



Day One: Built on His Foundation

For the past five weeks, we have been looking at God's House of Love, and how we can identify it. We've discovered that it is built by Love, He is building it, We are His house, It's a Singular House, and last week we looked at how His House is also a family.

I believe that we as a body are regaining our inheritance of family, and of the house that God has designed and planned for us to be. It's the most exciting times imaginable as God reveals His house – to the church as well as the world! Many in the church have not yet identified what He has been building, but they soon will. It may feel and look a little 'messy' as God demolishes the manmade structures and reveals His House of love. He is going to have to do some renovations and house cleaning. Many will not understand. Many will not like it. But the lovers of His heart... the 'I Said Yes!' ones will be delighted to see Him doing what He has been whispering in the secret place. It's time. So we need to know what He's building, and make sure that we align with His House, not man's.

So here's the next key. And it's a big key to help us to discern what's of God and what's of man. And that is this:

It's a Five-fold House

Or we could say, 'It's an Apostolic & Prophetic House', because if there's one thing God makes clear through Ephesians 2:20, it is that His house is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Let's look again at these scriptures:

Ephesians 2:20 (TPT)

You are rising like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple; and your lives are being built up together upon the ideal foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, and best of all, you are connected to the Head Cornerstone of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ himself!

If the house God is building is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (and yes there are definitely still apostles and prophets today), then if we are building on any other foundation, it's not God's house. Full stop.



At this point, we need to stop and address something. We must stop being either afraid of, or complacent with the word 'apostle'. Yes, as body we've been starting to learn what a prophet is and that God still appoints prophets on the earth. But the body has been slow to realise that in fact God still appoints apostles on the earth, too. And even if we know there's apostles out there, we don't tend to know how to recognise them. Tomorrow, we'll look at what apostles really are, and how we can recognise them.

Soak Time

What do you understand the function and role of an apostle to be?



Day Two: The Heart of an Apostle

To tell you the truth, I was afraid of the word 'apostle'. I'd grown up in a legalistic denomination in which I'd seen the counterfeit all my life – titles of 'apostle' given to men by men, and I hated it. So it took some serious convincing from Holy Spirit for me to even want to know what a true apostle was. And when He taught me, it was by observing someone stepping into the calling of apostle without they themselves even knowing who they were. He opened up the Word to me about who an apostle is and what they are called to, and I soon realised what was happening as my friend started to function in this anointing.

I've heard it explained by pastors that apostles are those who plant churches... I've been told that because the pastor may have started a church, they have an 'apostolic anointing'. Really? Let's be truthful... anyone can start a church. Not everyone is called by God to do so. And our concept of what 'planting a church' is again is questionable – how we can plant multiples of what only exists in singular form? We also need to realise that there is a huge difference between an 'apostolic anointing' and the calling of an apostle. Apostles don't 'start churches'. They bring the church to life! They carry an anointing of life which brings hearts to life, and as the embers of those hearts are fanned into flames, they become like spot fires which grow and catch and bring life to others. And the church as a whole grows. Apostles aren't about starting or expanding denominations – they breathe flourishing life into the whole church!

Apostles are the master builders of the church, receiving blueprints from heaven to know how to advance the Kingdom of God on this earth. They see the big picture all the time – their vision is always at the level of Kingdom, never congregation; corporate, not individual. In fact, if someone believes they are an apostle because they 'planted a church' (an impossible thing to do in the Kingdom anyway), that simply shows that they are not an apostle because apostles don't live at that level of perspective. Vision is their lifeblood and they are always moving forward. They know, by grace, how things are supposed to fit together and how people are to function together. They know what goes where and who goes where, though they never force any of that to happen, but prophetically declare it until God brings it to pass. They walk with ease in Divine connections as God brings forth connections and relationships for the advancement of the Kingdom.



As we already looked at last week, apostles are the mothers and fathers of the church... they love with purity of heart and see the treasure hidden inside the people of the body of Christ and call it forth. They are treasure chest openers, and they prophetically declare calling and destiny over the people God has Divinely connected them to.

Apostles are first sons (this includes women), and then they raise up sons. They are utterly submitted in every area of life... they are one with the King. They have no desire for titles or status, in fact they are repulsed by such things. They understand that true leadership is to lay down one's life for those they are called to. They understand that there is no hierarchy in the Kingdom of God and if anything, they are lower because they lay down their lives to be the foundation. They die every day so that others may live.

