

The Apostolic Church

This manual is written to be used at Isaiah 61 Ministry Centers to train the leaders, ministers and members in the proper apostolic foundation for the church. It based on our experience, training we received under Apostle Sylvester Trotter of New Jerusalem Ministries and on some excellent books that have been written on this subject: Ordinary People Extraordinary Power (John Eckhardt), Moving in the Apostolic (John Eckhardt), I Will Build My Church (Michael Scantlebury, Apostles and Prophets (Bill Hamon). We hope you enjoy the manual and are able to use it to help you shift into position for God's end-time revival.

The Apostolic Anointing

Apostle comes from the Greek *apostolos* which means "a sent one". The apostolic anointing then is a *sent anointing*, meaning that the person is sent by God to undertake a certain mission for Him. When a person is sent by God, that person is given all of the power, authority and grace needed to fulfill the job. When a person sends himself, God is under no obligation to empower that person to fulfill what the person has sent himself to do.

This is why so many churches lack power and authority. The apostolic church is a Kingdom church with Kingdom authority because it has been established based on direct orders from the King of kings and Lord of lords. Consequently, the apostolic church has a Kingdom mentality and culture.

This Kingdom mentality and culture includes a foundation for the growth and maturity of the believers. It is a culture where training and equipping is emphasized. The apostolic church is a place where believers can grow and operate in their gifts.

The apostolic church includes worship, deliverance, prophecy, ordaining, establishing, pioneering, evangelizing, prayer, teaching, helps and governments, missions, healing, power, miracles, spiritual gifts, impartation and activation.

In order to have all of these, it is necessary to have all of the Five-Fold Ministry Offices functioning in an Apostolic Church.

*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 the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12
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. 1 Corinthians 12:28*

The first office listed in 1 Corinthians and in Ephesians is Apostle. First means first in time or rank. The Apostle then is the pioneering gift.

The dominant anointing in the church should be the apostolic anointing. If it is to function properly the church must be built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, with Jesus as the cornerstone.

Now 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 foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:19-21

Transitioning from the Old Wineskin to the New Wineskin

Isaiah 61 Ministry Center is a new church started from scratch. This is an advantage in some ways because we do not have to face changing the culture of the church into an apostolic culture. However, because we are formed from a mixture of people from many denominations, people bring in mindsets of how things should be done. Some of these mindsets must be changed to fit the apostolic foundation we are laying here at Isaiah 61 Ministry.

At times it is hard to change the ways we are used to thinking, the way we think church should be done. Some might not make the transition to the apostolic because they will not shift from what they are used to. Religion can be a very stubborn thing. However, if we are to move with God in His end-time plan, we must be willing to embrace wholeheartedly what God wants us to do. We must shift from the traditional church foundation to the apostolic foundation.

In order to understand the foundation that the Lord desires for His end-time church let's look at the current traditional structure of most churches.

The Traditional Church Foundation:

Most churches have been built on the pastoral anointing. Men and women have been trained in seminaries to be pastors and administrators of churches. The administrative anointing is important to support the apostolic culture. But if it dominates, the church tends to become rigid and inflexible. It tends to become formal and bureaucratic. This is the old religious wineskin.

Traditional churches are built to primarily meet the needs of the members and many want it to stay this way. There is a bit of a "country club" mentality to the traditional church. Most of the resources (financial and spiritual) go into maintaining the local church and meeting the needs of the members.

Many churches have a pastor that has been over their church for many years. This man takes care of the needs of the members, counsels the members, preaches, teaches and is in charge of the administrative details of the church. This causes many pastors to burn out.

Churches with a pastoral mindset expect to see their pastor every Sunday behind the pulpit. He is expected to be there to meet the needs of the people. Many churches are built around the personality and charisma of the founding leader. This person is the senior pastor and may have a staff to assist him. But the ministry revolves around the leader.

