

Discipleship 401 Chapter 06 The Apostle

Open with insights from the last week in what you believe the Holy Spirit is doing around you.

People are called into ministries and giftings. They are prepared, moulded, sanctified and tested before being brought into something that the Lord has given them potential to be.

James 1:2-5, Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Acts 13:1-3, Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 1:21-26, Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²²beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Luke 18:8, ... However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?

The Lord originally called 12 apostles. I believe that is because even though his Apostolic mantle covers his church, it is not strong on it's own without his authority being walked out on the ground through the persons of the Apostle. The 12 represented the initial establishment of the church on the day of Pentecost. 2 men were put forward with the discernment of the Apostles as replacements for Judas. The Lord's inspiration was Matthias. In the church of Antioch, there were teachers and prophets including Saul and Barnabus. After the time of being set apart by the Holy Spirit they were then called Apostles. Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Pastors and Evangelists are all part of the authority structure God put in place for the duration of the church age. The yeast of the pharisees came in and eroded faith in it. In recent generations revival has brought in an awakening of faith in what God originally gave the church. He is causing it to arise to surpass it's former glory. Discuss these concepts and pray briefly for openness to God's authority.

Ephesians 3:4-6, In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

On the day of Pentecost power came down to establish his authority over the church. As the church spread he raised up Apostles to move forward with it. As the church strengthens the apostolic mantle strengthens – more of God's glory is seen. The Apostles are raised up to strengthen the church. The teaching ministry is to establish God's people in his will. The prophetic ministry is to give direction, encouragement and support to his people. Without the prophetic ministry, his people lack focus. The apostolic ministry enables his people to move in authority. The Apostle is on the ground as God's agent to help them arise in faith to fulfill their callings. They are called "sent ones", having his authority and commissioned for certain areas and works. It was obvious that Paul had a teaching ministry before being raised up as an Apostle. We are not sure what ministry Barnabas had, prophetic or teaching... Peter had an obvious evangelist gifting. He takes people that have main ministry gifting as prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists - then chooses some and will raise them up as Apostles. The measure of authority given is dependant upon their faith in God and obedience.

After the establishment of his authority using the 12, scripture refers to Paul and Barnabas as 13 and 14. Apollos was spoken of as an Apostle, 15. We don't know how many others were raised up at that time. There are a great many apostles around the world today, some with a minor measure of authority, some with greater. Spiritual gifting is abilities given to manifest the Spirit of the Lord to help the body strengthen. The apostolic authority goes beyond to increase his people and the strength of the body of Christ. There are many aspects to strengthening people and the apostolic authority gives greater power in whatever ministry God uses the apostle in.

The apostolic mantle has all the expression of the 9 gifts of the spirit and distributes different ones to the believers as they make commitment to him. When someone is raised up as an apostle the mantle has the expression of all 9 gifts of the Spirit in it as well. It doesn't matter how many areas that person, male or female, may have been gifted in prior to receiving that mantle. All can be expressed. That person will still have the main ministry and any secondary mantles of ministry as a primary focus of how they serve the Lord. Don't get distracted from what he has called you to. Discuss these concepts.

Romans 1:11, I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—

The Apostle may impart of the Spirit, but not just the 9 manifestations... Pray for one another.