They are proven as financial distributors... not 'trustworthy' as in they won't steal it (though they won't). But trustworthy as in, they receive the big picture blueprints from heaven and see the vision God is birthing globally, nationally and locally (in that order). They know what needs to go where, and they distribute finances according to the explicit instruction of Holy Spirit, even to their personal hurt. In other words, no matter what it costs them personally, because they have no sense of their finances being separate from the Lord's. He doesn't just get a tenth – the whole lot is His.

They go through incredible testing... if the army is going through basic soldier training, the apostles are going through SAS training. They are refined beyond what often feels possible to them, but they come out as gold. They can be trusted to choose the difficult things of the Kingdom of God, and they are immovable, unshakeable and unoffendable as a foundation for His house.

Apostles carry a displacement anointing – a transformation anointing. They are called to dismantle, uproot and destroy the demonic structures, and to plant and build up the Kingdom of God. Signs, wonders and miracles are an apostolic anointing, and part of the reason the church is so devoid of these things is that we've ousted the apostles. The reason there is chaos and division in the body of Christ, is because the apostles have not been in the position. Neither have the prophets. We'll look more at the Divine calling and function of prophets tomorrow.



So as you can see, just calling someone who 'plants churches' an apostle is a gross error. Apostles (and in fact all people) are appointed by God, not by man. Let's make this clear: A pastor is NOT an apostle. And the sooner we understand this, the sooner the church will come into alignment.

Soak Time

Would you describe apostles any differently, now that you have read this? If so, how would you describe them? If you still don't understand, ask the Lord to reveal this to you.

Do you personally know anyone you believe is called as an apostle? How have you recognised this in them?



Day Three: The Heart of a Prophet

We probably have a bit more of an understanding of prophets, as we are more likely to have seen them functioning. However, there is still an uncovering of true prophets happening, as many have walked in a prophetic anointing and called it the office of the prophet, yet these are two different things. And many prophets have still been filtering what they receive from the Lord through the perspective of their own fleshly understanding. The body needs to discern this. We truly have seen very few prophets, those who will speak only the words of the Lord, nothing more and nothing less, unmoved by the fear of man or their own flesh.

The true prophets are like Ezekiel, standing there overlooking a valley of dry bones, but asking God what He sees and instead declaring that. They live in the reality of prophetic vision, usually many years ahead of manifestation. They are unbelievably patient, precise and obedient. Their mouths are utterly yielded to Him, and they speak only what He says. True prophets don't bring a mix of flesh and spirit, but hear the spirit and speak the spirit, regardless of the intimidation that may come against them, and the circumstances surrounding them. They know they are likely to stir up the demonic kingdom and they are unafraid of that.

They declare the gold in people, and awaken anointings, mantles and dreams hidden in people's hearts yet placed there by God. They are powerful in word, action and deed. Often, they are called to prophetic actions, which are declarations of God's intentions for the future... and many times these actions make little sense to others. They are willing to endure ridicule and shame, while they live in the prophetic realm, and the gap between seeing something in the spirit and the timeframe where it manifests in the natural.

True prophets never function independently or individually, but they know they are designed to function in conjunction with apostles and you will find them doing that. In fact, I believe a prophet and an apostle are always assigned to walk together, in a covenanted walk. It's not that any apostle will do – prophets seek the Lord for the apostle they are called to walk with and vice versa. Prophets and apostles are designed to function together in oneness, and when they do, it's powerful beyond description! They receive from heaven,



download blueprints, confirm leading, walk side-by-side and advance the Kingdom for the sake of the people.

There is no true Kingdom without the foundation of the apostle and prophet.

Seriously. God gave this pattern for some very good reasons. The most important being oneness. His temple was never meant to be a one man show! Consider Ephesians 2:20 again. You can read what it said. Now, what DIDN'T it say? It didn't say that God's temple is being built on the foundation of the apostles OR the foundation of the prophets. That is, no single person, anointing or function can be the foundation of the House God's building. This scripture makes it clear – oneness is the foundation. The apostle and prophet functioning together in oneness with Christ Jesus is the foundation of the House He's building.

It also didn't say that the apostle was higher than the prophet or that the prophet is higher than the apostle. In fact, the apostle and prophet were described as the foundation – if anything, 'under' the rest of the building. That is because the apostolic and prophetic anointings were given as a gift to the church, and part of that anointing is to lay down their lives for the people.

And this brings us to the really big problem that we have going on in the body of Christ right now. Congregations (who also see themselves as independent 'churches'), led by a single pastor. Hierarchy.

This is not the pattern God gave us.

Tomorrow we'll look at what's wrong with this structure and why God gave us a better way.



Soak Time

What do you think might be the problem with a pastor-led congregation, where there is hierarchy and the pastor is at the top? If you don't know, ask Holy Spirit. You might be surprised at what He tells you when you are open to it.



