

Apostolic Upgrade For End Time Churches



By John Eckhardt

Notes compiled, edited and revised by Apostle Royal and Prophetess Demetrice Mason & staff from the 2004 IMPACT Leaders Gathering

WHY THE CHURCH SHOULD BE APOSTOLIC IN NATURE (Kingdom Mandate)

The foundation of the Church has been apostolic since its beginning. It has been founded upon Jesus himself who stood in the office of Apostle in his earthly ministry. **Ephesians 2:20-22** says:

20 "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Jesus declared throughout the Gospels that his mandate was to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. In **Luke 4:43** Jesus announced that He must preach the Kingdom of God to more than just one city. He declared, "I am **sent** also to other cities." Therefore, Jesus was a **sent one** - apostolic. Likewise, we must have an apostolic nature having abilities as sent ones to fulfill the Kingdom mandate. Even after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, Jesus' mandate did not change. **Acts 1:3** says:

*3 "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to **the kingdom of God**:"*

For forty days after his resurrection Jesus continued to preach the Kingdom of God. We can then conclude the nature of the church is apostolic and the apostolic nature is the **preaching, teaching and demonstration of the Kingdom of God.**

OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

A significant apostolic strategy Jesus demonstrated was the establishing of teams. At the start of his earthly ministry Jesus formed an apostolic team. Through His unique selective process Jesus chose men to become an extension of His mandate. He trained them and then released not only the twelve but also seventy of His disciples into nearby regions to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. Notice that He sent them out in teams of two. Jesus used the greatest resource available and that resource is people. As apostolic leaders, we must follow the examples of Christ. We must take advantage and responsibility of utilizing the people of God to spread the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

STRATEGIES FOR EXECUTING THE APOSTOLIC MANDATE

How are we equipping the people of God to carry out the message of the Kingdom? What strategies and keys are we using to fulfill our mandate? One main ingredient that people need is to first understand **Present Truth!** Present truth is defined as the truth of the word of God as it relates to the “now”; that which is current; present time or present day truth. This is not to say that we preach a new gospel or something apart from the Bible. Present truth is the revelation of scripture, given by the Holy Spirit in order to **upgrade** people in the present moves of God. People must be developed in present truth to dispense the apostolic mandate. An example of this concept is found in **Acts 19:1-6**.

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, 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. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said unto John’s baptism. 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. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and, prophesied.”

Much like the disciples Paul met in Ephesus, many people simply have not heard present truth. Notice the strategies of Paul as he conversed with the disciples of John the Baptizer. Paul began to ask questions to measure their knowledge and experience concerning Christ and the Holy Spirit. Once Paul gauged their spiritual level he was able to minister present truth to the disciples. They were upgraded and they experienced the power of God by being born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit. When Believers are upgraded they can begin to walk in new degrees of power and authority. This is the demonstration of the Kingdom of God! As apostolic ministries, we must preach and teach present truth to bring **upgrade**. According to II Peter chapter 1, if we fail to be established in present truth, we will be **barren, blind and unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ**. Present truth will strengthen our abilities to expand the message of the Kingdom.

We can only minister present truth to people when we as leaders experience a paradigm shift. We cannot teach what we don’t know and we cannot lead where we won’t go. We must be willing to break away from the old religious order, antiquated methods and timeworn ideas that have lost their power to influence and advance the church. In this present day reformation and restoration process, we need to apply the Pauline strategy used in Acts chapter 19. Apostolic leaders should begin to ask questions to better evaluate and upgrade ministries. The Pauline strategy serves as an end-time tool to help churches upgrade from a religious model to the apostolic model. Even as we shift in our own local churches, there is a Macedonian call from other churches that desire change in many of our regions. It is our responsibility to assist them in their apostolic transformation process. Upgrade will cause entire churches to operate in greater levels of power and authority to impact their cities and regions.

Antioch Churches can better serve and answer the call with the use of subjective evaluation forms. We don’t know if the Apostle Paul took notes as he fellowshiped with the disciples in Acts chapter 19, but we do know that an evaluation process occurred. Evaluation forms are necessary for three key reasons, 1) they save time, 2) they pinpoint areas of strength and

weakness, and 3) they help to bring upgrade in areas most needed in a local church or region.

Evaluation forms have been provided for you in this manual. They address the following four areas of ministry:

- The Apostolic
- The Prophetic
- Praise and Worship
- Deliverance

Please feel free to duplicate the forms as often as needed.

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

The church is to be a model of the Kingdom and an instrument of advancing and establishing the Kingdom. As stated earlier, people are the greatest resource to the local church. We must establish a system of evaluation for people in order for them to be released and sent out to do the work of the ministry.