Traditional churches built around one lead pastor tend to grow internally. That is, the existing church will grow in size until it becomes what is termed a mega church. The church does not duplicate itself. The church just grows and grows under the one leader. This requires the church to continually either make additions to the church or to move to larger facilities.

Even if these traditional churches open new locations, they are still usually dependent on the senior leader. For instance, some churches have branch churches that have the sermon from the "main" church simulcast to the branch churches. No leader capable of preaching and teaching has been raised up for the branch churches. This is not apostolic. No one man should be so popular and in control that he is the only one who can preach on Sunday mornings.

Traditional churches with one charismatic leader may have difficulty continuing when that leader dies or leaves the ministry for whatever reason, unless other gifted leaders are trained up to take over.

The Apostolic Church Foundation:

God is shifting the church to the apostolic anointing, which means the leaders and the members must all shift together. You cannot fulfill an apostolic calling with a pastoral or administrative mindset. The apostolic anointing is progressive and advancing. It clashes with the religious, traditional mindsets.

The pastoral mindset limits the leader and keeps him confined to the local church. This inhibits advancement into other regions. Something is wrong if the leader cannot leave the church for even a short period of time. We cannot be dependent on one leader. Many apostolic leaders must be raised up.

You must build a church so that the leader is not tied down but can be free to move as God desires him to. The apostolic church will be built on many strong and gifted people. These people are not just there to support the founding leader, but are used to fulfill the vision of the church and to carry on the work. They are used to plant new churches and ministries, thus duplicating the initial work of the founding Apostle.

If the leader of the church operates in an apostolic anointing, the apostolic spirit will lead the church. If the leader operates in a pastoral anointing, the pastoral spirit will lead the church. The pastoral church will tend to be inward, looking out for the needs of the members, and will not be focused on advancement and growth beyond the local church.

Apostles have pastoral grace, meaning they can and do shepherd the flock. However, the Apostle must not be burdened with all of the shepherding duties, or he will be left with no time to flow in his apostolic call. Pastors think in terms of safety and protection. Apostles think in terms of expansion and progression. Both are needed. But it takes a pioneering anointing to plant churches, not a pastoral one.

The apostolic church will have leadership who identify, train up and release pastors who can be the hands-on ministers for the day-to-day pastoring of the people. A large church needs more than one pastor, it needs many. Even small churches need more than one pastor.

The Apostolic Spirit/Anointing

This is the Spirit of Jesus. Jesus was apostolic. He was the first Apostle. He operated in all five-fold ministry offices. Every believer has a dimension of the apostolic in him because he has the Holy Spirit in him. The Holy Spirit is apostolic. Not everyone is an Apostle, but everyone can be apostolic. If God has sent you to Isaiah 61 Ministry Center, then you are a “sent one” on assignment for Jesus. You have an apostolic call that can be fulfilled here in Isaiah 61 Ministry. You just need to submit to training, and you will know your call and be equipped to fulfill it.

The apostolic anointing is a visionary anointing. Churches led by Apostles are full of energy and zeal to fulfill the vision of the church. The believers are excited and driven to fulfill their end-time assignments. The apostolic spirit moves a church to its destiny.

The apostolic church is in the business of raising up what Apostle John Eckhardt calls “Proton Believers”. These are pioneering believers used to usher in new moves of God in cities, regions and countries. They are part of the remnant that God is raising up to belong to His end-time army to bring in the final harvest. If you are in this training, you are one these proton believers who can be used by God mightily in these end-times. We will talk about this more later in the manual.

Apostolic churches become spiritual hubs or centers in a region. They are places where God moves in the miraculous and where God initiates new moves. These churches are full of fire, power and move in the miraculous. They are radical and uncompromising churches full of grace and truth. John 1:14

In order to be an apostolic church, you need more than someone who calls himself an Apostle. You need to have the proper apostolic foundation on which to grow. We will take

a closer look at the proper apostolic foundation for the church in the remaining chapters of this manual.

