

50  
*Truths*  
CONCERNING  
APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

JOHN ECKHARDT

# **50 Truths Concerning Apostolic Ministry**

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*John Eckhardt*

**Crusaders Ministries**  
Chicago, Illinois

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptural quotations are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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# 1. Apostles Have Been Set in the Church by God

And God hath set some in the church, *first apostles*,  
secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers...

1 Corinthians 12:28

The word "set" is the Greek word *tithemi* meaning to place, appoint, ordain, put or settle. To *ordain* means to establish or order by appointment, decree, or law.

Apostolic ministry is ordained by God. Regardless of what men think or believe, this ministry has been ordained by God's appointment. Apostolic ministry is fruitful because it is chosen and ordained of God (John 15:16). Any ministry set and ordained by the Lord will be fruitful in spite of opposition or misunderstanding.

Apostles are set IN THE CHURCH. As long as there is "a Church", apostles will be a part. The Scripture does not say God set them only in the "EARLY CHURCH" or the "CHURCH OF THE BOOK OF ACTS" but "THE CHURCH". This includes the present day Church.

There are many who teach and believe that apostles are not for "TODAY". If there are still teachers in the Church (mentioned as thirdly in the Scripture), there are still apostles. If there are still "diversities of tongues" (mentioned last in the Scripture), there are still apostles.

## 2. Apostles are Set in the Church by God *First*

God is a God of order, and His Word states that apostolic ministry is FIRST. "First" is the Greek word *proton* meaning firstly in time, place, order or importance. It also means before, at the beginning, chiefly, or first of all.

If the Church is to be successful, we must operate according to the law of FIRST THINGS. This law recognized God's order in all things. When God says, "first", He doesn't mean second, third, fourth, or when we get around to it; He means FIRST. If we fail to recognize God's order, we will not receive the fullness of blessing in what we do.

We have been guilty of overlooking this order because we have either 1) not been taught it; 2) did not see it clearly; or 3) simply rejected it. Tradition has also made this word of none effect (Mark 7:13).

Because of tradition many would rather call someone a "reverend", a "doctor", a "superintendent", or a "bishop"; but very seldom an APOSTLE. Many have ignored, avoided and attacked the office of the apostle. But God is restoring this ministry to the Church, and giving us a revelation of its purpose and function.



### 3. Apostolic Ministry is First in Time

The Church was started and birthed through apostolic ministry. "First in time" means it must be recognized at the start or beginning. Churches need to be birthed and started through apostolic ministry.

Everything has a beginning. This is called *the law of Genesis*. Everything has a beginning and reproduces after its kind. If something begins wrong, it will usually end wrong. If it begins right, it has a better chance of ending right.

Apostles are usually the first ones to go into geographical regions to preach, to establish and plant churches, etc. They are often the first to preach certain revelations that God is releasing into the earth. Every field of study has "apostles".

There are pioneers in medicine, economics, aviation, law, civil rights, etc. These are the first people to have significant breakthroughs in their fields. It is the same in the realm of the spirit.

The apostle Peter was to experience breakthroughs among the Jews. The apostle Paul among the Gentiles. Nations, regions, cities and denominations all have apostles. These are the first IN TIME to preach a truth, establish a church, or experience a breakthrough in a nation, city, region, etc.

## 4. Apostolic Ministry is First in Rank

*R*<sub>ank</sub> is defined as a degree or position of dignity, eminence, or excellence, a grade of official standing (Webster).

Even though we are all equal in Christ as to salvation, there are different ranks in the spirit. Different ranks carry different degrees of authority and power.

One of the definitions of "first" is *chiefly*. This means according to the highest rank or office, of greatest importance, significance, or influence.

Just as there is rank in the military, there is also rank in the "army of God". There is rank in the spirit realm. There is rank in the Godhead. There is rank among angels. There is even rank among evil spirits. All authority and power is based upon rank. We must be able to receive, walk in, and discern different rankings in the spirit.

Evil spirits recognize spiritual rank. Every believer has rank to cast out devils. Apostles walk and minister in the highest rank. Evil spirits and angels must recognize and respect their rank. They have enough rank in the Spirit to command, decree and rebuke with authority.

Their rank is within their *sphere of authority*. In other words, they have rank in the areas they have been assigned to by God.

## 5. Apostles are Pioneers

Since apostles are set in the Church FIRST by God, they have what I call a PIONEERING anointing. A pioneer is defined as one of the first to settle in a territory. To *pioneer* means to open or prepare for others to follow.

Apostles have the anointing to invade new areas of revelation, ministry, or geographies. They are PATHFINDERS and TRAILBLAZERS.

Without pioneers, we would become stagnant as a Church lacking progression into new areas. Pioneers keep us moving ahead. They keep us on the "cutting edge". They help us "set a course" for the future. Others are blessed by the courage, vision, and strength of the PIONEERS. Others move into "new areas" because the way is made by the pioneer.

Apostles as pioneers preach new truths, plant new churches, establish new believers, and invade new territories with the gospel. Pioneers are not satisfied with "settling down". They must advance until all the land is possessed.

## 6. Apostles Have a Breakthrough Anointing

*B*reakthrough is defined as an act or instance of breaking through an obstruction; an offensive thrust that PENETRATES and carries beyond a defensive line in warfare (Webster).