Day Four: Problems in the House

So if the pastor-led, hierarchical church is not God's pattern, what is? And if it's not the pattern, why is that all we see?

It's not that pastors aren't important, because they most certainly are. Pastors carry an anointing given by God that is immeasurably needed in the church. They are the arms of God, loving the people, bringing comfort, giving time, energy and care.

Pastors make the church feel loved.

Pastors walk hand in hand with people through the challenges and the celebrations of life. To see a true pastoral anointing in operation is a privilege beyond measure. To be pastored by someone who carries a true pastoral anointing is one of the most special and comforting experiences one can encounter.

Pastors are necessary. They are important. They are no less important than an apostle or a prophet. But God makes it clear. They are NOT the foundation. The foundation has to be built on the big picture... the prophetic and apostolic picture. We have to know where God is going, and that is not what the pastoral anointing is designed to do.

We didn't get the pastor-led, hierarchical church structure from heaven. We actually got it from Constantine, a Roman emperor who apparently 'converted' to Christianity in 312AD, but wanted to know how to avoid a split in his kingdom, where about half of his people were Christians and half were pagans. So he offered the Christians freedom from the persecution they had been experiencing if they would make a few concessions. And he basically brought the pagans and the Christians together by merging together their customs, beliefs, cultures and structures. As many people may already know, Easter was one of these merged events. Constantine changed the Hebraic celebration of Christ's death and resurrection at Passover, to Easter (which some believe was formerly a pagan festival).

He brought in the idea of services, and employed a single person to bring a message and oversee the 'congregation'. Prior to that, all bought a psalm, a word, a song (Col 3:16) as they gathered together in homes, fellowshiping



and breaking bread with one another. The treasure within the hearts of each of the believers was shared as a gift to one another as they came together and had everything in common (Acts 2:42 – 47). There was no hierarchy – they respected and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and the apostles laid down their lives for the people and empowered the Holy Spirit to be released in each one of them. Each believer ministered in the marketplace and knew they were a minister – they all did the work of the ministry. That was the model prior to Constantine's directives.

After that began division between 'laypeople' and 'clergy', as everyone who had previously been free to share their treasure for the benefit of the body, sat there 'hidden and snared in houses of bondage' (Isa 42:22), listening to the 'pastor' instead of being released to build up the body and to minister to the people around them. Hierarchy also began, with the pastor being the top rung of the ladder (placing a roof on the church) with everyone else under their 'covering' instead of side by side with the people.

And we lost the combined anointings of Jesus. Instead of the apostle and prophet foundation, upon which all of the other anointings were built upon collectively, we came back to a single pastoral anointing. And in fact, we very seldom have we seen that true anointing functioning either, because there are actually very few true pastors in the church. We have people who have been given the title of pastor by man, and we have people functioning with other anointings who have stepped into the role of the pastor, because that often appears to be the only way to fulfil the call to ministry in their hearts. It also often appears to be the only way to be paid to do it. Therefore the pastoral role is often treated no differently than a management position, an employment role, a ladder to climb and a career to build. If you can get accepted into Bible college and pass, you can be a pastor – there's no reference to be appointed by God in that process!

John 10:12 (MSG) A hired man is not a real Shepherd...

Is it possible to have someone hired as a pastor, who is not actually a pastor? Absolutely! We have teachers, administrators even, who are in the role of a pastor, yet they are not called as pastors, nor are they functioning in the true anointing of pastor.



And even if they were, a singular pastoral anointing is not all that is needed to build the Kingdom of God. We need the full five fold anointings of Jesus for the church to grow, laid down in the order given to us by God. In any place that we don't do that, we're missing the aspect of Christ we need. However, our God is the master restorer and He is busy at work restoring His church to the temple that He decreed in the beginning.



Can you see why our deviation from the temple designed by God has caused major problems in the house? What is Holy Spirit showing you?



Day Five: Restoring the House

The Lord is revealing His blueprint for the temple not so that we can focus on the problems, but so that we can focus on His Divine solution – to build according to His plan. He needs us to take this seriously because it is serious. As I shared earlier in this devotional, I never realised just how much so until one day I read Isaiah 42:22 and immediately heard His Holy Spirit whisper telling me: ‘This is the condition of the established church’:

Isaiah 42:22 (AMP) *But this is a people robbed and plundered; they are all of them snared in holes and hidden in houses of bondage. They have become a prey, with no one to deliver them, a spoil, with no one to say, Restore them!*

I cried when I read this and realised how true His words are! Indeed the most profound treasure in the world is within God’s people – treasure chests of glory, Christ in us. And yet His people are being hidden and snared in houses of bondage – places where the structure does not allow the treasure chests to open up and the treasure to come out. Structures which shout, ‘Come in here, under my vision’. Structures where the roof is firmly on and if someone dares to follow the vision in their heart revealed to them by Holy Spirit, they risk being labelled as rebellious and be rejected. Places where a hypocritical message of freedom and obedience is preached, yet in reality is not allowed. Houses of hierarchy, spotlights and ladder climbing.

