

CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH VISION SUNDAY, PART THREE

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TEXT: Acts 3:19 “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

INTRO REVIEW: RESTORATION THEOLOGY: THE CHURCH HAS TO MOVE BACKWARDS BEFORE IT CAN MOVE FORWARDS

1. “Restoration theology”: how God restores truth in revival.
2. E.g. The Reformation of 1517: The truth of justification by grace through faith was restored. Through the 1906 Azusa Street Revival: Baptism with the Holy Spirit doctrine was restored.
3. I believe what God is restoring today is the New Testament Church and New Testament Christianity. Specifically, the expression of the Body of Christ as revealed in the Book of Acts.

I. A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

A. ACTS 2:42 “THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES’ TEACHINGS” (Review)

B. Ephesians 2:20: The Church is founded on the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the Cornerstone.

1. Ephesians 4:11
2. You notice that the primary speakers were the apostles. They were not devoted to the pastors’ teachings or prophetic teaching or evangelists’ teachings, but the apostles’ teachings. We need all of the fivefold ministry, but there was an emphasis on the foundational teachings of the apostles.
3. Why? Because apostles have authority to bring about the maximum transformation in a church’s life. 1 Corinthians 12:28: “First Apostles” - Apostolic Authority.

4. Peter Wagner said, “If Apostles come together in unity, then we will have revival.”

5. Ed Silviso initiated bringing apostles and prophets in California to come together in Monterey, CA in October 2019. This year we will be hosting this historic event on August 7-8 in Pasadena.

II. A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS A PROPHETIC CHURCH

A. ACTS 2:17-18 “YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY”

1. John 5:19: When I am talking about a prophetic church, it is making a commitment to do only what you see the Father doing. It is to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church and to obey that word.

2. “Believe in the Prophets and you will be successful.”

3. **2 Chronicles 20:20 They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed.”**

4. Apostles work with Prophets. Lou Engle was our prophet for years. We, of course, have had Cindy Jacobs and James Goll, and Pastor Sue has been functioning as a prophet to me personally. TheCall is a classic example of how apostles and prophets work together.

5. Prophecies have to be based on the Word of God, the Bible. We also have to have proper interpretation and application with the revelation received from God.

B. A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR PROPHETIC JOURNEY

1. **September 2, 1982: “Come to LA for a Great Harvest.”**

2. **4/4/94: Harvest Rock Church was birthed out of a prophetic word received in February 1994.**

3. **December 1995: Cindy Jacobs prophesies, “You are not to join another network. You are to have your own network. I have called you to be an apostle and you will be like Abraham, the father of many. You will have churches in every continent around the world.”**

4. Prophetic words that came to Sue and me in 2017 and 2018 through Ed Silviso: **“God wants you to turn your heart back to California. He is going to give you an apostolic strategy to see your dream come to pass (i.e., to see a great harvest come to California).”**



5. CA Dreamin in 2018: Pastor Jude Forquier, “Pastor Ché, I have a word for you. It is Genesis 24. You are like Rebekah and will be a mother of 10,000 that will possess the gates of the enemy!”

Genesis 24:60 They blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, Become thousands of ten thousand, And may your descendants possess The gate of those who hate them.”

6. Cindy Jacobs prophesied in August 2018: “I see you as the pastor of an apostolic center and all these satellite congregations all throughout California being part of your church. You will be the face of this church.”

7. Bob Hartley, “I see seven or eight other churches joining HRock Church.”

III. A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH HAS A PROPER FOUNDATION

A. Acts 2:37 ...“Brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. Spiritual Encounter Weekend.
2. Jesus must be central and supreme - **1 Corinthians 3:10-11.**
3. Repentance - Acts 2:38.
4. Baptism in the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:38.
5. Sanctification - Acts 2:40 - Deliverance, Inner Healing.
6. Baptism in water - Acts 2:38 - e.g. Thailand.
7. Church Membership - Acts 2:41.

B. CHURCH GOALS

1. Emphasis that everyone goes through Encounter Weekend, Water Baptism, and Kingdom Culture Class (New Members Class).