The Apostolic Process

This is a system that will allow leaders to properly identify, train and send those of the local church. It is based upon the principle that people are our greatest resource, and its purpose is for the advancing of the Kingdom. The phases of the apostolic process are:

1. Identifying gifts and callings
2. Equipping
3. Empowering
4. Authorizing
5. Sending

Identifying Gifts and Callings

A sure method of identifying gifts and callings is through the prophetic ministry, prayer and intercession and observing fruits/works. There must be a collaboration of Apostles and Prophets to bring the fullness of God's strength, character and wisdom to our churches. We must break away from old paradigms and begin to see the vital role prophets have alongside of Apostles. We need to embrace the ministry of the Prophet in identifying gifts and callings. Listen to the Prophets! **Acts 13:2-4.**

*2 "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the **Holy Ghost said**, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they **sent** them away. 4 So they, **being sent forth by the Holy Ghost**, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus."*

Equipping

Apostolic churches equip their people through...

- 1) Activations
- 2) Training
- 3) Impartations

- 4) Discipling
- 5) Deliverance
- 6) Worship

All of these steps are necessary for the advancement of the Kingdom thereby fulfilling its mandate. (The prophetic is interwoven in every part of this phase.)

- **Activate**: To arouse to action or put in motion; to practice in order to attain excellence; to practice the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- **Train**: The process or art of imparting knowledge and skill; the repetition of an action so as to develop/maintain one's skill.
- **Impart**: To make known; to communicate; to pass; to transmit.
- **Disciple**: The act of recruiting and teaching those who support and adhere to the kingdom mandate.
- **Deliverance**: The process of breaking free from demonic influences/strongholds that causes confinement. Deliverance breaks the rule of darkness and brings in the rule of God. It helps identify false teaching and false giftings.
- **Worship**: A unique and vital experience in the equipping phase. Apostolically speaking, it is a Davidic style of worship, which prepares the way for greater spiritual capacity. This type of worship includes prophetic songs, prophetic hymns and spiritual songs, the Song of the Lord, and songs that proclaim, decree and declare the Lordship of Jesus. Davidic worship has a unique sound filled with spirit life that carries the presence of the Lord. It causes spiritual gates to open so that the King of Glory can come into a region. Brazen or hard heavens are opened and spiritual climates are changed through this type of worship. Great liberty is released through dancing, rejoicing and the waiving of flags and banners. It allows new songs from heaven to flow. Davidic worship elevates the church into new realms where a high level of **apostolic strength** is released into the people.

Empowering

When we empower the people of God we give them the means, ability and opportunity to "do!" The church advances when its members are empowered. The apostolic church empowers through impartation - the laying on of hands, Presbyteries, revelation and teaching. As Believers are well taught and confirmed they will feel empowered to obey the mandate of the Kingdom and carry out its goal.

Authorizing

We authorize people simply by giving them the authority to minister. Authorization should not be taken too lightly or loosely. However, those who have qualified by demonstrating their obedience in following and submitting to Godly authority and possessing the fruits of the Spirit with works confirming are worthy of authorization. These are those who have a team mentality, Godly character and are willing to lead or follow at all costs.

Sending (not necessarily sent out)

Sending includes those who are sent out, but also those who return to the local house. In other words, they remain in the local church. At this level, as we begin to send the people out, we should have certainty that those who are being released have gone through each phase of the

apostolic process. We are able to send out teams when we are assured that as leaders we have prepared them for the work they are sent out to do. Presbyteries support us in commissioning and instructing those being sent. No assignment should ever be given without first making clear the instructions that go hand in hand with it. Each assignment should be stated clearly with confirmation following.

APOSTOLIC STRATEGY

There has to be a level of receiving in the area where you've been sent. It is difficult to go into a hostile territory where there is no level of reception. There should have been a request to come for those who were sent. If possible, you should also know the level of reception before answering the call to come. It is important to understand and identify characteristics of a sending mentality, especially in those who are being sent. Each sent individual should exhibit the following characteristics:

- **Possess a spiritual son or daughter “DNA”**
- **Demonstrate sacrificial living through time, money, energy, & gifts**
- **Possess a cross-cultural mentality**
- **Have zeal, compassion and passion**
- **Be a laborer and co-laborer**
- **Be focused and stable**
- **Always show commitment**
- **Have a servant's heart**
- **Always exhibit the spirit of love**
- **Possess an ambassador mentality**
- **Studies to show himself approved**
- **Be a pursuer of the harvest**

APOSTOLIC WISDOM

As spiritual leaders that are transitioning and mobilizing our churches into the apostolic, we need to maintain the emphasis of an apostolic spirit. Remember that there is a vast difference in Apostles and Pastors. Let's strive to break the limitations of the Pastoral model we have followed for so long. We must grasp the apostolic mentality so that we can challenge the people of God to mature, to stretch themselves, and rise above the mundane. They must learn how to serve God on His level! The apostolic nature is Kingdom driven. Apostles are creative, informative and structured. They always desire to see sent ones function in their gifts and callings. They are not intimidated, but only motivated by the mobility and growth of the saints. Therefore, the apostolic nature embraces end-time strategies that will release the people of God for Kingdom work!