The Five-Fold Ministry

The apostolic church will have people functioning in the offices of the five-fold ministry.

Apostle:

The Apostle is the leader or the head of the church. This is not to state that the Apostle is somehow more important than anyone else, but that he is called by God to be in charge. God is a God of authority and each of us must submit to authority. For, there is no authority except from God. Romans 13:1-4.

As God's set leader of the church, authority vests in the Apostle and flows down from there to the other five-fold ministry offices. From there it flows to the other leaders and ministers in the church. The Apostle receives direct revelation from God on vision for the church. As the oil flowed from the head of Aaron and down his beard, so the revelation from God flows from the Apostle to the others set in the church. Psalm 133:2

The Apostle:

- Pioneers - Initiates new movements.
- Plants and oversees churches
- Pushes the church into new places – physically and spiritually
- Lays the foundation – put everything/everyone into place
- Activates, imparts and releases believers to do the works of Jesus.
For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established. Romans 1:11
- Sets things in order
For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city as commanded you. Titus 1:5
- Fathers and mentors – and raised up fathers and mentors
For though you might have ten-thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you, through the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 4:15
- Flows in breakthrough ministries of signs, miracles & wonders.
And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. Acts 5:12
- Spiritual warfare

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds . . . 2 Corinthians 10:4

·Operates in power and authority – The authority of the apostle is recognized in the spiritual realm. The Apostle declares and decrees what God has spoken. This authority is recognized by angels and demons. It also is apparent to spirit-filled believers.

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches. And there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. Acts 19:13-16

·Ordains

So when they (Apostles Paul and Barnabus) had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23

For this reason I left you in Crete . . . to appoint/ordain elders in every city as I commanded you. Titus 1:5

·Brings change – The apostolic church requires apostolic leadership that is ready to challenge the status quo.

·Teaches, preaches, sets doctrine

It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Acts 6:2

For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle – I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying – a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 Timothy 2:7

·Releases revelation on the plans and purposes of God

·Raises up and establishes apostolic teams

·Brings Judgment, correction, praise and appreciation

Prophet:

The Prophet is the second listed in the fivefold ministry offices. Prophets, like the other five-fold ministers, are called and set by God; they are not set by man. God said to Jeremiah:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

The Prophet is a special mouthpiece for God. He has been gifted to receive revelation from God and communicate God's mind to the church. God gives revelation regarding His plans, purposes and strategies to the Prophet.

Surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

God reveals by revelation His mysteries to the Apostle and Prophets. Ephesians 3:1-5
So, the Prophet works in conjunction with the Apostle to lay the proper foundation for the church. Ephesians 2:20

For more information on the Prophet and prophetic ministry see our *Introduction to Prophetic Ministry Manual*.

Evangelist:

The Evangelist's primary calling is to bring the lost into the Kingdom of God. The Evangelist has a passion to preach about Jesus and bring people to salvation. In order to fulfill this assignment, God bestows on the Evangelist supernatural power to perform miracles, healings and other signs to the unbeliever. The ministry of the Evangelist is explosive with God's power anointing and brings great change and joy to those who come in contact with him.

Then Philip went down to a 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 ministry of the Evangelist is part of the church, but much of what he does is outside the church walls. Evangelists are not only those we see with big ministries on television. Many who are called by God as Evangelists will minister in their local communities, neighborhood and places of work. God needs Evangelist's everywhere, as they are the ministers who most effectively bring the lost to salvation.

Pastor:

The Pastor is called to be a shepherd of the flock, the members of the local church body. The Pastor carries supernatural love and compassion for the people of God.

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. Mark 6:34

The heart of the Pastor is to love and care for the members of the church. The ministry of the Pastor is to care for those who are sick and hurting. Consequently, Pastors carry an anointing for healing and deliverance. Pastors are anointed to teach those whom God puts in

their local churches. They also have an evangelistic anointing to bring in the lost and then to love and nurture them.