Pioneers have the ability to break through ignorance, fear, and other obstacles that keep men from advancing. Apostolic ministry has the ability to *penetrate* the defenses set up by the powers of darkness. This is why it is FIRST. Someone must breakthrough *first* before any significant progress can be made.

Someone must have the courage, ability, and power to BREAKTHROUGH the obstacles set up by the enemy. Apostolic preaching and teaching has this penetrating power.

There must be breakthroughs in finances, television, radio, publishing, buildings, etc. We must be able to breakthrough tradition, religion, ignorance, poverty, witchcraft, pride, rebellion, etc. The apostle has the anointing to break through these things that people might be "set free" to walk in the truth.

Nations, cities and regions are "opened up" because of this *breakthrough* anointing. Without this "breakthrough" anointing, areas remain closed to the truth. This is why it is so difficult to breakthrough in some cities, nations or groups of people. These areas and people need a "SENT ONE"—the apostles.

When apostles are sent into a region, they have the ability

## *6. Apostles Have a Breakthrough Anointing*

through the anointing to penetrate the darkness and bring light and revelation to the people. There is no substitute for the apostle. This ministry is like a "battering ram" against the citadels of the enemy.

## 7. Apostles are Here Today

**Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:**

**Ephesians 4:13**

**T**his verse clearly tells us that all five-fold ministry will be given until we advance and arrive at oneness of faith and mature manhood and stature in Christ. If we honestly look at the condition of the Church today, we can obviously see that we have not yet arrived.

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are all needed today if we are to come to this place; and God, by His grace, is giving us these ministers to fulfill this purpose.

As stated previously, there is no substitute for the apostle. The prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher cannot do what the apostle can do. Neither can the apostle do what the other gifts can do. Each gift is needed and has a unique purpose. They are not optional. God gave them to us because we need them all.

In fact, we need them TODAY more than ever. We need perfection today more than ever. If we plan to come *"unto the measure of the stature of Christ"* today, then we need apostles "today".

We needed them yesterday, we need them TODAY, and we will need them TOMORROW until we *"come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto*

## *7. Apostles are Here Today*

*the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."*

## 8. Apostles are Given for the Perfecting of the Saints

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry...

Ephesians 4:12

**T**o *perfect* means to equip. The saints need apostolic ministry to be equipped for service. The saints cannot be perfected without the ministry of the apostle.

When and where apostolic ministry is lacking, the saints will be lacking in their ability to do the work of the ministry. The apostle, along with the prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher, has a part in this "perfecting". Following the death of the early apostles, the church went into apostasy and tradition. As a result, the ministry was relegated to the *clergy*.

God, in this hour, is releasing all believers to do the work of the ministry. This began with the restoration of the truth of "*the priesthood of all believers*" that came through the REFORMATION. All believers can do the works of Jesus (John 14:12).

Apostles help to perfect that which is lacking in our faith. Ministries are birthed and disciples are raised up as mighty ministers as a result of apostolic ministry. Believers are released to preach the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out devils through apostolic ministry (Matthew 10:1-8).



## 9. Apostles are Ambassadors of Christ

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,...

2 Corinthians 5:20

The word "apostle" is taken from the Greek word *apostolos* meaning an ambassador of the Gospel, officially a commissioner of Christ. HE THAT IS SENT.

An ambassador is defined as an *official* envoy, a diplomatic agent of a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his own government or sovereign (Webster).

This gives us an idea of the authority apostles carry as *ambassadors of Christ*. They have authority to speak and represent the Kingdom of heaven while ministering on the earth. An ambassador carries the rank necessary to carry out a commission with authority. This authority and rank is official.

The spirit realm must recognize this authority because it is official. To be *official* means legal, right, AUTHORITATIVE. Demons don't recognize *unofficial* authority. The apostle as an ambassador has official authority and rank to penetrate darkness and represent heaven on earth.

They have official license from heaven to preach and teach with authority the message committed to them by the Lord.

## 10. Apostles are Sent Ones

And how can they preach, except they be sent?...

Romans 10:15

I chose this verse because all ministers are sent by God including prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. However, the word *apostle* by definition means a SENT ONE. They have the authority and power of the SENDER.

Apostles are sent forth by the Holy Ghost (Acts 13:4). Jesus called His twelve disciples and gave them power (Matthew 10:1). After He sent the twelve, they were called "apostles" (Matthew 10:2). They were sent to preach the gospel, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils (Matthew 10:8).

As sent ones, they have the ability to judge correctly (John 8:16). They preach doctrine that comes from heaven and from themselves (John 7:15-17). Their works (planting churches, laying foundation, pioneering, etc.) bear witness that they are sent from the Father (John 5:36). They are sent into certain cities, regions and nations.

They are sent to preach and minister in a particular area of revelation.

## 11. Apostles Have the Ability to Judge Correctly

And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone,  
but I and the Father that SENT ME.

John 8:16

This is another characteristic of a SENT ONE. The Rieu translation says, "but I and He that sent me judge together."

The judgment is true because of the presence and anointing of the Sender upon the sent one. *Judging is issuing sentences and passing verdicts.*

The apostle Paul issued a sentence and passed a verdict concerning a fornicator in the Church (1 Corinthians 5:3-5). Apostolic judgment is necessary to keep the Church in order. Where there is no proper judgment, confusion and anarchy reigns.