THE FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE EVALUATION FORM

We would like to encourage our IMPACT leaders desiring to invite a team into their churches to consider filling out this form as a tool to facilitate upgrade and help give clarity and direction for the proposed conference or seminar.

APOSTOLIC EVALUATION FORM

Thank you for your invitation! We look forward to assisting you and your local church. This evaluation form is provided so that we may better serve you in your endeavor to upgrade and transition into the apostolic model. We ask that you take the time to complete the entire form. It will not be used or shared for any purpose other than to evaluate your ministry in the particular area of request. This form will allow us to provide a personalized plan of instruction tailor made for your ministry. Thank you for taking the time to assist us in helping you.

- 1. Are you the founder of your Church or ministry? _____ Yes _____ No
- 2. How long has your church been established? _____ Yrs. _____ Mos.
- 3. What is the governmental structure of your church? (i.e. Apostles, Pastors, Asst. Pastors, etc.)

- 4. Is your church affiliated with an organization that is doing an apostolic work? _____ Yes _____ No
 - 5. Does your church have ordained ministers? _____ Yes _____ No
- If so, through what process did they receive qualifications for ordination?

- 6. How are gifts and callings identified in your church?
-
-
-

7. How much teaching on the apostolic would you say your church received in the past year?
_____ A great deal _____ Some _____ Very little _____ None

8. Please check the ministries that are in place and functioning in the church.

_____ Praise & Worship Team(s)	_____ Helps Ministry
_____ Intercessory Team(s)	_____ Evangelism Ministry
_____ Prophetic Team(s)	_____ Counselors
_____ Deliverance Team(s)	_____ Children's Ministry

9. What is the strongest area of ministry in your church?

_____ Praise & Worship Team(s)	_____ Helps Ministry
_____ Intercessory Team(s)	_____ Evangelism Ministry
_____ Prophetic Team(s)	_____ Counselors
_____ Deliverance Team(s)	_____ Children's Ministry

10. What is your greatest need in understanding the apostolic model?

COMMENTS:

PROPHETIC MINISTRY EVALUTION FORM

- 1. Do you believe that the Prophet and prophetic ministry are essential to the local church? _____ Yes _____ No
- 2. Do you believe that Prophets are for today? ____ Yes ____ No
- 3. Are you a part of a denominational covering that believes prophetic ministry is for today? _____ Yes _____ No
- 4. Do you as a leader prophecy? _____ Yes _____ No
- 5. Are there ordained Prophets in your church? _____ Yes _____ No
- 6. Are there ordained Prophets in your church government? ____ Yes ____ No
- 7. How often do Prophets teach or preach in your church?

- 8. Do you have prophetic teams? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, how many? How were they trained?

- 9. Do you have prophetic intercessors? _____ Yes _____ No
- 10. Do you have prophetic counseling? _____ Yes _____ No
- 11. Do you operate in prophetic evangelism? _____ Yes _____ No

- 12. In what manner does one give a prophetic word in the church/service?

What is the protocol?

6. What style of music is selected for your church? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel | <input type="checkbox"/> We write our own |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Gospel | <input type="checkbox"/> We select from all of these |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosanna Integrity | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

7. Which ministries are already functioning in your church?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Praise and Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

8. Do the musicians and singers flow in Prophetic Praise and Worship?

- Yes No I don't know what this term means

9. Does the music ministry(s) rehearse on a regular basis? ___ Yes ___ No

10. How often does the leadership meet with the music ministry?

- Bi-weekly
 Monthly
 Quarterly
 Other: _____

11. How often is training, ministry and deliverance provided for those in the music ministry?

- Monthly
 Quarterly
 Annually
 Other: _____

12. What is your greatest need in this area of ministry?

COMMENTS:

9. Is there follow up or counseling for those who receive deliverance in your ministry? _____ Yes _____ No

10. What is your conviction about administering deliverance?
(check all that apply)

_____ Clinical Deliverance

_____ Private Sessions

_____ Public Services

11. What is your greatest need in deliverance ministry?

COMMENTS:

