

What "IS" an Apostle?

by Richard Breazeale

The Lord has brought together the most unlikely people to establish and restore His church. In this we find teams, a more complete ministry being formed rather than as has been for a number of years. A pastor with elders is incomplete and now is all out of wack. Elders are a necessary part of the church, but chosen by the leading of the Spirit, not man. The church of today looks nothing like that established in the beginning. Maybe purposeful on Gods part, or maybe just mans inability to stand in the ways of the Lord. It doesn't matter, all that matters is what the Lord is doing now.

We have an apostolic group. Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Evangelist, Pastor, administrators, helps, and?... We see among us many of the various gifting of the Spirit, though fruit may be somewhat lacking. The apostolic is called to walk in Kingdom ways, Gods ways. This is why it has been difficult, first our ways have to be stripped from us. Because it seems as though we cant just lay them down!

What we do from now on will determine much in what He will do through us. As we said yes, or here I am in the past He came and has been molding, shaping, through trial and test we have been in preparation for what He wills to do in this world. We are not alone, there are several across the nation and the world being raised up as this.

We have learned what it means to love, to stand together in commitment to His will and works and in the midst of each others funk and lacking. He has done this thing, we are unable to this ourselves.

Our prayers have been answered and we stumbled and fell and whined and cried in the midst of the answer. How did we think it would look when the Lord would raise up one? Did we believe it we would wake up one day and full of the Spirit and power move out to change the world? No, we have been going through a very slow precise circumcision. And as yet we are not healed.

But healing is near if we allow.

The difficulty of a group of called leaders coming together like this has been at times comical, but most often mightily grievous and overwhelming. Even many of our family, friends, close relations and acquaintances has ridiculed, accused, laughed at, and denied us. As the Lord moves to change and restore His ways and remove mans ways from His body, we are a misunderstood and despised people. Sound familiar? In this restructuring /restoration, I find there is no one of us

which lords it over another. But each is held accountable and responsible to each other. The idea of pastoral covering is being stripped away, changed, and most don't see it yet.

The Apostle is being shown to be a servant more than a leader. (Which in truth, enables him to lead). The prophet is being revealed as one who rubs all raw and needs constant prayer and balanced loving correction.

The servant is learning that he must just serve, and in serving see truths and knowledge that we thought only leaders can lay hold of because of importance of position (in mans ways and eyes).

The evangelist is being rung out and hung up to dry in the winds of Spirit, being taught to rely, and function, and move only in the Spirit, not to rely upon human means and plans.

The teacher is learning to be taught and remain teachable by the student.

The pastor is learning that he leads by example and stands in the gap, that being a shepherd is nothing like he thought, that he is not boss and cannot have a committee or council of elders to be the giver of guidance and direction, but the Spirit, in accordance with them and himself. We are all learning all of this and more. Totally contrary to human nature we stand in this which looks like a mess to the world (and the 'church') right now. Yet our Lord has his purposes and means. If we do not resist or deny or fall away, He can use us to change the world!

He is teaching us that the foundation lies underneath the building with the capstone being Messiah on top. The body is held up by us, it is not lifted or lead by it. The whole body is lead by the capstone. **Foundations are mostly and usually overlooked except by people of certain calling or persuasion. It is not seen unless looked for, yet it is to be strong and sturdy to hold the building. It is to be solid and unmovable! Unseen to most.** Unappreciated and not acknowledged. *All the forces of nature and the natural move upon it and come against it to test its steel and resolve. In all this it must just stand, be solid, unmovable. If the structure does not stand, guess who is blamed?*

"This one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal or the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

In
Richard
terumoth@juno.com

His

service,
Breazeale