Judgment is based on proper discernment. It is also based on knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Apostles have knowledge, wisdom and understanding through grace to judge correctly. This does not mean they are infallible. They will judge correctly as long as they operate and walk in the Spirit.

When difficult situations arise in the church concerning individuals, doctrines, etc., we need the wisdom of the apostle to judge correctly. This helps keep the church on course through proper judgment.

## 12. The Apostles' Work Bear Witness That They are Sent

But I have a greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, BEAR WITNESS of me, that the FATHER HATH SENT ME.

John 5:36

Anyone can stand up and say, "I am an apostle; I have been sent by God." True apostles have works that bear witness to the fact they have been sent. I call these *apostolic works*.

How many churches have been planted? How many sons and daughters have been birthed and mentored? How many miracles have been wrought?

In other words, the works will speak for an apostle. The works will testify that this one has been sent. The purpose of apostleship is to accomplish and do greater works in the earth, not to walk around with titles. Jesus pointed to His works as verification that He was sent. Apostles are "sent ones" and their works will bear witness to this fact.

## 13. Apostles Establish and Set Doctrine

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine...

Acts 2:42

**N**otice, it is called "the apostles' doctrine" (plural) *not* the apostle's doctrine (singular). No one man has all the truth and revelation. No one man can set himself up as the presenter of all truth.

This was one of the keys to the Church's success in the book of Acts—*apostolic doctrine*.

With so much false doctrine being taught in the body of Christ today, how desperately we need the ministry of the apostle!

The doctrine of a true apostle does not proceed from man but from heaven (John 7:15-17). They minister with revelation that cannot be taught by a man. When the Church leaves apostolic doctrine, the result is *apostasy*.

## 14. Apostolic Doctrine Comes From Heaven

And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

John 7:15-16

**T**he Taylor translation says, "How can He know so much when He's never been to our schools?"

The Jews were astonished at Jesus' ability to teach seeing He had never received a theological education. Jesus replied that His doctrine came from His Father who sent Him. A true "sent one" is taught by the Sender.

The apostle Paul received his revelation from the Lord. He was not taught his gospel by man, but from the Lord. Apostles have the ability to preach and teach revelation from the Scriptures that cannot be learned in schools. I am not referring to extra-biblical revelation, but revelation from the written Word of God. Apostles have the ability to cause people to see things in the Scriptures by the Spirit of revelation. This ability comes with *apostolic grace* as a result of being sent.

## 15. Apostles Bring Revelation to the Church

Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:5

**M**artin Luther brought revelation to the Church of the Middle Ages concerning "*justification by faith*". This truth was brought forth originally by the apostle Paul. However, it was brought again to the Church by another apostle, Martin Luther.

Different apostles bring forth different revelation. There are apostles of faith, deliverance, love, prosperity, healing, etc. Revelation is the rock upon which the Church is built (Matthew 16:17-18). Supernatural churches are raised up through apostolic revelation.

Every revelation has apostles that preach and teach until it is received by the Church. Apostles have the anointing to break through the ignorance and darkness that keeps people from receiving revelation. Their preaching and teaching causes men to see truth and walk in it.

## **16. Apostolic Revelation is the Foundation Upon Which the Church is Built**

**And I say also unto thee, That thou are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

**Matthew 16:18**

**P**eter received a revelation from heaven that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said that upon this rock (the revelation of Christ as the Son of God), He would build His Church.

The Church is built upon the rock of revelation. Revelation is the foundation upon which the Church stands. Without apostolic revelation, the Church cannot be built correctly.

Different apostles are sent to preach different revelations. There are apostles of faith, deliverance, prosperity, etc. Although there are different messages revealed to different apostles, these revelations will be foundational. The message of the apostle lays a strong foundation in the lives of the saints upon which others can build.



## 17. Apostles Lay Foundation

...I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereupon.

1 Corinthians 3:10

A *foundation* is a basis (as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands or is supported. Apostolic ministry is first because it lays foundation. You cannot build a building without first laying the foundation.

The Church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20). The correct foundation will determine whether the building will stand over a period of time. Attacks from the enemy, represented by rains, winds and floods (Matthew 7:27) will beat upon every house.

The house without a proper foundation will not be able to stand. A house is a type of the church. A church without apostolic ministry as a part of its foundation will not stand under the attacks of the enemy. This is why there are so many weak, tottering churches that are coming apart at the seams. They are not founded upon the rock of revelation.

## 18. Apostles are Wise Masterbuilders

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as A  
WISE MASTERBUILDER...

1 Corinthians 3:10

A *masterbuilder* is an architect. Architects are needed in the proper construction of building. The Church is called God's building (1 Corinthians 3:9).

The Lord uses apostolic ministry to lay foundation and help govern the proper construction of His building—the Church. The Builder is the Lord, and the apostles are the architects He uses to construct the building.

Wise masterbuilders have the wisdom to lay a proper foundation and build upon it correctly. They have supernatural wisdom through the anointing to know when a house is constructed correctly or incorrectly. This ability is by *grace*.

