

APOSTOLIC PREPARATION # 5

"<u>What Is An Apostle</u>?" (Part 2)

3. An Apostle Has a Face-to-face Relationship with the Lord

The apostle has had a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, because it is the Lord Jesus who releases the apostle into the Body of Christ. He has had a personal revelation of God. He knows the holiness and fear of the Father, the power of the Spirit, and he also knows the love and compassion of the Lord Jesus. He is mature in the fullness of his spiritual knowledge of the Lord. As a result, the apostle knows his identity and who he is in Christ and reflects that to others. The apostle reflects Jesus Christ. When you meet him you know the Lord is with you. You know He is there listening in on that conversation. There is something about him that just draws you. You know that he is representing Christ because the presence and anointing of the Lord is so strong in his life, and he carries that image of righteousness in everything he does on this earth.

4. An Apostle Has an Insatiable Hunger for the Lord

The apostle is not complacent and happy to just stay in the same place, and as a result, he never stops growing. He is never complacent thinking he has arrived or that he is a great man of God. Humility is one of the main characteristics of a true apostle. The apostle Paul could have quit at any time during his ministry and still would have been a great apostle. He had raised the dead, healed the sick, performed mighty miraculous signs, received many revelations from God, and yet he considered himself to be the least of the saints who had not achieved the perfect will of God *(Ephesians 3:8).* The apostle is always growing and moving and expanding. He is never satisfied and always wants more. There are always new territories and horizons, new visions, ideas and goals. There is always something higher, better and greater. He wants to go deeper, go further and grow more. This insatiable hunger to know God more intimately, and experience His glory drive the apostle all of his life *(Philippians 3:4-14).*

5. An Apostle Walks in Godly Authority

The apostle carries an air of authority around him. He does not have to say anything or do anything. As he walks in you notice him, not by the way he looks, but by the presence of God around him and the authority in which he stands. There is something about him that just draws you to him. You want to know more about this person. You want to get to where he is, ask a few questions and find out what he has. He is the kind of person who, if a whole big group goes to a restaurant, the waiter is just somehow drawn to him to make the decisions. Even in the world people will identify the leadership in an apostle, because he carries an air of authority that people want to listen to. When he speaks, things happen. He does not have to rant and rave and scream and shout. When he speaks, he speaks with an air of authority that makes people stop and think. The soldiers said of Jesus: "Never a man spoke as this man". Again and again we see how Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession *(Hebrews 3:1)*, walked with the kind of authority that even sinners could identify with and were convicted by. Likewise, an apostle has that same mantle upon his life.

6. Spiritual Entrepreneur

In 1 Corinthians 3:10 the apostle Paul said: "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds thereupon." An apostle is a spiritual entrepreneur. There will always be something happening on the horizon in the life of an apostle. You can easily identify business entrepreneurship in the world because the entrepreneurs are always coming up with new creative ideas to improve their business. An apostle is the same, but he is a spiritual entrepreneur. He is always coming up with brand new creative ideas, concepts and revelations. They may not always work, but it never stops him from trying again until he succeeds. I have had many creative ideas and tried many things through the years. Some worked, others did not, however every time we tried something and it did not work, we learned from it. An idea that did not work in the past may not necessarily be a bad idea, maybe it just needed a minor adjustment to make it work, or it was just not the right time to do it. If the same idea is resurrected in the future, it may be successful.