed in tremendous apostolic power and authority that came from God. His teaching was so anointed that it astonished high government officials. As we mentioned in the last chapter, Paul is the prototype apostle for the last days missionary Church sent by God to reach the world. The apostolic reformation will result in a powerful Church that will be used by God to release blinding judgments even as Paul did.

"On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God" (Acts 13:44). God used signs and wonders to bring a whole city to hear the word of God. We will see the return of such favor upon many Christians as the reformation bears fruit.

Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. Acts 14:3

God's apostolic power will be released through powerful preaching, teaching, miraculous signs, wonders and life changing miracles. It is already happening in places throughout the world. Missionary David Hogan has documented countless miracles including raising over 200 people from the dead. He has miraculously driven his truck through deep rushing rivers by the prompting of the Holy Spirit in order to reach people for Christ. Healings, deliverances and creative miracles are becoming common place in the tribal regions of Mexico where brother David ministers.

Persecution Will Arise Also

Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the

disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." Acts 14:19-22

Paul's message was such a great threat to the religious people and business community that they organized riots against him nearly everywhere he went. Paul was an awesome warrior who took a lickin and kept on tickin! Paul probably died briefly until the disciples gathered around him and prayed. Paul walked in resurrection power just to survive the beatings and attacks he received. After being stoned, Paul got up and preached the gospel to save souls and build others up. What a tremendous model for us!

Prophetic Guidance

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:9-10

Paul found direction for ministry in prophetic guidance. He followed the visions God gave him to plant a church in Philippi. The strategy seen in this story is never taught in church growth seminars. It is the strategy of the Holy Spirit. One might ask who the Macedonian man was? It is a good question.

When Paul went to Macedonia he met Lydia and some women praying. He was harassed by a slave girl and cast the demon out her outraging her owners. After being beaten and throne in jail for deliverance ministry, Paul finally met the Macedonian man (Acts 16:16-19).

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a

light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. Acts 16:25-34

The Macedonian man was apparently the famous Philippian jailer who converted to Christ along with his household. The church was formed in the midst of tribulation and earthquakes. The Philippian church received one of the most precious letters Paul ever wrote. They became a generous supporting church of his mission throughout the rest of his life. All this began with a prophetic vision. It is vital we learn to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as He speaks through visions, dreams, angels and prophetic words.

But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome." Acts 23:11

The Lord Jesus Himself stood by Paul's side to encourage him through the extreme persecution and suffering. Jesus told Paul that he would go to Rome and bear witness. No death threats or shipwrecks could alter the word of the Lord given to Paul through Jesus. It is a wonderful thing that Jesus will appear to many in the last days. The Holy Spirit and angels are with us at all times to minister to us as well. God is our encouragement. God is good!

The Apostolic Pattern

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the

city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. Acts 17:1-6

The pattern and habit of Paul was to go to the Jew first to bring the reformation of the first century. I believe modern apostles will go to the Church first to bring the move of the Holy Spirit. Some churches will embrace the apostolic reformation and others will reject it with violence and persecution.

God has established this pattern on the apostolic team that I work on. We go to churches and present apostolic teaching of the word of God followed by ministry time. During the ministry times recently, God has been pouring out his fire so that people fall on the ground and shake violently under the power. The fire and a few words drive out demons. Bodies are miraculously instantly healed.

While many signs and wonders took place at a church recently, the host pastor said we were too loud and he didn't like our message. He said to other pastors that were meeting with us in his church that they couldn't come back anymore to have those kinds of meetings. He rejected the power of God and said some harsh things about us. This is happening wherever the power of God begins to manifest. Religious people inevitably do just what the Pharisees of the first century did about Jesus and Paul. They say it is from devil and get in an uproar about it.

Once the churches have the first opportunity to embrace the apostolic reformation, I believe the Lord will focus the apostolic on reaching lost people primarily. We have not seen this shift come in our ministry as we enter the 21st century.

Prophecy is Alive and Well

And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. Acts 19:6-7

The Holy Spirit flowed through Paul's hand to impart the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which included speaking in tongues and the release of prophesy. There were a dozen brand new believers operating in a prophetic anointing. Isn't that wonderful?

God desires that all believers everywhere receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speak in tongues and prophesy. The apostolic power of

God releases accurate prophetic words through brand new baby converts. How glorious! This should be the normal Christian life.

Paul taught us to **"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy" (I Corinthians 14:1).** The apostolic church activates many prophets. The whole church will walk in a prophetic anointing, able to hear God speak and give words of edification, exhortation and comfort. This will greatly build the body up to the measure of the stature, which belongs to Christ.

