

Lesson 3 - Apostolic People

Youth - 14 Upwards

In this lesson we will be studying what is meant by 'Apostolic People' and who are Apostolic People?

This message must be disciplined, preached, taught, prophesied, and imparted into students with passion. These lessons are theological in form but are meant to be practical in application. It would be of no use if we are teaching apostolic people and we are not showing people how to become apostolic people.

These are people who are working towards maturity. They believe and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; thereafter receiving the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit will come from the Father and teach you all things about Me:

Apostolic people are always in expectation of continuous downloads. The Holy Spirit teaches the new believer spiritual matters for his growth according to his understanding.

We will be studying in great detail the story of the blind man who was healed in [John C9 v8-38](#) to glean some principles.

John C9 v8-38:

8Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "[Is not this he who sat and begged?](#)"

9Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

10Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

11He answered and said, "[A Man called Jesus](#) made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

12Then they said to him, "[Where is He?](#)" He said, "I do not know."

13They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

14Now [it was a Sabbath](#) when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "[He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.](#)"

16Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And [there was a division among them.](#)

17They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "[He is a prophet.](#)"

18But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

19And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind;

21"but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. [He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.](#)"

22His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

23Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this man is a sinner".

25He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. [One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.](#)"

26Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27He answered them, "[I told you already, and you did not listen.](#) Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

28Then they reviled him and said, "[You are His disciple](#), but we are Moses' disciples.

29"We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

30The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from: yet He has opened my eyes!

31"Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

32"Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

33"If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

34They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

35Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

36He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord that I may believe in Him?"

37And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

38Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.(NKJ)

1. What spiritual application can you make from John 9:1 'blind from birth' in terms of the new birth?

We must understand that this is a Kairos where Christ is given to those who love His word – all truth is freely given to those who are willing to endure the search.

The Spirit will not be able to download everything into the new believer for many reasons, for example Lazarus received life but still could not see for he lacked in natural/physical strength to untie the grave wrappings.

The grave clothes are a symbol of personal hindrances placed by human structures, for example the ceremonial burial system in their time required that their bodies be embalmed from head to toe.

The Ephesians believers were only as mature as their last teacher therefore the 'blindness phase' can only be dealt with if God gives revelation or further understandings within a Kairos Time.

Hence the term 'blind from birth' means that although a person can be born again, he is blind to the next revelation of God.

When Lazarus came forth from the grave, this was a picture of the born again experience, but he was still blind because the grave clothes covered his eyes.

The Ephesian believers knew about the baptism of John but were ignorant of the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit baptism. They knew of one experience with God but were ignorant of the next.

2. Jesus said "I must work the works of Him who sent Me". What is this work?

The work of God is that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:29 'Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent."

3. What did Jesus mean in verse 3 "that the works of God should be revealed in him."

In other words: the question rephrased: 'That the revelation of Jesus should be revealed in the blind man.

That through the blind man others may believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ revealed how God works with a man, and through a man. The revelation/work is to believe that Jesus did these things.

What did Jesus mean when he said the work of God (Christ) must be revealed in him (the man)?

He meant that the truth about him, the revelation about him, the existence of him, his presence and his appearance must be known to all who saw this man.

This man was to be like a land mark or sign post to confirm that Jesus was around. An Apostolic person's sight/insight/understanding/revelation is confirmation that Jesus is around.

4. Using verses 6 and 7 show the differences between the Charismatic and the Apostolic Movements.

Verse 6: 'When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay'.

Verse 7: 'And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing'.

The Charismatic Movement:

Characteristics of this movement include any focus on the gift including gift of the apostle (called apostolic movement) is a charismatic mentality.

Judges 13-16 explains how Samson is a type or picture of The Charismatic Church or Movement.

For further detailed study on 'The Charismatic Church' please refer to Lesson 10 of the ABC (Accurate Building Concepts).