Teacher:

The Teacher is gifted by God to take the revelation received by the Apostle and Prophet and communicate it in a way that all in the church will understand. The Teacher is a divine communicator. The Prophet receives much communication by God, but he is not necessarily a good communicator. In fact, he may not understand the meaning of all that he hears from God. The Teacher is anointed to understand and communicate this understanding to the people.

This is not to state that the Teacher does not receive revelation from God on his own. He often will. However, the revelation received by the Teacher will be consistent with the vision and revelation received by the Apostles and Prophets. They work together as a team.

The Teacher is held to a very high standard by God, and God will deal harshly with false teachers.

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers/instructors, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. James 3:1

What about Bishops and Elders

Apostles are charged with the setting of leaders in the local church. This is not the function of the bishop. Apostles are called and sent by Jesus. Bishops are appointed and set by Apostles.

Bishop means *overseer* or *elder*. The bishop/elder is a leader picked by the Apostle to oversee affairs of the local church. The Apostle sets and ordains bishops/elders. The elder has a leadership anointing and will function in one of the other five-fold ministry offices. However, the bishop or elder is not above the Apostle, he is subordinate to the Apostle.

So, when they (Apostles Paul and Barnabus) had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23

Some people today refer to themselves as bishops or pastors when they are actually Apostles. This may be due to confusion or reluctance to buck the status quo. But one thing is clear from Scripture, the church rests on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, not bishops and pastors. Ephesians 2:20

The Principal of Multiplication and Duplication

The Apostolic Church Raises Up Emerging Apostles:

It requires wisdom and strategy to identify emerging Apostles to be trained up to be the next generation of Apostles. Young Apostles must be identified, equipped and trained to carry on the vision of the church.

There has been a failure by some apostolic leaders to train up emerging Apostles. The result is that when the founding Apostle dies, retires, or leaves that church, the movement ends. A new generation of leaders with an apostolic anointing must be raised up during the life of the founding Apostle to continue and expand the work. Apostles have the anointing to continue the work that has begun. No momentum will be lost. The anointing of Pastor will not be able to handle this. If all that are raised up are pastors, then the movement will stagnate and not grow the way it would under Apostles.

Biblical examples of emerging Apostles are Timothy and Titus. Paul referred to both of these young men as sons. This is the fathering anointing of an Apostle to raise up young men and women to carry on the work of the ministry. Timothy and Titus were both trained by Paul and continued the work Paul started after he died.

Moses and Joshua are a *type* of Apostle in the Old Testament. Moses trained up Joshua and turned the mantle of leadership over to Joshua when he died. Unfortunately, after Joshua died, those remaining failed to train up leaders to carry on the mandate and Israel departed from the faith.

Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. Joshua 24:31

In addition to emerging Apostles, the apostolic church raises up Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers. The apostolic church is place where leaders are recognized, trained and equipped, matured and released into their callings. These leaders are set in positions to perfect and equip the saints to do the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is not the job of the five-fold ministers to do all the ministry. Rather, they are to equip and train the believers to minister.

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 edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

In the apostolic church, all those ready and willing are trained and are involved in ministry. As Apostle Gary always says, “There is no bench-warmer anointing.” The end-time harvest that is upon us will be so massive that many, many Spirit-filled ministers will be needed.

The principal of multiplication and duplication applies to ministries and churches as well as leaders. The apostolic church is not satisfied to remain in one location. The apostolic anointing causes the church to duplicate itself over and over in new areas. The vision and movement expands into new territories, countries and world-wide, advancing the Kingdom of God and defeating the kingdom of darkness, over and over, from place to place, until Jesus returns.

Ministries in the Apostolic Churches:

An apostolic church will strive to have the following ministries to advance the vision of the church:

Prayer – this is the backbone of the church. Without a strong intercessory prayer ministry, the church will not break through and complete its assignment. This is often the most neglected ministry in many churches and the reason behind stagnation and failure.