On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" Acts 21:8-12 underlining mine

When we take off the dark glasses of the tradition of man and false doctrine, it is clear to see that prophets were still operating in the New Testament including women prophets. Paul liked being around prophets so he "stayed many days". Prophets love God with all their heart and just want to be in His presence and hear His voice. What better place to hang out than with a group of prophets.

Philip was the awesome evangelist that walked in signs and wonders and rode the Holy Ghost transportation express. He was one of the seven chosen to wait on tables because he was **"of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3).** This wise godly man raised his four pure daughters to walk in the prophetic anointing.

God has given us five daughters and one son. We are teaching them to walk in the prophetic anointing. They pray and hear God, see visions, dream dreams and sometimes prophecy over pastors and Christian leaders. When my children pray for me, I listen carefully and often write down their prophetic words. They are wonderfully accurate. Apostolic reformation begins in the home!

Unusual Miracles

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. Acts 19:11-12

Paul did not just do your basic garden variety of miracles and healings. Paul worked **"unusual miracles".** We must pray for the gift of miracles, faith and healing to be poured out upon us and do unusual miracles.

In August of 2000, we had a convening of prophets and apostles in Barstow, California, which is in the center of the Mojave desert. The annual rainfall in that area is usually less than ten inches all year and it rarely rains in the summer. Our team was having lunch with Apostle-Prophet-Minstrel James Trumbo and his wife Anne when James said, "I've been asking God for a sign of His favor during our time here. I've asked Him to send rain. I prophesy that it will rain while we are here!"

Within ten minutes, the skies began to cloud over and we saw rain drops start to fall. We eagerly walked outside to see the unusual sign and wonder. The skies were sunny and clear one moment and filled with rain in less than 30 minutes. As we were standing in the rain rejoicing, a lightning bolt fell from heaven and cut the top off a palm tree less than 100 yards from where we were standing. The thunderous noise, bright flash and electric adrenaline feeling was overwhelming. God cut the head off the palm tree.

It was as if God was saying, "If you would let my fire take your human head off, I'll install My Head Jesus". This was a great sign and a wonder that was followed by an extraordinary gathering where the manifested presence of God blessed us beyond anything we'd ever experienced. God is raising up anointed apostles like James Trumbo that have the power of God to prophesy rain and walk in unusual miracles. Isn't that great!?!

Massive Repentance

And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. Acts 19:18-20

As God's power flows through the apostolic order, whole cities will come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and repent of their sins. They will forsake New Age garbage and burn their Tarot cards. Many will cancel their cable service. Videos will be trashed. The apostolic power of God will bring great changes.

The Greek silver coin of that day was a “drachmae” , which was worth a day’s wage. Let’s figure that it was worth $100. The pile of books they burned in today’s economy would be worth $5,000,000 (Five million dollars). That must have been one awesome bonfire! We will see radical repentance like this loosed under the apostolic order.

Apostolic Attitude

And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:22-24

Apostolic power enables apostolic attitude. Paul had it and we need it. We first notice that Paul was “bound in the spirit”. He gave himself to be a bondslave of Christ Jesus. Paul completely surrendered his life to the leading of the Holy Spirit at all times. He did not try to manipulate or control his destiny, but rather dedicated himself to obey the Holy Spirit no matter what the call. This kind of obedience produced a great boldness and determination over time.

Paul knew that chains and beatings awaited him, but was not moved by the potential pain and suffering he might experience. Paul was so on fire for Jesus that he was consumed with holy zeal to build the kingdom of God. The apostolic attitude of Paul did not count his life as dear to himself. He was not self-focused.

Paul was determined to finish the race God gave him to run with joy. Paul was beaten, whipped, stoned, persecuted, hated, mocked, jailed and chained and yet still had joy. He did not moan the bad days at the office he had. Paul sang hymns and walked in supernatural joy. Paul just wanted to be faithful to his call. Lord, help us run the race like Paul!

The Kingdom of God is Power

For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient-- in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Romans 15:18-19

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. I Corinthians 2:1-5

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. I Corinthians 4:19-20

Paul operated consistently in the apostolic power of God. The word for power is "dunamis" which means "force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power (usually by implication, a miracle itself). The King James translates dunamis in various ways including: "ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work".

Paul needed the dunamis of God to do the missionary work God called him to do. We need that dunamis power just as much today. The little bit of power we operate in today does not drain God even slightly. He has so much more for us to flow in. We have to grow in faith and capacity so that He can release more through us without causing us to burn out. **"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (I Corinthians 4:7).**

For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you. II Corinthians 13:4

The power of God enables our weak bodies to live and serve God under the most difficult circumstances. As we are equipped better through revelation and impartation, we will be able to go to nations and overcome the adversity by the power of God. The power of God is to enable missions and is given for that purpose.