Jesus displays the charismatic nature in verse 6 of our study when he mixed spit and dust and made clay and applied this on the man's eyes.

It must be noted however that this did not open the eyes of the blind man. The spit (water) is symbolic of the Spirit. Spit and dust make clay which is symbolic of the flesh.

The Charismatic movement started in the Spirit but ended in the flesh. Other examples found in the Word of God of people who were filled with the Spirit of God but ended in the flesh are:

- Saul who went to a seer
- Samson who married a Philistine
- Judas who betrayed Jesus
- Eli when he was blinded by his sons wrong doings

Charisma entertained, but brought no revelation of purpose. It nevertheless set individuals on the path to Siloam which means 'sent'.

The Apostolic Movement:

This movement demands personal responsibility for your sight. God is upgrading His people to take personal responsibility. He is upgrading their character – for example when an individual steps into the presence of a President, their interaction, speech, and behavior takes on a new dimension.

In Verse 7 we see the Apostolic culture where one obeys the spoken word and receives their breakthrough. We must strengthen our faith in the Word of God.

In our story we must note that the blind man had to walk to a specific pool, not the Red Sea, the Dead Sea or Jordan but the Pool of Siloam to receive his sight.

The Pool of Siloam is symbolic of an Apostolic Church or Apostolic resource. It waters (dimension of the anointing) brings clarity of vision and purpose.

5. Using John 9 list the works of God revealed in the man and show what works should be evident in apostolic people. Use the underlined verses to draw your conclusions.

The Works of God

The word Apostle means one who is sent forth. Apostolic refers to the position of being sent. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest.

Heb 3:1 - 'Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus. (NKJ)

Jesus is sent by the Father.

John 5:36-37- "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do - bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. 37" And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

Jesus said His works testify of Him; it is evidence that God the Father has sent Him. The Father confirmed Jesus through evidence of His lifestyle, words, and miraculous interventions in peoples' lives. Many lives were miraculously changed for the better.

John 20:21 - So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Apostolic people live under the mentality that they are sent and they function in a sent dimension. They speak the word boldly, with power and confidence.

They are sent to grace carriers. If they receive the one whom I send, they will receive Me. They know how to covenant with those in kingdom governmental positions.

The sent one recognizes that:

- 1) He is connected to the sender - God.
- 2) He carries the message of the season from God.
- 3) He is accountable to the sender.
- 4) He represents the sender. Not his own word even though he brings it in his own way and interpretation.

The Holy Spirit is also a sent one.

John 14:26 - 'But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Apostolic people must come to the position where there is evidence of the Holy Spirit manifesting the word that they speak or command.

In John 9 the man's life was transformed after he washed in the Pool of Siloam.

As a pool of sent waters it is symbolic of the Apostolic (positional) anointing.

The features of the blind man's transformation after his visit to the Pool of Siloam, reveal characteristics that should be evident in an individual who has connected with the Apostolic anointing.

These individuals are referred to as apostolic believers/people and the characteristics revealed in them are called 'The Works of God'.

5.1 Lifestyle Transformation- "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

This speaks of a lifestyle change, daily routines that get adjusted with purpose. Not stagnant, waiting and hoping for something to happen, but being able to move to make things happen.

Failures don't stop them; they continue to try because they have a purpose to accomplish. You know exactly what you need to do with your life – you find purpose because you have come to a place of rest in your mind and not troubled. Things that once crippled your movement have been identified and dealt with.

What are these faults?

These are failures, being too slow, lazy, always late, unable to remember, too many chores, can't be trusted with responsibilities, more emphasis on unimportant stuff and leaves the important stuff aside?

The neighbours and those who had previously seen that he was blind did not recognize the blind man after his visit to Siloam. Note that Jesus did not change his appearance in any way. The only thing different about him was that he received sight.

How is it that his neighbours and acquaintances did not recognize him anymore?

Answer: His walk changed. His walk was no longer that of a blind man. He was now sturdier, purposeful and confident, and he was directed in his walk.

