



REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Imparting The Elijah Anointing

APOSTOLIC ADVICE *MAY, 2009* **APOSTOLIC CHURCHES**

Shortly after Saul was apprehended by the Lord Jesus Christ as he traveled the Damascus Road in search of believers to persecute, his preaching began to produce apostolic results in the churches.

“And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him....Then had the churches REST throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were EDIFIED; and walking in the FEAR OF THE LORD, and the COMFORT of the Holy Ghost and were multiplied”. Acts 9:29, 31.

In vs. 31 we find four characteristics of the New Testament apostolic church which resulted in both spiritual growth and numerical increase. The preaching and teaching of the Apostolic Team produced results because they ***preached the Word*** which is able to ***build up and give the inheritance***, Acts 19:20.

The churches had Rest. This Greek word means peace and prosperity. Apostolic ministry will produce rest in churches and believers because of the level of spiritual authority carried by these servants of God. When apostolic anointing is released, powers of opposition are dethroned and diminish where they had once held sway. No spiritual stronghold can resist the great grace (Acts 4:33) released thru apostolic preaching and teaching, atmospheres are restored to accommodate the Presence of God and believers can grow up in all aspects into him which is the head, even Christ. Churches that are relating to apostolic ministry, or have apostles leading in house will have an atmosphere of the miraculous (Acts 4:30) and the healthiest believers.

The churches were Edified. This word means ***construction***, to ***build up***. Apostolic ministers are ***wise master builders*** who can take a look at the foundation upon which the individual ministry has been built and find anything that may be missing that could cause problems later on. Churches that are ***constructed*** according to the pattern in the New Testament will have the proper ***leadership structure*** in place with Deacons and Elders who meet ***character qualifications***. There will be a ***parenting anointing*** in the ministry that encourages the growth and development of the next

generation of leaders. And there will be balanced blend of the five ministry gifts listed in Eph.4:11 that play out in practical and relevant ministry to the community.

The churches walked in the Fear of the Lord. The early apostles taught the church to “*love righteousness and hate iniquity*”, Hebs.1:9. When leaders compromise righteous standards in order to gratify their flesh, or the lower nature of those they seek to influence, the church loses the ***fear of the Lord***. A little leaven spreads fast and the overall quality of Christian living is endangered, causing us all to lose effectiveness on our world. They were taught to have a ***law of love, and not a love of law***. The highest standard of holiness is achieved when we walk in love (1 Cor.13), because “*the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us*” (Romans 8:1-4) and “*love works not ill towards it’s neighbor*”. The apostles were models of ***the love walk*** and set Christ’s example of walking in love as the standard for leaders and believers alike. E.W. Kenyon once said, “*A step out of love is a step into sin*”.

The churches walked in the Comfort of the Holy Ghost. The word means “consolation, solace”. The language of the Spirit is three dimensional according to 1 Cor.14:3, “edification, exhortation and comfort”. Walking in the Comfort of the Spirit suggests the early believers were taught how to comfort and console one another under the severe strain of persecution they faced. Not only did they need the constant consolation of the Spirit’s Presence when their lives were in danger, but they needed to hear messages that comforted them in their own inward struggles to “*take up the cross and follow daily*”. Paul administered comfort to the Thessalonians in 4:13-17 where he assured the grieving believers whose loved ones had passed on, that they would meet again “*in the air*”. An atmosphere of consolation is an inviting one especially for new believers who feel like failures when they have “*missed the mark*”, Gal.6:1-2.

Churches that have these four qualities will surely have the results of growth and increase mentioned.

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