They have grace from the Lord to be wise masterbuilders. This is the apostles area of grace. How desperately the churches need this grace! The wise masterbuilder knows the importance of the FOUNDATION. They know the strength of the house is determined by the *foundation* of the home.

They minister foundational truths concerning salvation, holiness, deliverance, prayer, the Holy Spirit, etc.

## 19. Apostles Don't Like to Build Upon Another's Foundation

**Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ is named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:**

**Romans 15:20**

**T**he Goodspeed translation says, "so as not to build on foundations other men had laid."

Since apostles are foundation layers, they generally don't like to build upon another's foundation. They would rather lay a new foundation when the foundation is not correct. They have the anointing to replace it with a correct foundation.

Apostolic anointing will be the strongest in areas, regions, or lives where a foundation needs to be laid. You don't need foundational men when the structure has been completed, unless something is wrong with the foundation. An apostle can minister as a pastor or teacher in many cases, but will flow best when a foundation needs to be laid.

## 20. Apostles are Planters

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6

Apostles plant churches. They have the anointing to plant new works. There are many new works that need to be planted in inner cities, areas, and nations yet to be reached. A *planter* must be able to PLOW through territory that is not conducive to planting. They break up the fallow ground and plant the seed of the Word.

Planters are sowers. Apostles sow their lives and ministries within the places they are sent.

Some will say that we already have enough churches and need to work on and change many of the existing ones. Pastors especially get nervous about a new church being planted in their areas. However, many existing churches are resistant to new truth and revelation. Many are traditional and fight change.

New moves of God produce new revelation that requires new churches to carry and preach that revelation. This is why new churches must be planted even in areas where there are already existing churches. Apostles have the authority and power to do this. They preach revelation and plant churches to carry that revelation.

## 21. Apostles Care for Local Churches

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:28

Apostles are responsible for the churches they plant and oversee. The Phillips translation says, *"I have the daily burden of responsibility for all the churches."*

They carry local churches in their hearts and prayers. They correct and are responsible for order in these churches. Apostolic ministry is graced by God to care for and oversee local churches. They care for the ministers and pastors of these churches.

Apostles know the importance of the local church. They know that local churches must remain strong in order to reach people with the gospel and disciple new believers. They understand the spiritual warfare involved in trying to plant and maintain churches.

Apostles view the churches they plant and oversee the same way a Father views his children. They nourish and cherish these churches and have a responsibility from heaven to oversee them. The apostle's greatest joy comes in seeing churches birthed, growing and fully developing into a strong fellowship in the area in which it was planted.

## 22. Apostles are Bishops (Overseers) of Local Churches

... Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his BISHOPRICK let another take.

Acts 1:20

The word *bishop* simply means overseer. To *oversee* means to survey, watch, inspect, examine, supervise (Webster). When Judas lost his apostleship, he lost his BISHOPRICK.

The "bishoprick" is an office, work, charge, or position of being an overseer. The word *bishoprick* is the Greek word *episkope* meaning inspection. To *inspect* means to examine officially.

Apostles have the official right to inspect the churches they plant and oversee. This includes correction based on correct judgment. They are not called to dominate and control the saints. When spirits of domination and control manifest through an apostle, deliverance is needed to avoid judgment from the Lord.

The Lord is the Bishop of our souls. Apostles, along with other ministry gifts, are responsible to bishop (oversee) the saints with love and wisdom.

## 23. Apostles Ordain Elders

**And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.**

**Acts 14:23**

**A**postles ordain and set elders in place to govern local congregations. Apostles have the wisdom and discernment to recognize and appoint elders who are called and qualified.

Apostolic ministry is necessary to set up and release proper leadership in the local church. Not only do they ordain, but they impart into leadership as well.

Apostles impart wisdom, gifting and teaching into leaders chosen by the Lord to equip them for leadership position. They train and instruct potential leaders and release them at the proper time.

Everything rises and falls on leadership. As the leadership goes, the church follows. I believe apostles have the anointing to raise up strong leadership for local churches.

Elders who are exposed to apostolic anointing will receive the strength and gifting they need to become strong leaders in the house of God.

## 24. Apostles Set in Order

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting,...

Titus 1:5

**T**he apostle Paul sent Titus to Crete to set things in order. When a local church is out of order, the apostle will discern it and set things in order. Apostolic ministry is necessary to set order in the Church and maintain that order.

The Kingdom of God operates through divine order and authority. Apostles have AUTHORITY to set things in order. This is often an unpleasant function but a necessary one. Setting in order can mean correcting, rebuking, and removing people from certain positions.

It includes making adjustments in leadership, doctrine, vision or spiritual priorities. It also includes dealing with sin, rebellion, disobedience and confusion which often gains a foothold in the church. Apostles also deal with strife, division and carnality that manifests in the saints.

When things are out of order in our lives and churches, apostolic preaching and teaching will confront it and correct it. The apostles have the grace, boldness and authority to confront and correct. This grace and authority comes from God and not man.



## 25. Apostles Bind and Loose

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven:  
and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in  
heaven:...

Matthew 16:19

**A**lthough I believe all believers have authority to bind and loose, I believe the fullness of binding and loosing will be seen through apostolic ministry. The apostle Peter was given the keys of the Kingdom based upon his revelation from heaven.

