

The Apostle

"And he gave some, APOSTLES; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" (Ephesians 4:11)

Paul started with the Apostle so we will, too. This office is still in operation because it is for the perfecting, edifying, unifying and maturing of the saints. (Ephesians 4:12-14) We are not yet all of the above. Not completely. So the Apostle's office and all other offices are still in the Earth, plowing and planting!

The Greek word for Apostle is "*apostolos*." It means, "One who is sent forth. A delegate. One who has power of attorney to speak on behalf of another, the sender remaining behind to back up the one who is sent." Now, that's a happy mouthful!

Jesus stood in this office more powerfully than anyone ever will again. The Bible calls Him, "The Apostle and High Priest of our Profession." (Hebrews 3:1) He stands in a class of His own because He is actually God the Apostle! Heaven's Sent One! There is no need for another Redeemer so this will never happen again.

Jesus' original disciples are called "...the 12 Apostles of the Lamb." (Revelation 21:14) To be an "Apostle of the Lamb" one had to walk with Jesus while He was here and to witness His resurrection. (Acts 1:21,22) This class of Apostle has passed away. Even the Apostle Paul lacked these qualifications. He didn't walk with Jesus, neither did he see His resurrection.

There is another class of Apostle, which is referred to as "Foundational Apostles." Foundational Apostles shared in the founding, or the writing, of the New Testament. Some of the Apostles of the Lamb were also Foundational Apostles.

"...ye are...fellow citizens...and are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets ..."
(Ephesians 2:19,20)

Paul was indeed a Foundational Apostle. He wrote somewhere around two-thirds or three-quarters of the New Testament. It all depends upon whether you believe he wrote the Book of Hebrews or not. I believe he did. There are no more Foundational Apostles, either. We don't need them because the Book is complete.

However, we still have "Non-foundational" Apostles in existence today. There are no less than eleven of them mentioned in the New Testament. These men and women did not and do not write Scripture. However, they do have outstanding credentials that show us who they are. (Acts 14:14; Romans 16:7; 1Corinthians 4:4-9; 2Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 2:25; 1Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6)

In order to qualify for Non-foundational Apostleship, one must have had a dramatic, supernatural conversion experience. (Acts 9:1-19)

One must also have had at least one personal visitation of Christ. (1Corinthians 9:1)

The Apostle must also be an excellent Bible Preacher or a Teacher or both, first and foremost. (1Timothy 2:7; 2Timothy 1:11)

Signs, wonders and miracles also confirm the Apostle's preaching and teaching. (Romans 15:19; 1Corinthians 2:4,5) You cannot properly establish Churches if you cannot draw people to Christ through signs, wonders and miracles. Even if you were able to draw 10,000 people without signs, wonders and miracles, you would have been able to draw 100,000 or more with them. All true New Testament Apostles have a consistent operation of the Power Gifts of the Spirit in operation when they preach and teach.

You are at the Bible Study Centre of this website. You are reading under the topic of "The Holy Spirit." Under this same topic you will also find ten messages on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. There you will read of the Gift of Faith, the Working of Miracles and the Gifts of Healings. These three Gifts are commonly referred to as the Power Gifts. These Gifts must accompany the office of the Apostle.

Apostles are also anointed to go where the Gospel has not been, to preach, to teach and to establish Churches. (Romans 15:20; Hebrews 6:1-3) This takes special skills. (1Corinthians 12:28) Once the Apostle establishes people in the faith, he or she will hand the work over to an anointed Pastor. The Pastor will continue the Apostle's work from there. (1Corinthians 3:10) Without the power to establish and organize Churches, it is absolutely impossible to be a New Testament Apostle.

Also, Apostles have NO authority in Churches they did not establish. No Pastor should ever be afraid of withstanding an "Apostle" who attempts to usurp authority in his Church, if that Apostle did not establish that Church. (1Corinthians 9:1,2,11,12)

It is not unusual for an Apostle to stand in all Five-fold Ministry Offices. This is because it takes the anointings of an Evangelist, Teacher, Prophet and Pastor to get things up and running supernaturally. Therefore, any or all of these anointings can rest upon the true Apostle of God.