



## **APOSTOLIC ADVICE APOSTOLIC CHURCH ARISING AUGUST, 2009**

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Now that the ministry gift of the apostle has been recognized and received at large in the body of Christ, it is time for the “apostolic church to arise”. It will not just be the ministry gifts that turn the world upside down for Jesus, but the church anointed with apostolic power and authority. We see from the ministry of our Chief Apostle, Jesus Christ that the process of making apostolic people begins with transitioning from a believer to a disciple. The apostles were first disciples under the ministry of Jesus, then were released into apostolic ministry. In the past 20 years, we have been a church of believers only, with an emphasis on the “life of the believer”, the “believers ministry”, “believers conventions” and “believers meetings”. This is ok as far as it goes but it is clear from the gospels that sinners converted to believers were then called to progress from believer to disciple. *“As he spake these words many BELIEVED on him, THEN SAID JESUS TO THESE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM, if ye continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”, John 8:30-32.* The Lord has impressed upon me that our job at this time is to move the believers into the lifestyle of a “disciple” so that the apostolic power can be released upon them, I truly believe this is the key to the apostolic church arising. The world is fast regressing into a post-Christian era where society will reflect the values of the heathen world of the New Testament era, when the “challenge of the hour was met with apostolic power”. It was not just the church leaders (five fold ministry gifts) who met the challenge, it was an apostolic church of disciples “sent forth” with Kingdom character, authority and power. It is the disciples who manifested not only the gifts of the Spirit, but the fruit of the Spirit or “character of Christ” to the world, God will move through that which represents Him in character in this last day, His power and authority will manifest to confirm who He is, the only true God and Saviour. Many of the believers of today’s church are living in bondage instead of in the freedom Christ provided, that is because freedom was never promised to believers but to disciples, Jesus said, “If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples, and ye shall know truth and the truth shall make you FREE”. *John 8:31-32.* If people will obey the call to become “followers” and not just “fans” of Jesus, they will soon find freedom as a way of life in Christ, not an occasional experience resulting from the prayers of an anointed vessel. There are

many fans who love the Lord but have not devoted themselves to following Him everyday day in every way. Jesus died to make followers, not fans. After we make the move from fan to follower, we will be called “fanatics”, Those who seek to impress their beliefs upon others without relenting or apologizing. Praise the Lord, Jesus and the apostles were all called “fanatics”, we will be in good company!

There are three ways to transition from believer to disciple as follows:

**1. Continual Obedience.** John 8:31-32

These Jewish converts had obeyed what they had heard, namely, *“Repent and believe the gospel”*, Jesus said, *“if you continue to obey what I say, you will be my disciple.”*

**2. Carrying Your Cross.** Matt. 16:24

*“Then Jesus said unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and FOLLOW ME”.*

Peter was having a problem following Jesus at this point because he did not like the direction Jesus was taking. Jesus had announced his upcoming crucifixion and resurrection to the disciples, which caused Peter to be concerned about his own life. This is simply what the cross means, “When his will CROSSES ours”, we must choose His will regardless. God will test our submission to His will by giving us an occasional assignment that we would not “choose for ourselves”, which causes us to “pray as it were, great drops of blood”. Jesus told Peter to *“get behind me”*, or in other words, “continue following me, Peter, even to the cross and you will truly be my disciple”. One cannot transition from believer to disciple without “confronting the cross”.

**3. Cleaning Up Our Lives.** John 15:1-8

The story of the vines and the branches is really a contrast between the living and the dead. The branches that have the life of the Vine produces much fruit, those without life and fruit are taken away to be burned. Jesus said *“ye are clean thru the word I have spoken to you”*, vs 3. The branch that manifests life by producing fruit is “pruned or cleaned” so that it will produce more fruit. Notice the progression in these verses from “bearing fruit” to “more fruit”, finally to “much fruit”. The fruitfulness of our lives is determined by His life flowing in us, *“Apart from me ye can do nothing”*. More Life flows as we are pruned from the dead works of our former life without Christ. Vs 8 says “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples”. What are the fruits of our life in Christ as disciples going to be? There are several kinds of fruit including the **Spiritual Fruit** of Galatians 5:22-23; there is the **Fruit of Righteousness** in Hebrews 12:11 resulting from our Heavenly Fathers discipline which shows us the “right ways” (practical righteousness as opposed to positional righteousness). **Money fruit** as in Phillipians 4:17 where Paul tells the Phillipians that *“he desired FRUIT TO ABOUND TO THEIR ACCOUNT”* as a result of their seed sowing into his apostolic ministry. **Praise Fruit** in Hebrews 13:15 which is the “fruit of our lips giving thanks unto His name” and **Fruit of Good Works** in Titus 2:15 and John 15:16 which are the results of the ministry or reconciliation to the lost. These are some of the

fruits that confirm one as a true disciple of Jesus Christ, “*SO SHALL YE BE MY DISCIPLES*”, John 15:8.

*Dr. John*