Apostolic revelation is the basis of binding and loosing. To *bind* means to make secure by tying, to confine, restrain, or restrict as if with bonds, to arrest, apprehend, take charge of, to chain, to fetter, to put a stop to.

The works of darkness, both inside and outside the Church, need to be bound through apostolic ministry.

To *loose* means to untie, to free from restraint, to detach. People need to be loosed from the powers of darkness and set free through apostolic ministry.

## 26. Apostles are Given Authority for Edification

...according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

2 Corinthians 13:10

The authority given to apostles as sent ones is for the purpose of edifying (building up) the Body. This authority should not be used to hurt or destroy God's people. Apostles are not called to be dictators over God's people. They are to rebuke and correct in love, not in control or pride.

This authority is not meant to destroy, but build up. If apostles minister in the flesh, destroying God's heritage, they will be judged by the Lord.

The apostle Paul knew the purpose of his apostolic authority. He knew his authority was given to build up the Church. He confronted false apostles who took advantage of God's people. False apostles are recognized by their abusive authority which is really *false authority*.

Fleshly authority is manipulative, controlling, dominating and destructive. True apostolic authority is edifying and uplifting.

## 27. Apostles Do Not Have Dominion Over Our Faith

**Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy:...**

**2 Corinthians 1:24**

**T**his is another side of point number 26. Apostolic authority is limited in that Jesus is still the Head of the Church. The Knox translation says, *"Not that we would domineer over your faith."*

The Goodspeed translation says, *"Not that we are masters of you and your faith."*

Apostles, like other ministers, are not to be Lords over God's heritage, but ensamples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3). Remember also that there are false apostles who operate in false authority (witchcraft).

Apostles are not to replace the Lordship of Jesus Christ. They minister and are under the headship of Jesus. Apostles who begin to minister in the flesh will attempt to have dominion over the faith of the children of God.

Apostolic authority is not unlimited. There are limitations (boundaries) to every ministry. Apostles and those they minister to must know these boundaries.

## 28. Apostles Have a Measure of Rule

But we will not boast of things without *our* measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God has distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

2 Corinthians 10:13

I call this an *apostolic sphere*. The "sphere" is the area of influence and authority an apostle ministers in. This sphere also places a limit upon an apostle based on grace. There are apostles of churches, cities, regions and nations. No one man can exalt himself and say, "Everyone submit to me!"

Paul's sphere was to the Gentiles (uncircumcision); Peter's was to the Jews (circumcision). Apostles only have authority to minister in their spheres. There is no grace or authority to minister outside one's sphere.

It is important that apostles know and stay within their *measure of rule*. When one goes outside of their spiritual jurisdiction, they will do damage to the lives of those who submit to their authority. All authority is based upon one staying within their spiritual jurisdiction.

## 29. Apostles are Examples to Those Who Follow Their Ministries

**Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.**

**2 Thessalonians 3:9**

Since apostles go first, they are usually prototypes for others to follow. The Twentieth Century New Testament says, "but our object was to give you a pattern for you to copy."

The Knox translation says, "but as a model for your own behavior." Paul tells Timothy, *"But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience..."* (2 Timothy 3:10).

Apostolic ministry is to set an example for others to follow. They must be an example in word and deed. This includes their ministry and character.

## 30. Apostles are Fathers

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, ye *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:15

**A**postolic ministry releases the spirit of the Father. A *father* is one that plants seed and births sons and daughters. A father is a mentor. Paul referred to Timothy and Titus as his sons in the faith.

A father loves, trains, corrects, and leaves an inheritance for his children. Apostles leave a strong spiritual heritage for generations to follow.

Abraham is an Old Testament type of apostolic ministry. He is referred to as "the father of faith". He set the standard for justification by faith for others to follow. Every person who is justified by faith is compared to Abraham, *the father of faith*.

The Lord is raising up spiritual fathers that will reveal the heart of the Father. What the Church lacks is not preachers, but fathers. There are many preachers and teachers but few fathers. This restoration of apostolic ministry is restoring the fathers to the House of God.

## 31. Apostles Impart Spiritual Gifts

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

Romans 1:11

Apostolic ministry has the ability to *impart* gifts, anointing, strength, and power into the lives of the saints. Paul imparted gifts into his spiritual son Timothy through the laying on of hands (2 Timothy 1:6). Ministers and leaders need the impartation that comes through apostles. Churches need the impartation that comes through apostolic ministry.

This ability to *impart* is necessary to raise up strong leaders and strong saints. Without impartation, the Church will lack the gifting and anointing necessary to do the works of Christ. People are birthed and released into their ministries through impartation.

Leaders will never walk in the fullness of their ministries without impartation. The Church needs the impartation of apostles to be equipped for the work of the ministry.

## 32. Apostolic Ministry is a Ministry of Warfare

(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

2 Corinthians 10:4

The word "warfare" is the Greek word *strateia* meaning military service, the APOSTOLIC CAREER (as one of hardship and danger). Paul calls the apostolic career one of warfare.

Since apostles go first into new regions or territories, they encounter the resistance of demon powers first. They have the anointing to break through this resistance. There is much warfare involved in apostolic ministry. Apostles must war against tradition, ignorance, fear, and religious bondage.

Apostles pull down strongholds through their preaching, teaching, prophesying and miracle ministries. Demonic strongholds are shattered. Apostolic ministry is often militant. According to Webster, *militant* means aggressive, and often combative, especially in support of a cause.



