

CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH VISION SUNDAY, PART TWO

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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: 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: justification by grace through faith. Azusa Street Revival: baptism with the Holy Spirit.
3. I believe what God is restoring is the New Testament Church and New Testament Christianity. Specifically, the expression of the Body of Christ as revealed in the Book of Acts.
4. My New Testament professor taught that the Book of Acts is not a historical document, but a theological document to share principles of the New Testament Church and her missionary activities. The Word of God is eternal.

I. A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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

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

1. **Ephesians 4:11** And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

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.
4. 1 Corinthians 12:28: "First Apostles" - Apostolic Authority.
5. Peter Wagner said, "If Apostles come together in unity, then we will have revival."
6. 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.
5. TheCall is a classic example of how apostles and prophets work together.
6. Even David, whom the Bible says was a prophet (Acts 2:30 "And because David was a prophet..."), he still needed a prophet named Nathan, and in his earlier years the Prophet Samuel and Gad.
7. 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)."**

8. 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.”

III. A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH HAS A PROPER FOUNDATION

A. ACTS 2:22-41

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).