Praise and Worship – This ministry is critical for bringing in the presence and glory of the Lord.

Evangelism – Evangelists need to be identified and raised up to lead teams to advance the Kingdom of God in the city where the church is located and beyond.

Prophetic ministry – Used to minister to the local congregation and to travel with apostolic teams to other regions.

Deliverance – This ministry is critical to release the people from bondages so that they can fulfill their callings. Without deliverance ministry, a church will be greatly hindered from advancing.

Teaching – Teaching ministries are important to move people into knowledge and revelation in the Word of God. Teaching ministries will include adults, youth and children, with each age being mentored to the next level spiritually.

Missions – Apostolic churches are global churches. Their mindset is beyond the walls of the church and into their communities, cities and into the nations. Apostolic churches will send and support missionaries around the world. They will send apostolic teams world-wide to advance the Kingdom of God.

Pastoral Ministry – The pastoral ministry is critical for the local church to care for the many needs of the members.

Developing Teams in the Apostolic Church

Apostolic Teams

An Apostolic Team is a group of five-fold ministers, led by an Apostle that goes outside the local church to impact other churches, regions and even nations.

Churches often need outside apostolic teams to move their church to the next level and their people into new revelation. Apostolic teams help churches breakthrough into new spiritual power and revelation. They pull down strongholds which are holding churches back. The result is spiritual breakthrough.

Teams prophesy, exhort, teach, preach, comfort, charge, impart, minister deliverance and healing. The team consists of people with different anointings that complement each other. The team breaks through where one person cannot.

Apostolic teams can be sent out without the home church falling apart because strong leadership is in place back home. Local churches may have many apostolic teams to be sent into the region and to the nations. The apostolic team is a place where emerging Apostles and other five-fold ministers are trained alongside the mature Apostle and other giftings on the team.

Apostolic Planting Teams/Traveling Teams

These are teams of leaders who excel in setting up new churches. The team is led by a seasoned Apostle and will include the other five-fold ministry offices. These teams will travel world-wide to establish new churches and will stay with this assignment until local leadership is trained and set in place. The people placed on these teams will have the flexibility to leave their home life for extended periods of time. These traveling teams will work together for extended periods of time in great unity.

Apostolic teams will follow-up with the new church plants to assist and undergird the work that has been started.

Ministry Teams in the Apostolic Church

Teams allow people to operate in their gifts and callings. They are a mechanism whereby many people can be trained up to do the work of the ministry. Teams are places where

future apostolic leaders are identified and trained. Those with the calling of an Apostle might work in all the various types of teams as he is trained and matured into his call.

Prophetic Ministry Teams

Prophetic teams must be trained and released to minister in the local church, in the region and as part of apostolic teams travelling globally.

Most apostles will start in the prophetic and/or teaching ministry before operating in the apostolic call. Apostles need much training and refining before they can function fully as an Apostle. Paul and Barnabus were Prophets and Teachers before being called as Apostles (See Acts 13)

Prophetic teams will activate and release the plans and purposes of God in the local church and where they are sent. Prophetic teams give direction and insight into the vision and work of the church. Prophets carry great authority and prophetic teams are used in the ministry of spiritual warfare. Prophetic teams also minister to the members of the local body.

Prayer and Spiritual Warfare Teams

Apostolic churches are houses of prayer. Prayer is the power source for the apostolic church. People must develop a passion for prayer as prayer is the birthing room for revival.

Intercessory prayer teams will be established to undergird all the work of the church, to protect the leaders and members and to be watchmen of the church.

The apostolic church has a warrior mind-set which means that the prayer teams will naturally flow in the ministry of spiritual warfare, dealing with territorial spirits that control cities and regions. These intercessory prayer teams have great authority over principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Intercessory prayer teams work in the prophetic realm and as such will include prophets and people who flow in the prophetic anointing.