## 33. Apostles Pull Down Strongholds

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that  
exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,...

2 Corinthians 10:5

The word "imaginations" is the Greek word *logismos* meaning reasoning. It refers to arguments in the minds of men which keep them from the truth. The teaching and preaching of apostles destroys and demolishes these arguments.

The Twentieth Century New Testament says, "*We are engaged in confuting arguments and pulling down every barrier raised against the knowledge of God.*" These arguments are called "strongholds" which apostolic ministry pulls down.

They are demonic strongholds that keep people believing lies and hinder them from receiving the truth. They are like castles and fortresses that are designed to keep the prisoner in, and the truth out.

Once these strongholds are demolished, people can then see and receive the truth. Apostolic ministry has an anointing to demolish these strongholds.

## 34. Apostles Have the Ability to Dispute and Persuade

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, DISPUTING and PERSUADING the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 19:8

A part of the anointing to refute and destroy arguments against the truth is the ability to dispute and persuade. The Berkeley translation says, "persuasively discussing". This is an ability to penetrate and break through ignorance and strongholds that prevent men from receiving and walking in the truth.

Men need to be persuaded concerning the truth of salvation, healing, deliverance, the Holy Spirit, intercession, praise and worship, righteousness, etc.

The art or practice of disputation or controversy is called *polemics*. This is the branch of theology dealing with ecclesiastical disputation and controversy (Webster). Polemic preaching will destroy arguments that are used against the truth. This is the grace upon the apostles giving them the ability to dispute and persuade.

## 35. Apostles Have a Godly Jealousy Over the Saints

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy:...

2 Corinthians 11:2

**D**ivine jealousy flows through apostolic ministry. They will defend and fight against anything and anyone that comes to corrupt the saints. This is a protective jealousy that parents have for their children, or husbands have for their wives.

Apostles have a desire to present the Church as a chaste virgin to Christ. This *godly jealousy* is a part of the spirit of the Father. Apostolic ministry protects the flock against wolves (false ministries) that come in to devour and take advantage of God's people.

Apostolic ministry is especially hard on false ministries. They guard and protect the Church against false ministries.

## 36. Apostles Make Intercession for the Saints

**For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Ephesians 3:14**

**A**postolic intercession is important to the Church. It helps the Church to receive the revelation released through this ministry.

Paul's intercession was a vital part of causing the churches he planted to grow and mature in the things of God. The prayers of Paul are recorded in his letters to the churches he was related to. He prayed for:

1. Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1);
2. Strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man (Ephesians 3);
3. Rooted and grounded in love (Ephesians 3);
4. Approve things that are excellent (Philippians 1);
5. Sincere and without offense (Philippians 1);
6. Filled with the knowledge of his will (Colossians 1);
7. Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing (Colossians 1);
8. Fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1).

Apostles are responsible to intercede and pray for the

### *36. Apostles Make Intercession for the Saints*

churches and ministries they are related to. Their intercession helps the Church to come into the fullness of what the Lord intends.

## 37. The Strength of Apostolic Ministry is Prayer and the Ministry of the Word

**But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**

**Acts 6:4**

**T**he six were chosen to wait upon tables in order that the apostles could give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. This shows the importance of the ministry of Helps to the apostle.

The results were powerful, *"And the word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem"* (Acts 6:7). Prayer and the ministry of the Word causes the apostolic anointing to accomplish great things.

The ministry of Helps releases the apostle to concentrate on these two areas that are so vital to the ministry. Apostles must have time to pray and minister the Word in order to be effective. Anything that takes them away from prayer and the ministry of the Word must be delegated to others.

This is why deacons were chosen and released in the book of Acts. They were not chosen to run the church but to relieve the apostles. This is the definition of Helps—TO RELIEVE.

## 38. Apostles Demonstrate the Spirit and Power

And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

1 Corinthians 2:4

One of the ways apostles demolish strongholds (arguments against the truth) is by demonstration of the Spirit and power. The Williams translation says, "They were attended with PROOF and POWER given by the Spirit."

Apostolic ministry demonstrates the Word preached. God confirms apostolic ministry with signs following (Mark 16:20). Miracles, healings, deliverance, along with signs and wonders, should follow apostolic ministry.

Philosophy and worldly wisdom can never accomplish what *demonstration* can. The power of God must be DEMONSTRATED.

And with great power gave the APOSTLES witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:...

Acts 4:33

And by the HANDS OF THE APOSTLES were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;...

Acts 5:12

## **39. Apostolic Ministry is One of Signs and Wonders**

**...and many signs and wonders were done by the apostles.**

**Acts 2:43**

**And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;...**

**Acts 5:12**

**S**igns and wonders include miracles, casting out devils, notable healings, etc. Some people will not believe except they see signs and wonders (John 4:48).

Signs and wonders cause breakthroughs in the spirit and open the way for multitudes to come into the Kingdom. The gospel cannot be fully preached without signs and wonders (Romans 15:19). Signs and wonders attract people to hear the gospel. They are the dinner bell to salvation.

Signs and wonders captures the attention of multitudes. They cause people to be attentive to the message of the gospel. Apostolic ministry arrests the attention of multitudes and draws them into the Kingdom.