Paul walked in the resurrection power and prayed that we might have our eyes opened to walk in that same power (Ephesians 1:17-23). Paul wanted to know the power of the resurrection and experience it for himself (Philippians 3:10). He also shared in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and died to himself daily.

Power for Spiritual Warfare

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:10-12

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God. II Tim 1:7,8

God has given us the Holy Spirit of power so we can stand against all the wiles of Satan and wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places that assault us through unrighteous and religious people. We need the power of God to share in the sufferings of Christ for the gospel.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. II Thessalonians 2:9-12

The enemy is going to release his counterfeit apostles and prophets that will also work in great power, signs and lying wonders. People will be deceived because they have pleasure in unrighteousness. Power is not enough to convince us that a person is operating by the Holy Spirit. We must see the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Christ-like character. We must look for the fruit of the works in the followers or disciples of powerful individuals. Are they liberated to walk in Christ Jesus or are they controlled little robots under deception?

A Form of Godliness but Denying it's Power

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters,

proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! II Timothy 3:1-5

Paul prophesied to Timothy that in the last days, many would have a form of godliness but would deny its power. Most of the Christian leaders in churches today deny the power of God. They do not walk in supernatural power like Jesus or His disciples did. They have denied the power working in their own lives. They control the church they say they serve and do not allow the Holy Spirit to move freely.

As the deception grows in their lives, their heart will be revealed to be lovers of themselves, lovers of money……lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. We have a strong seducing spirit over America to love pleasure and comfort. The power of God is given to do supernatural missions for God and go through persecution and suffering.

Because most pastors don't want to suffer, they deny the power of God working in their own lives and buy into deluded doctrines of demons to explain their lack of power. They develop religious doublespeak and walk in an empty form of godliness without power. The burning jealousy of God is being released against those who shepherd the flock of God for selfish gain.

We must pray and fast for the apostolic power of God to work in our lives to empower us to complete the mission God has for us. If we don't walk in God's power, we deny the power of the Holy Spirit. He is a Spirit of infinite power! Lord, fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit today and increase your anointing upon us so we might live in apostolic power the rest of our days. In Jesus' Name. Amen!

CHAPTER 8 – APOSTOLIC REFORMATION

"The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former," says the LORD of hosts. "And in this place I will give peace," says the LORD of hosts. Haggai 2:9

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-11

The glorious Church that emerges from the apostolic reformation is greater than anything that we have seen or heard about. The glory of the last days Church will be greater than the glory of the first century Church. God often saves His best wine for last.

God has revealed some things in part which we know, but there is so much more. We know that the Father of Glory with infinite power and wisdom will mature the body of Christ before He presents the glorious bride to His Son. Jesus' sacrifice is worthy of a beautiful bride without spot, blemish or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27). The Father will bring this to pass without violating any person's will to choose. Isn't that amazing!

God will purify the bride of Christ and add to her exceedingly great numbers through a harvest of unprecedented magnitude in the days just ahead. As the Spirit gives us partial glimpses of the prophetic destiny of the Church, we can only stand in awe and wonder at the majesty and sovereign grace of our God to do the works that will glorify His Name.

Picture an entire Arab nation repenting and converting to Christ in a single day through the preaching of one with a Jonah anointing of last days magnitude. Imagine men like Elijah and Enoch walking the streets of Jerusalem and preaching with such power that all Israel is saved. Try to visualize the anointings of every generation being loosed from heaven to form a mighty warring band to build the kingdom of God in preparation for Christ's return. I believe this is part of what Ezekiel saw and prophesied.

The Anointed Last Days Army of God

The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD.'" Ezekiel 37:1-14

God has restored natural Israel and He is also restoring the anointings of the Spirit that were given through the ages. Dry bones picture the anointings God gave through the ages to men and women of Israel that lived and died. Bones are part of a skeleton that supports the body and enable it to function and move. God released many powerful anointings through the ages as an example of what He planned to assemble together in the last days army.

Picture the anointing of faith from Abraham joined to the determination of Jacob loosed on one generation. Add in the prophetic anointing of Joseph joined to the deliverance anointing of Moses and we will see salvations and deliverances like never before. God will assemble the anointings of Samuel, Daniel, Deborah, Samson, Esther, Job, Joshua, Josiah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Nehemiah, Ezra, Mary and so forth. God will release a corporate anointing of David to bring in warfare and worship with kingly authority.