Prayer ministry in apostolic churches includes:

- Corporate prayer (Acts 4:24)
- Prayer teams
- Spiritual warfare
- Intercessory prayer
- Teaching and training in prayer
- Individual prayer
- All night prayer (Luke 6:12)
- Fasting – Individual, Team and Corporate

Healing & Deliverance Teams

These teams minister to the local church and wherever they are sent. Jesus sent forth the twelve with power over demons and sickness.

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over demons and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:1-2

When deliverance takes place, it is a sign that the Kingdom of God has come.

But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Luke 11:20

Power over demons is a sign of apostolic ministry. When people are delivered, they are free to operate in the call God has on their lives. If demons are not cast out, they will hinder the believers in their personal lives and in their ability to become ministers of God. There is no substitute for the deliverance ministry.

Healing is also a mark of the apostolic ministry. In James, it is instructed:

Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14

Since many infirmities and sickness are a result of demonic attack, deliverance and healing go hand in hand.

Pastoral Teams

When an apostolic foundation is in place in a local church, many Pastors can be released into a local church to shepherd the flock. This is illustrative of the current “cell group” movement where cell leaders take care of and watch over a small group of believers. These cell leaders are really acting in the anointing of Pastor, without the title. Pastors are anointed to love, heal, protect and rescue the sheep. Many are needed in every local church. The Pastors must not be burdened with administrative and financial duties, as are most senior Pastors leading churches today. In this way, they are free to do the work of a Pastor.

Pastors and pastoral teams must be raised up to watch over and care for the believers in the local church. Pastoral teams take care of the day to day needs of the people, freeing the other five-fold ministers to work in their callings. Pastoral teams keep the members connected to the local church. They go after members who are in trouble or have stopped

attending church. They look after the families of the members. They make hospital and home visits.

A church without an effective pastoral ministry will be hindered from advancing into new territories because the leaders' time will be consumed with the needs of the members, to the exclusion of other ministry.

Evangelistic Teams

Evangelists should not be stuck in the government of the church. Evangelists are not administrators. Evangelists help bring in the harvest. Evangelistic teams preach the gospel, prophesy, cast out demons and work in the ministry of power. The ministry of the evangelistic teams is within the local church, other churches and completely outside the walls of the church. The teams travel wherever sent by God to save souls.

Teaching Teams

Teaching teams train new members and keep current members grounded in the Word of God. Teaching provides a strong foundation in the Word for the church. Teachers are needed to help people shift their thinking into apostolic. It gives the people a foundation to build on. Teaching causes us to operate in truth and truth sets us free from traditional religious mindsets.

Praise, Worship, Dance Teams

These teams usher in the glory of the Lord. The heavens open by praise and worship. Apostolic churches have freedom in praise and worship. There is much dancing, praising, shouting and celebrating. Praise and worship teams operate in the realm of the prophetic, singing the Rhema Word of the Lord.

Governmental/Governing Anointings

Certain of the five-fold ministry offices are placed to govern the affairs of the local church.

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations/governments, varieties of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28

Many churches fail to do this and instead have only the office of the pastor. The pastor is responsible for managing the local church, including planting new churches, starting ministries, etc. These duties are not part of the pastoral anointing. Pastors are not equipped to handle this type of work and quickly get burned out. These duties are part of the

apostolic anointing. This failure has resulted in weak churches that are not full of the power and might of the Holy Spirit.

Other churches turn the government of the church over to church councils or church boards filled lay members of the church. These church counsels are not set up according to the apostolic governmental blueprint and cause many problems for many churches.

The government of the church is as follows: Founding Apostle, then those who are set in place to assist the Apostle with the vision: Apostles, Prophets and Teachers. This is what is often termed by some as a *Governing Board of Elders* or *Council of Elders*.

Prophetic Presbytery

The Prophetic Presbytery consists of two or more prophets or prophetic ministers. This team is used to lay hands on and prophesy over individuals at a specified times and places. The presbytery is used to set people in positions of leadership. It is used to ordain and set people in five-fold ministry offices.