## 40. Apostolic Ministry Touches Multitudes

**And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.**

**Acts 5:14**

**T**he result of signs and wonders are MULTITUDES of believers added to the Lord. Throughout the book of Acts, we see reference to the multitudes. We see words such as believers MULTIPLIED or believers ADDED to the Church.

Apostolic ministry is a key to church growth. It is a key to touching the multitudes of people who do not yet know the Lord. Apostles have the grace, power and authority to touch multitudes.

**There came also a MULTITUDE *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem,...**

**Acts 5:16**

**But when the Jews saw the MULTITUDES,...**

**Acts 13:45**

**And the MULTITUDE of them that believed,...**

**Acts 4:32**

**...called the MULTITUDE of the disciples unto,...**

**Acts 6:2**

**...,that a GREAT MULTITUDE both of the Jews...**

**Acts 14:1**

## 41. Apostolic Ministry Touches Cities

And the next sabbath day came almost the WHOLE CITY together to hear the word of God.

Acts 13:44

Multitudes of lost people live in cities. I believe every major city will be touched by apostolic ministry in these last days. Strong churches are being raised up through apostolic anointing to reach the multitudes in cities. Media will be instrumental in reaching the multitudes in every city.

In 1950, only seven cities in the world had a population of more than 5,000,000 people. By 1985, this number had reached thirty-four. It is estimated that by the year 2020, this number will rise to close to *one hundred!*

The world is becoming increasingly URBAN. By the year 2000, ninety-four percent of the population of Canada and the United States will be in cities.

There will be large (mega) churches raised up by the Spirit of God in every city. These will be apostolic centers that will release the power of God into these cities. Apostolic grace is needed to break through the strongholds of major metropolitan areas.

## 42. Apostolic Ministry Touches Regions

**And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.**

**Acts 13:49**

**N**ot only will apostles touch cities, but they will influence regions. Governing churches in major cities will influence and affect entire regions. There are regional anointings that will cause apostles to be a voice in a particular geographical area.

The Moffat translation says, the word "went far and wide over the whole country."

Apostolic jurisdictions will cover certain regions. These jurisdictions are the spheres of authority given to certain apostles. There can be more than one apostle in a region. There can be more than one apostle in a city. The Lord is raising up many apostles to release His power in this hour. Whole regions will be touched by apostolic ministry.

Apostles also pioneer and trailblaze into new regions. Paul's desire was *"to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand"* (2 Corinthians 10:16).

## 43. Apostles are Targets of Envy and Jealousy

**But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy,...**

**Acts 13:45**

**A**ny minister that touches the multitudes will become the target of *religious envy*. Many will oppose apostolic ministry for this reason only. Leaders who fear losing their people or who are insecure in their position will accuse and attack true apostolic ministry.

Anyone who has power to move multitudes of people for the Kingdom of God will become a target of the enemy. This is a part of the warfare associated with apostolic ministry. Apostles have the grace to deal with this opposition. They have a supernatural ability to overcome it and continue in spite of it.

Satan stirs up envy and jealousy against true apostles. Religious leaders are usually the greatest opponents to true apostolic ministry. Envy and jealousy can turn into cruel acts against anointed ministry. However, apostles have the ability to be successful in the midst of envy and jealousy.

## 44. Apostolic Ministry is a Ministry of Boldness

Then Paul and Barnabus waxed bold, and said,...

Acts 13:46

**I**n spite of opposition, apostles are bold in their message. The Phillips translation says, "did not mince their words but said". The *spirit of boldness* is a characteristic of true apostles. They have an awareness of being sent and do not fear men who oppose them.

Sometimes boldness is misconstrued for arrogance. However, boldness is necessary to overcome spirits of intimidation that often come from religious spirits. The early Church prayed for boldness.

Boldness causes us to maintain our *momentum* instead of retreating in fear. Boldness causes the Church to attack and confront error. Boldness gives apostles the ability to break through the spiritual opposition they often encounter. Boldness causes them to continue to deliver the message they are sent to preach, in spite of persecution. To be *bold* means not hesitating or fearful in the face of danger; courageous. Requiring courage and daring (Webster).

## 45. Apostles are Persecuted

...,and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless: being persecuted, we suffer it

Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* as the offscouring of all things unto this day.

1 Corinthians 4:11-13

**T**his is Paul's description of apostolic ministry. By definition, the word "*buffeted*" means punched. "*Reviled*" means abused. "*Defamed*" means blasphemed.

Therefore, apostles are often punched, abused and blasphemed. This is the reaction of some people to apostolic ministry. Any ministry that penetrates and does so much damage to Satan's kingdom is sure to be persecuted.

Instead of stopping apostles, persecution stirs them and causes the anointing to be released even stronger. Persecution doesn't stop apostles; it fuels their ministries. Apostles have the grace to not only overcome persecution, but actually use it to their advantage.

## 46. Apostles are Treated as Last

For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

1 Corinthians 4:9

**W**hy is a ministry that the Word says is "first", often treated as last?

The answer is that apostles are forerunners and pioneers in the Spirit. Forerunners and pioneers are often misunderstood and mistreated. It is not easy to be a pathfinder. Any ministry that does so much damage to Satan's kingdom is sure to be attacked.

