

APOSTLESHIP 2

AN APOSTLE IS ONE ORDAINED TO BAPTIZE WITH THE SPIRIT

It is Christ in you, as an apostle, that is the baptizer with the Holy Ghost and with fire as it were, not of yourself so that no flesh might glory in God's sight. As a worthy representative of Christ on earth, the apostle is empowered with the Spirit in order to carry out baptism with the Holy Ghost on those that are to be made disciples.

Mtt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Jn 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. **Vr.38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **Vr.39** (But this spoke He of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jn 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and He would have given thee living water. **Vr.14** But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

It is one thing to receive the Holy Ghost in baptism, it is another thing to be able to make known the Spirit of truth in the wisdom of God and baptize others with him too. It is only the apostles that are ordained and sent forth by Christ, the Master to accomplish the latter.

Acts 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. **Vr.6** And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which He did. **Vr.7** For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. **Vr.12** But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **Vr.14** Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: **Vr.15** Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: **Vr.16** (For as yet He was fallen upon none of

them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **Vr.17** Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Philip the Evangelist was not able to tell about the unregenerate nature of the heart of Simon the sorcerer after having baptized him with others with water, but Peter the Apostle was when he came with John unto them.

Acts 10:30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, **Vr.31** And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. **Vr.32** Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. **Vr.33** Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. **Vr.34** Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: **Vr.42** And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. **Vr.44** While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. **Vr.45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. **Vr.46** For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

Acts 15:6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. **Vr.7** And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. **Vr.8** And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, **Vr.2** He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. **Vr.3** And He said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. **Vr.4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **Vr.5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **Vr.6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied.

True disciples are made by the former through the ministrations of the apostles, who are empowered and commissioned also to remit sins.

Jn 8:30 As He spoke these words, many believed on him. **Vr.31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; **Vr.32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. **Vr.36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Jn 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. **Vr.20** And when He had so said, He shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. **Vr.21** Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. **Vr.22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: **Vr.23** Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. **Vr.24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

No man taketh the apostleship upon himself except they whom the Master chooseth and ordaineth to be such. As it was with the ordination of the priesthood of God in the time of old, so it is with that of the appointment of the apostleship in Christ now.

Hebr 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that He may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: **Vr.4** And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but He that is called of God, as was Aaron. **Vr.5** So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but He that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. **Vr.6** As He saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

If the bishoprick is not given you from above then you cannot receive it neither can you teach and give it to others in baptism. It is not give according to the will of man, but of the will of God in Christ Jesus instead.

Jn 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. **Vr.32** And what He hath seen and heard, that He testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. **Vr.34** For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) **Vr.17** For He was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. **Vr.20** For it is written

in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. **Vr.22** Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that He was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. **Vr.23** And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. **Vr.24** And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, **Vr.25** That He may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that He might go to his own place. **Vr.26** And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and He was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Freely you receive and freely you give as a true apostle. Therefore, ye cannot give that which ye have not received and ye do not give at a charge.

Mtt 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. **Vr.8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, He offered them money, **Vr.19** Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, He may receive the Holy Ghost. **Vr.20** But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. **Vr.21** Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. **Vr.22** Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. **Vr.23** For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

An apostle is not given to covetousness nor does he work for filthy lucre sake. He is not given to greed or defrauding his fellow brethren and unbelievers for gain nor does he preach the gospel at a charge to the hearers. He is not given to acquisition and accumulation of worldly goods for himself, but is to live a simple life devoid of worldly lusts and corruption as it were. Christ set an example for us therein. **I Cor 9:16-18; Acts 20:33-35**

Lk 9:57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. **Vr.58** And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. **Vr.59** And he said unto another, Follow me.

Jn 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

An apostle is one that is knowledgeable in the Truth that came by Jesus Christ and whose eyes of understanding has been opened concerning the mysteries of God, His Christ and the kingdom of God by the revelations of Christ he receives, and not just by head knowledge or by mere study of the letters, but by the Spirit within his heart personally cum privately.

An apostle is taught personally by the Spirit of truth that is in him. He heareth and seeth things that others do not hear nor see commonly or spiritually. **2 Cor 12:1-4; 2 Pet 1:16-18**

And unto such is one ordained by Christ to preach and teach as a faithful witness cum testifier of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. He is a worthy ambassador of Christ, rightly able to divide the word of truth. He speaketh not of his own nor seeketh his own glory, but the glory and honour of he that sent him by the Spirit. **Jn 7:15-18; Jn 5:41-44 ; I Thess 2:4**

Lk 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

Lk 24:25 Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: **Vr.26** Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? **Vr.27** And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. **Vr.44** And He said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. **Vr.45** Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **Vr.46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Vr.47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **Vr.48** And ye are witnesses of these things. **Vr.49** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Jn 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me: **Vr.27** And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Lk 10:16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

An apostle is able to identify his fellow apostle when he meets one in the course of ministry, not by reason of the title such bears, but by the Spirit in him that shall bear witness of such. By spiritual perception he can discern who an apostle of Christ is like himself and who is not, but be that of men instead.

Gal 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. **Vr.2** And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. **Vr.9** And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

An apostle is a preacher, a teacher, a prophet, a bishop, an elder, etc even as the Spirit moveth in him to will and to do as occasion demands of him. He is not restricted to any particular gift but can function in as many as the Spirit willeth in him.

I Tim 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

I Cor 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **Vr.7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. **Vr.11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

APOSTLESHIP IS A FULL TIME MINISTRY

The ministry of the apostle or the apostleship is a full time job, not a part time gig. An apostle is fully and wholly committed to the service of Christ in the gospel and not to men nor just to a religious organization or given to secular work as a means of sustenance. Apostles are meant to be supported by the Church, the body of Christ in which they minister and are called.

Lk 10:3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. **Vr.7** And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

Lk 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. **Vr.27** And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. **Vr.28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, **Vr.33** So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Mtt 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. **Vr.27** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

As it was with the priests and prophets under the Law so it is with the apostle under grace and truth as it were. He shall not leave the ministry of the word and prayer unto the ministry of serving tables instead. Such is reserved for others that might be amongst the pool of disciples as the Lord would have for administrative functions. **I Cor 12:4-6**

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. **Vr.2** Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. **Vr.3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. **Vr.4** But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

I Cor 9:6 Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working? **Vr.7** Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? **Vr.8** Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? **Vr.9** For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? **Vr.10** Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. **Vr.11** If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? **Vr.13** Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? **Vr.14** Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

An apostle is one that hath laid hand on the plow and looketh not back. He is a child of the kingdom that had found a priceless treasure in the field and goeth to sell all that he hath in order to buy that field.

Lk 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Mtt 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. **Vr.45** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: **Vr.46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.