Elders (Overseers)

The position of Elder or Overseer is an appointed position. The Apostle, by direction of the Holy Spirit, may appoint one or more elders to oversee a local church. Elders must be called to the Five-Fold Ministry. Elders outside the fivefold ministry are not gifted to lead churches.

Should an elder be appointed, he will act in the leadership role for the local church. The qualifications of an elder are set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Elders are to be set in their position publically and be universally respected in the church. Eldership requires great sacrifice because Elders are those who see to the needs of others over their own.

Council of Elders

In some larger church organizations, there could be in place a *Council of Elders*, which is made up of those five-fold ministers in the governmental anointings. When put in place, the Council of Elders governs and directs the work of a local church.

The apostolic leader of the church will most likely participate in the Council of Elders when he is at home. The leader will also travel at times with the apostolic teams. The Council of Elders frees the apostolic leader to travel as the Lord leads him.

The Council of Elders provide each other with correction and encouragement and hold one another accountable. Only very mature leaders serve on a Councils of Elders as there can be no self-seeking, no control, no manipulation or division on the Council. The Apostle will appoint only those who can work together, setting aside all personal agendas.

First Among Equals in The Council of Elders

In most Counsels, one Elder is chosen by the Apostle to lead the council of elders. This Senior Elder reports to the Apostle of the local church. This Elder is exceptional in his giftedness, leadership ability, experience and dedication. An example of this is Peter, James and John, who stood out among their peers.

Ministries of Helps and Administrations/Governments

These ministries assist leadership in carrying out the vision of the church. These people have the grace, authority and temperament to help. The ministries of helps and administration are supportive ministries that hold up the hands of the leaders. See Aaron and Hur in Exodus 17:12.

The deacons' ministry is helps. Acts 6:1-7. Deacons are servants in the church. Deacon is translated "minister" or "servant". A deacon is a servant-leader. Deacons serve many functions in the local church and attend to the many ministries that are set in place in the church. The first deacons were the seven chosen to handle the distribution of food to the widows and orphans. (Acts 6) Deacons report to or are subject to the Apostle, Elder or Council of Elders in the local church. Deacons do not lead the church. Deacons do not dictate the vision of the church. They assist in implementing the vision.

The helps ministry is vast and varied depending on the ministries in the church, but can include: hospitality, church van ministry, ushers, greeters, church caretakers, children's ministry, nursery, caring for shut ins and those in nursing homes, media and sound ministry, food pantries, clothing pantries, etc.

The gift of Administrations/ Government is the gifting that is used to organize and facilitate a large vision. These people are anointed to delegate and oversee the work to completion. They think in practical ways, which is necessary to get the job done. The vision birthed in the Apostle and the dreams and visions and revelations of the other ministry giftings are brought into reality by the gift of administrations/ government. The people with this gift work to implement the many details of the vision.

This gift is also submitted to the, Apostle, Elder or Council of Elders. The administrators do not lead the church. The Apostle leads the church, as delegated to others. But administrators free up the apostolic leaders to focus on the vision of the church and on expansion.

Apostolic Character

Apostolic leaders must be people of excellent character. The training of Apostles and other apostolic leaders must include discipline and correction with regard to character. The authority God grants to a person is in direct proportion to his character. A person who is too immature to receive correction and discipline will not rise to the level of leader because character is built over time, under more mature believers who must be able to assist with such correction and guidance.

The apostolic leader will exhibit all the fruit of the Spirit; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Meekness/Humility and Self-Control. In addition, apostolic leaders are known for: Integrity, Honesty, Honor, Courage, Strength, Sincerity, Purity and Loyalty.

The mark of an apostolic ministry is the impeccable character of the leaders and ministers.

False Apostles

We test an Apostle not by signs and wonders, but by fruit. People often look at the Apostle's gifting as a sign of his maturity. This is not Biblical. We are to test by the fruit.