The corporate spirit of Elijah will fall upon millions to prepare the way of the Lord with a zeal foreshadowed in John the Baptist. The anointings of the twelve tribes of Israel will flow as the Holy Spirit breathes upon the dry bones of all the ages. All that God has done upon the earth will experience the resurrection power of the Lord

Jesus and come to life again to glorify and magnify the name of God in the last days!

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit Joel prophesied will come in a deluge comparable to the flood in Noah's day (Joel 2:28,29; Luke 17:26). The whole earth will ultimately be covered by the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14). God has put prophetic pictures throughout the Bible of His great power and determination to accomplish all of His good pleasure.

Some wonder, "How will God accomplish all of this? How will He change the hearts of so many and accomplish His purposes?" In a word, FIRE!

The Fire of God

The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. Exodus 24:17

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews12:28-29

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Song of Solomon 8:6

The fire of God is His jealous passion for the honor of His Son and His bride. God is jealous over Zion with a most holy hot and vehement jealousy (Zechariah 8:2). Our God is a consuming fire who will not be satisfied until every aspect of His will is fully accomplished in Christ Jesus. The scope, majesty and magnitude of His plan is incomprehensible. In His infinite wisdom, before the foundation of the world, God planned every detail so that His Name would forever be praised throughout all ages.

John prophesied that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. **"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11-12).** Jesus explained a future aspect of His ministry when he declared, **"I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled" (Luke 12:49)!**

Saints have been praying for God to send His purifying fire for years to cleanse the threshing floor of the church so the Father can bring in the revival harvest. The fire must come first. It is a fiery zeal for prayer, worship, fasting, seeking God, taking violent action against the flesh so as to take hold of the kingdom of God.

In our meetings as we call down the fire of God, the Holy Spirit powerfully torches people. The fire operates on a person depending on where they are at in their walk with God. If they are demonized, the enemy is burned up. If they are walking in carnal flesh, the Spirit brings conviction and godly sorrow leading to repentance. If they are lukewarm, the fire heats them up fast.

The fire of God captivates the heart affections of the believer and makes them extremely passionate in love with God. The jealous fire of God breathes holy zeal into the heart of the believer. The fire breaks of the traditions of men, the fear of man and imparts the fear of God so we may serve Him with reverence.

The Forerunner Ministry of Elijah

And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things". Mark 9:11-12a

The forerunner ministry of Elijah is being released now to prepare the groundwork for major moves of Christ through the earth. God used Elijah to call down fire from heaven upon the altar. The fire burned up all the wet wood, which represents luke-warm carnal believers. God's fire broke the people out of doublemindedness and halting from following God all out. The fire of God brought the destruction of false prophets and raised the rage level of Jezebel who wanted to kill Elijah.

The Elijah anointing comes to restore generations, races, genders and anointings. **"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6).**

The promise of Elijah has a natural and spiritual fulfillment. God is completing two covenants simultaneously in the promise of Elijah's coming. First, God has restored Israel in her land and will fulfill every

promise to natural Israel. This will be worked out in the natural realm upon the earth. Second, God is going to fulfill every promise to spiritual Israel, the Church or Zion. This will take place primarily in the spiritual realm.

God will restore old moves of the Spirit (fathers) to the new moves of the Spirit (children). This goes all the way back to the original fathers of our faith including Abraham. Christians will be turned to love the Jews and Jews will love Christians. All Israel will embrace Jesus Christ (Romans 11:26). The magnitude of this miracle alone is staggering. God is going to graft natural Israel back into the family of God.

God will put a corporate spiritual Elijah mantel upon the Church. I agree with many who believe that God will send the actual man Elijah back to Israel. "**And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).** Enoch and Elijah are the only two men who never died upon the earth. God has appointed them to die once and they will die on the streets of Jerusalem in the last days.

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Now when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from

heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. Revelation 11:3-13

Imagine the world-wide impact of the preaching of Elijah and Enoch on satellite television from the streets of Jerusalem. The nations will rebel against God's two witnesses, but many will be saved as well. We do not have a full concept of the great power that God will loose through His anointed servants across the earth. These servants will call down natural fire to burn up their enemies.

Some Christians anointed as spiritual Elijahs will release spiritual fire to burn up carnal flesh and purify vessels to be fit for the Lord Jesus Christ. The fire of God will burn holy passion for Jesus and His Church will become a 24-hour house of prayer for all nations as Jesus prophesied (Matthew 21:13). Intense burning zeal imparted from the jealous passion of God will flow like a mighty river from the throne of God to His people. The intensity of prayer, fasting and crying out to God will increase dramatically. The church will mature rapidly after this mighty baptism of fire.