We’ve been taught that someone is charge – the man or woman at the top of the ladder, the ‘Senior Pastor’. And we ought not think we can do anything outside of the ‘covering’ of that person who in all respects and purposes, we are expected to treat like God because we obey them before we obey God Himself.

Why have we as a body allowed ourselves to come to this place, which is so far removed from what was given to us by Holy Spirit? We’ve accepted a blueprint imposed upon the church by man, and turned God’s blueprint upside down. Instead of building from an unshakeable apostolic and prophetic foundation of oneness, we’ve turned everything upside down, created hierarchy and put a roof on it. We have accepted a hierarchical house concept with a singular leader ‘pastor’ because we’ve not been taught nor have we known how to live in oneness and empower the treasure in every person. We’ve been happy to follow the pattern of the world and its structure of hierarchy... we know how



to climb ladders, so it keeps us in our comfort zone. We still think someone must be in charge.

When will we understand that someone IS in charge? His Name is Holy Spirit.

And we are all created with the innate ability to hear and know His voice. His function and pattern is that the apostles and prophets are the foundation because they were designed with an anointing that He can build upon, and because if anyone in the church has crucified their flesh, it's the true apostles and prophets. We don't need to be led by someone's flesh... we need the pure word of the Lord. Yet we have ousted and made no room for the apostles and prophets. In fact, apostles and prophets (particularly apostles) have been treated as though they no longer exist... that God no longer calls and equips apostles. They are currently unrecognised, dishonoured, and given no place in what has been known as the church. But that's OK. Because God is restoring His wineskin so that it can carry the wine of His glory without bursting, and those who recognise and are part of this wineskin (His House of Love), already know (at least in part) how it's supposed to look in their hearts, and they are sons who recognise God's pattern for the church and will honour and obey it.

When we build on a pastor-led, hierarchical structure, we are limited to a single anointing, we have no oneness in the congregation (so therefore we have no oneness in the family homes or in the bodies), most of the treasure chests stay shut and the Kingdom does not advance. Not to mention that the pastor is usually burnt out because he is trying to fulfil the callings of five anointings, instead of simply his own.

But when we build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, they bring oneness to the temple. They empower the pastors, teachers and evangelists in their anointings, and they function together, receiving from the Lord and moving forward collectively. It is the most beautiful thing to see and experience! Yes indeed, Holy Spirit can truly be the one in charge!

He's bringing us to a place of understanding of how to function within this truth. I knew this was His blueprint, and I could see it functioning within the remnant God had birthed in my geographic location, but I had never seen it function like this in a traditional 'congregation'. So it blessed my heart when He Divinely connected me to a man who told me what Holy Spirit had led them to do in the gathering they were a part of. They had a team leadership and



they knew that they had four of the five anointings within those called to the congregation (and they were seeking God to draw the person/people with the fifth anointing). The 'leaders' were not those who were 'qualified' (by man's standards) to lead – they were simply 'leading' (or we could say obeying and 'go-ing') as led of the Lord. They functioned in oneness, knowing that Holy Spirit was actually the one in charge. When it came to making decisions, they would simply come together and pray until they all heard from Holy Spirit. If they couldn't arrive at a decision, they knew that God isn't divided against Himself, so they went away and kept praying until they could come back together and arrive on the same decision, as led of the Lord. How many congregations do that?!?!?

I believe that the reason we've looked to God through 'leaders' is because we fear that we cannot actually expect to connect with God directly in our hearts. It's easier to look to someone else than to press in and seek the Lord to hear clearly for ourselves.

And we think that the buck has to actually stop with one person because that's how our Western mindset has been conditioned to think. We are looking to someone who is in charge, outside of the Holy Spirit. We have no mindset of any other possibility – after all, that's how the world functions. Every business and organisation has someone at the top – why would the church be any different?!?!? I'll tell you why – the church is called to manifest the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom is completely OPPOSITE to the world. We don't take our cues from the world – we are led by the Spirit. The world is meant to follow the church – the church is never to conform itself to the world.

The Holy Spirit is in charge of the church. No one else.



Soak Time

Have you been obeying God 'through' someone else... a 'leader'? How and why?

Do you expect that you can connect directly with Holy Spirit in your heart and simply obey Him? Why or why not?
