

The Church, The Whole Church, and Nothing But The Church, So Help Us, God- Part 11

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With what's happening today, we are flooded and bombarded with all kinds of negative stuff, which can be contributed to a demonic movement to turn the world a certain way away from God. And if you are not looking, then you are not really seeing what God is doing.

If you look at all the negative stuff that you can see, you have to know that God is doing more, but you have to look with spiritual eyes to see it. You have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, who lives in you to quicken your heart to show you those things. And to help you understand the signs of the times.

The Church is not just a little sidebar that hopefully people will get involved in and maybe keep themselves, get themselves some insurance, so they can go to heaven rather than go to hell, but the church has the authority of God to establish the Kingdom of God right here on earth.

Every time you stand up in the face of darkness and are obedient to what you believe God's telling you to do, that's a Kingdom decision.

In Christ, there's neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, Baptist nor Pentecostal, Methodist or Catholic or Presbyterian. We're all one in Christ. When we develop a Kingdom mindset, it destroys that competitive element that exists in the body of Christ, especially in the Bible Belt.

There are certain elements that God has set in motion for our house of how we do things. We talk about the church a lot, we talk about the Kingdom a lot. We talk about family, about our Father, about signs and wonders, about grace and the family of God.

In Ephesians 4:11, it talks about apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Shepherd is a better word to use than pastor, because the word Pastor was only used once in the Bible, where the word shepherd was used 16-17 times.

We've taken the word pastor and made an institution out of it, to a degree that I don't think it should be. And we expect someone who is given that title to do all these things. That's an unfair expectation to put on as the point man in the local church. As a point man, my responsibility is not to do all the ministry.

Paul always made sure that the people knew that he was not called by man into the apostleship, but by God. If man gives you your authority, man can take it away. But if God gives you your authority, no man can take it away.

In a lot of circles, especially in the Bible Belt, you'll hear this theory that there are not apostles or prophets anymore.

This has been a subtle trick of the enemy to discredit, or have people ignore the ministry of the apostle and prophet, while the Bible says that the ministry of the apostle and prophet is the foundation of the church. You have to watch out for what's taking place and understand that there are still apostles and prophets.

One of the key functions that the five fold ministry is to do is to help people not to just know **about** Jesus, but to **know** Him. There is a difference. You only know something because you have experienced it. It's not talking about learning a lot of facts about Jesus. You can only know Him by giving Him access to your heart. You have to taste and see that the Lord is good, knowing Him on an intimate basis.

The more that the true Church rises up, the more of that criticism will come up. The enemy is always out to discredit us/you, anyone who's legitimate. So get used to it. That's persecution and we've just seen the tip of the iceberg.

These five ministries help stabilize, so we should no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

I think it's important to understand that these five gifts of people to the body of Christ, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, were never meant to be titles, but they are job descriptions.

The reason I don't like titles is because anytime someone gives you a title, there's a list of about 1000 things they expect you to be good at, because they have given you the title.

I'm teaching this stuff, it's not just for your information, it's for you to find your place and understand that you have a call of God on your life. For you to know that you are as important as anyone else.

It's amazing what religious tradition can do in the mind of a person. I'm not against religious tradition, unless it's keeping you from being who you are supposed to be and doing what you are supposed to do.

In Jesus's day, religious tradition wasn't just a bad thing. It was the most negative, most demonic thing there was. Religious traditions always die screaming. If it's good and still serves a good healthy purpose, so the church can be all it's supposed to be, I'm all for it. But if it's not, it needs to be dealt with and we need to move on from that.

Here are some things describing apostles:

- Without apostolic influence, every church will stall out somewhere along the way.
- Jesus said, *"That's what I need". I will call him an apostle, and I'll send him out wherever I want him to go. I'll give him authority, wisdom, power and grace to establish the church that I'm building. I'll place a compass in him so that when he's prone to go left or right, the compass will bring him back to center, back to the plumb line".*
- *"His life won't be an easy one. But, I'll (Jesus) be right there with him, step by step. I'll prepare the way for him. I'll move supernaturally in his behalf. I'll cover him with my supernatural protection".*
- *"I'll tell him my secrets that others have ignored, or overlooked, or just don't want to hear, or just don't know that they can hear. I will love this one. He will always be looking for a city".*

- They are pioneers, ground breaking new ground at the time.
- True apostles are all submitted to one another.
- They don't have any authority if they are not under authority.
- They are spiritual architects who have the spiritual blue prints for the church.
- An apostle works hand in hand with prophets.
- An apostle is always moving and advancing in the things of the Lord.
- All fathers are not apostles, but all apostles are fathers.

Here are some things describing a prophet:

- Predicts the future under divine guidance
- An extreme love for the body of Christ.
- Someone who will be committed to draw away from the crowd and not listen to what the crowd says, but listens to what God says.
- Someone whose life will be devoted to hearing God.
- Everybody who prophecies is not a prophet, but all prophets prophecy.
- They can be hardcore and can be a misunderstood gift sometimes, because they have such a single eye for what God wants to do.
- A prophet will be someone who won't settle for anything less than the exact will of God.
- Prophets foretell by a prophetic prediction the future events and also communicate the mind of God in real time and present time.

In my time with the Lord, I'm sitting down and I'm saying, *"God, I don't know anything"*. Because it's going to take that kind of desperation to hear what God wants to do. So we can move from this place, to the next place. So we can be in the best place we can possibly be during this time where God is going to bring these unbelievable masses of people into the body of Christ. He needs us all. It's not just me!