You will know them by their fruits. . . . Even so every good tree bears good fruit and every bad tree bears bad fruit . . . Therefore, by their fruits you shall know them. Matthew 16-20

All Apostles must submit to a time of preparation. This is a time of training and testing and maturing. It is a time when God deals with the character of the man or woman. The character of the Apostle must be proven before he is released. This applies to all of the offices or ministers of the church.

The true character of a minister will eventually come out. What is in the heart will manifest, usually when under pressure. When pressure is applied, any character defect that has not been dealt with will become obvious and open. And it can cause damage to the minister and the church.

In addition to looking at the character of the Apostle, you must also look at his motives. False apostles are those whose motives are false. Some like position and power. Some are interested in financial gain. Some like to control others.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder. For even Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also

transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. 2 Corinthians 11:13-24
If one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you in the face. 2 Corinthians 11:20

The marks of a false apostle are:

- Bondage - enslaving and demanding to be served
- Using the gifts of God to control, manipulate and dominate people
- Devour - greed and covetousness. Love of money
- Use position and power to benefit themselves
- Take advantage of others especially in the areas of money and sex
- Exalts himself
- Builds himself up at the expense of the people
- Makes you feel small and unworthy
- Abusive
- Berating for offerings
- False and deceptive - False teaching, false flattery, false personality

The Bible is clear: From these FLEE! (1 Timothy 6:11)

The Proton/Apostolic Believer

Apostle John Eckhardt, in his book, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Power*, talks about what he calls "Proton Believers". These believers are "sent ones", on assignment from the King to fulfill a certain mission for the King. Here are the characteristics of proton believers:

Pioneers – Proton means first. Proton believers are first in authority, power, revelation and blessing.

Breakthrough – Have a breaker anointing. They break through where others fail.

Radical – Others may think them crazy. They see things differently and have a passion like no other.

People of Conviction – They know their purpose and destiny and cannot be moved. They have perseverance.

Courageous and bold – Against all opposition and persecution.

Great Faith and Obedience. They are people of change. They do not fear change and they do not fear the unknown. They forge ahead to advance the vision of the church.

Gifted in the Spirit – and trained to use their gifts, they cause blessing wherever they go.

Revelation – They see what others do not and this causes them to be purposeful.

Sacrificial Living – They seek first the Kingdom of God. Finances, time and their lives are laid down for Jesus and the vision. The apostolic ministry is a ministry of sacrifice. Not all are willing to lay it all aside for the advancement of the Kingdom, proton believers do.

Laborers – Willing to do whatever is necessary to get the job done.

Spiritual Warriors – They fight the powers of darkness to advance the Kingdom.

Worshippers – In spirit and truth.

Power & Authority – Apostolic believers are different. They understand their authority in the spirit realm and the use it. Manifestations of power and glory follow them wherever they go.

People of the Word of God – God's Word governs all they say and do. They trust in God's word and live by it every day.

Strategic Leaders – They are given the blueprints from heaven on how to advance the Kingdom and they lead others in the charge against the enemy.

Work as Teams – Apostolic believers are not lone rangers. They understand the team mentality and embrace it. They know their place on the team and they support the other team members. They are "as one" with the vision of the church, the leaders and the others on their team. This makes apostolic teams invincible against the kingdom of darkness.

New wineskins – God can pour His new moves into proton believers because they are not resistant to change. They move with the Spirit and do not fight against transitions and shifts.

To Conclude

This is who we are at Isaiah 61 Ministry Center – A group of Apostolic Proton Believers who are fired up for the vision of the church and willing to do whatever it takes to succeed for Jesus. We are glad you are with us and you are open to receive the new wine that God wants to pour in these end-times. We are living in the most exciting times possible and we will see things no others have seen before. So, let's get in position to be used by God in every way possible!!

Isaiah61 Ministry Center – Eight Mile Alabama