The word *last* is the Greek word *eschastos* meaning the lowest; and because this ministry does so much damage to Satan's kingdom, it is the most persecuted and attacked by the enemy.

Paul says that this ministry is "made a spectacle". The Greek word *theatron* from which we derive our word *theater* is the translation used for the word *spectacle*. This means that apostolic ministry is on a stage for the world, the Church and the angels to see. Apostles are often treated as the scum of the earth.

## 47. Apostles are Reformers

*Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.*

Hebrews 9:10

The transition from the Old to the New Testament was a time of reformation. The Lord used apostles to bring about this reformation. This has been the case throughout Church history.

Whenever there is a need for reformation, the Lord sends forth apostolic ministry. Apostles have the ability to pull down the strongholds of tradition and bring forth new revelation.

There are times of reformation when the *apostolic* anointing will be strong. Apostles operate and minister in a reforming anointing. When the Church is out of order and not in proper form, there will be a need to RE-FORM it. Reformation is unpleasant but necessary.

Apostles have the discerning to know when the Church is not in its proper form.

*Form* is the shape of a thing or person, a particular condition, character, or mode in which something appears (Webster). When the shape, condition or character of the Church is not according to Scripture, apostles are sent to bring REFORM.



## 48. Apostles are Hated and Feared by Religious Systems

Rejoice over her, *thou* heaven, and *ye* holy apostles and prophets, for God hath avenged you on her.

Revelations 18:20

**T**his is a reference to the judgment of God upon Babylon. Babylon represents the false religious systems of men. Apostles cannot tolerate the false religious systems of men.

The preaching and teaching of true apostles disturbs and bothers these religious systems. Apostles are feared, hated and persecuted by these antichrist systems.

Religious systems of men hate reformation. Spirits of idolatry, pride, tradition, legalism, control and perversion fight apostolic ministry and resist reformation. The preaching of apostles is often "polemic". As mentioned earlier, *polemic* means a controversial argument, as one against some opinion or doctrine.

Doctrines that are unscriptural are attacked by apostolic preaching. Apostles set themselves against false doctrine and attack it through polemic preaching. It is no wonder that they are hated and feared by religious systems as a result.

## 49. Apostles are Defenders of the Faith

...,knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Philippians 1:17

The Conybeare translation says, "am appointed to defend the Glad Tidings". Apostles are appointed by God to defend the truth of the Gospel. Contrary to what some say, the truth must be defended. Apostolic ministry is anointed to defend the Church against heresy and false doctrine. Apostles will often teach or preach **POLEMICALLY**.

*Polemic* means an aggressive attack on or refutation of the opinions or principles of another; the art or practice of disputation or controversy. It is from the Greek *polemikos* meaning war-like or hostile.

The reformers of the sixteenth century (i.e., Martin Luther) aggressively attacked the error and hypocrisy of the established Church. They also defended the truth of the gospel against those who attacked their teachings. Their major concern was that the truth be preached and taught at any cost. They would die for the truth. To them, the only thing that mattered was the truth.

Apostles recognize that the truth must not only be preached, but defended. If men don't defend the truth, lies will prevail. If lies prevail, people will walk in bondage and deception. This is why the Church needs the ministry of the apostle. Apostles have an anointing to defend and confirm the truth. They walk in

*49. Apostles are Defenders of the Faith*

boldness and proclaim the truth in spite of persecution and opposition.

## 50. We are to Try Them That Say They are Apostles

...and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelations 2:2

The Church at Ephesus was commended by the Lord for testing those who claimed to be apostles. The Berkeley translation says, "How you have put to the test those who call themselves apostles though they are NOT, and you have found them to be impostors."

We are to prove all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21). It is important to know the characteristics of true apostles, so we can approve and be blessed by their ministries. There are many who claim apostleship but do not have the grace to walk in this office. *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ"* (2 Corinthians 11:13).

Counterfeit apostles are dishonest and deceitful with a love for money, power and position. True apostles are known by their character and works. This is the purpose of this book: to give the reader the distinguishing characteristics of TRUE APOSTLES.

We are to approve of true apostles, but disapprove of false apostles.

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# Setting the Record Straight

**H**ow can you tell the true from the false? How do you know whether a particular ministry is of God, or not?

The answer: *By the infallible Word of God!*

The term "apostle" is one which has been identified within the New Testament church since its beginning. It is also an office which has been denied, abused, overstated and understated by those who are biblically uninformed today.

Herein, the author provides fifty clear distinctions of apostolic ministry as revealed in God's Word. These characteristics will equip you to understand this significant ground-breaking ministry — set in the church by God, Himself.

Not only will you will learn how to detect the true from the false, but you will receive the spiritual liberty to fully honor and appreciate yet another of God's gifts to His bride — the Church — that is, *the Apostle!*

## About the Author



JOHN ECKHARDT is called to impart and activate the gifts of the Spirit in order to raise up strong ministries in the Body of Christ. A gifted man with a true apostolic and prophetic call on his life, his desire is to infiltrate the world with the Word of God. He is dedicated to perfecting the saints and training ministers to fulfill the call of God on their lives. Along with his apostolic and pastoral responsibilities, John Eckhardt produces "Perfecting the Saints", a daily television program, a daily radio broadcast, and ministers throughout the United States and overseas.

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