Vision for the Last Days Church

The missionary zeal and fervor on the last days Church will be extraordinary as the corporate Benjamin anointing flows to thousands of apostles and prophets who operate like Paul and Silas. Apostolic commando teams will flow with love and extreme power anointing far greater than the first century apostles walked in. The world will be turned upside down once again!

The Holy Spirit will occasionally supernaturally transport teams to remote jungle locations as he did with Philip in the book of Acts (Acts 8:39). There will be no impossible barriers to the missionaries of the last days. The Lord Jesus will appear to many and covert them in a flash. Angelic appearances will be so common place that Christians will not think it newsworthy to testify about.

Prophetic experiences that transform lives and impart revelation will be normal for God's people as the glory of the Lord rises in covering the Earth. The enemy will employ his plan to build a throne for the Anti-Christ, but it will only last three and a half years. The Lord will bring all things into judgment and establish Zion upon the earth. Jesus will return for His bride. The trumpet will sound. The war will be won. We shall overcome by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony and by not loving our lives even unto death (Revelation 12:11).

Oh beloved, the glory of God will be magnified so intensely as the enemy seeks to magnify the darkness. God will release such miraculous power for healing, deliverances and miracles as to bring tremendous favor upon the Church. Imagine entire hospitals being emptied out as anointed children and teens lay hands on the sick and speak a word of healing.

Stadiums will be filled with worship, prayer and praise. All the handicapped who go to the meetings in faith will be healed. Those invalids watching by television will experience the presence of God, covert to Jesus and be received to glory. God will use the Internet as an international prayer chat room.

God will send lightning from heaven and arrest thousands of Sauls on the persecution road to Damascus. God will transform many religious zealots and make them sons of the Kingdom of God with a holy and righteous zeal that will transform nations.

God will release visions to Peters who lead from an old wineskin mentality. God will expand their understanding supernaturally to embrace the Gentiles of the modern age. We will embrace and release women, children and teens in ministry that far surpasses what men have been able to do through the ages. We will see races reconciled, denominations dissolved and all the streams of the body of Christ blending together in a mighty pure river of holy fire. Everywhere this river goes, life will flow as Ezekiel saw (see Ezekiel 47).

Apostolic Reformation

Apostolic reformation describes the process of transformation that God will bring to His people in order to prepare every Christian to flow by the moving of the Holy Spirit. God Himself will take Headship of His Church and flow directions to every member of His body through the infinite mind of Christ. Apostles and prophets will flow in perfect harmony with the Holy Spirit as they are set in place to lead. Pastors will be loosed to flow in their giftings. Evangelists and teachers will be in prefect alignment as they save souls and equip the body for the great reformation.

This process has begun as the Lord is releasing holy fire from heaven to purify a people for Himself. God is burning out the ways and programs of man to make way for the new wine flowing from heaven. The best wine by far has been saved for the last. The glory of this

latter house shall far exceed the glory of the former house (Haggai 2:9).

We can personally experience apostolic reformation as we learn to devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. We must die to self daily, die to religious strongholds, take up our cross and be yoked with Jesus, following Him by His Spirit. We must learn to worship and intercede by the Spirit. We must give ourselves to prayer and seeking God. We must put the first commandment in first place as we passionately love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. We must cry out for the fire of God to fall upon us!

As we get caught up in passionate love for God, He will flow His love to us and transform us to love the body as Christ loved us. We will be burdened for the lost with such passion that weeping and travail will be a normal activity at prayer meetings. The apostolic church will be sending, sending and sending missionaries to every place on Earth. The Holy Spirit will orchestrate the entire missionary movement.

God will establish regional apostles and prophets by His Spirit with such powerful anointings that all the churches in that region will recognize and submit to them. The church government will be reformed as the Spirit of God brings about the five-fold Church government. This may be invisible to the natural eye, but the Spirit will certainly bring it to pass.

All that is built on the sinking sand of man's wisdom will come crashing to the ground in the storms that are coming. The apostolic church will be built upon the Rock and endure every storm. She will be an overcoming Church full of joy unspeakable in love with Jesus.

The glory of this new apostolic age will far surpass anything the eye has seen or the mind could imagine. It all begins with apostolic reformation. We must return to the basic message of the model life of Jesus and the first century Church. The Holy Spirit will unfold much more revelation in the days ahead. We have only just begun to step into this mighty river of reformation.

There will be casualties and there will be martyrs. Their blood will cry out to God for justice before the throne of God day and night. When the cup of the martyr's blood is full, Jesus Christ will return to the earth (Revelation 6:9-11). Many last day apostles will gladly lay down their lives in blessed thanksgiving for all that Christ has done for them. We will not fear, but have supernatural boldness, power, courage and love. Oh, the glories of God's plans and greatness are beyond description!

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21