When you connect with the apostolic anointing, your walk will change - your lifestyle will change. You will become more purposeful, confident, directed and clear. You will walk with wisdom and circumspection in the illumination of God's light, His Word.

David is a legitimate pattern for the church. Please refer to Lesson 2 on Engineering Details for principles on how to become a royal priesthood of believers according to God's requirements.

5.2. Instant Witness - "A Man called Jesus"

Apostolic people account their change to the Lord Jesus. This is not accounted to a man but a man from God: 'He is sent from God' was his statement. The man testified of Jesus in his own neighbourhood immediately.

Apostolic believers become instant witnesses of Jesus Christ. This is the underlying purpose of the apostolic anointing - attention is always directed to Jesus. The apostolic Holy Spirit always directs believers to be witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John the Baptist also demonstrates an Apostolic Spirit.

John 1:8 - 'He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.'

John 3:30 - 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'

5.3 Inspiration of a Christ - Pursuing Mentality - "Where is He?"

Apostolic peoples' change in lifestyle and walk influence others to identify their need for God. After they had seen the man who was once blind, they began looking for Jesus. Apostolic believers are not only witnesses; their lifestyle provokes others to look for Jesus.

5.4 Seventh Day Ministry - "it was a Sabbath"

The healing took place on the Sabbath day - the seventh day. This was a seventh day illumination.

2 Pet 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

We are into the 7th millennium since Adam. If 1000yrs are as one day then we are into the 7th day - the Sabbath day. Apostolic ministry is for the 7th day - a ministry necessary for today.

This is a ministry where the word has precedence only if it comes from a valid lifestyle.

5.5 Clarity of Message - "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Apostolic believers have a clear message. They have clarity about divine command and human responsibility. Apostolic People can get their point across, not confused or trying to persuade people – they don't really care what others think about their confessions of life.

5.6 A Ministry of Division- "And there was a division among them".

Apostolic believers bring division in the house of religion.

Matt 10:34-36

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

The nature of the apostolic message conflicts with that of a religious house where laws and traditions are exalted above Christ. Thus divisions between those who follow laws and traditions and those who follow Christ are inevitable. Apostolic peoples' confessions of belief address how people think.

5.7 Rapid Upgrade - "He is a prophet."

In vs. 11 he called Jesus a man.

In vs. 17 he called Jesus a prophet.

This indicates rapid upgrade as a feature of Apostolic believers who are open to proceeding revelation. They begin to see things differently.

5.8 Maturity- "He is of age"

Apostolic believers are recognized for their mature spiritual stature - they are able to discern and explain.

5.9 Sought Out - "ask him"

Apostolic believers are sought out because they have answers to tough questions.

Isa 62:12 'And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.'

5.10 Autonomy- "He will speak for himself"

Apostolic believers are delivered from addiction to leadership. They can answer for themselves. They can contend for the faith and explain the faith to others because of their illumination.

Jude 1:3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

1 Pet 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

5.11 Clarity of Focus - "One thing I know"

The minds of Apostolic believers are not muddled with a multitude of visions -it is one thing at a time. They are focused.

Phil 3:13-14

13Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
14I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

5.12 Clear Distinction between Past and Present- "I was blind, now I see."

Apostolic believers have a clear perception of what is past and what is present. They have a clear understanding of the past and present move of God.

5.13 Boldness - "I told you already, and you did not listen".

Apostolic believers have the boldness and capacity to stand before antagonistic religious spirits who will not listen.

5.14 Recognition of Identity - "You are His disciple".

Apostolic believers are recognized as the disciples of Jesus. They are known by their words and lifestyle.

5.15 Logicality

30"The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!

31"Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

32"Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

33"If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." and are you teaching us?"

The Pharisees line of reasoning was that because Moses did miracles, He was sent by God. The man argued that the miracle performed by Jesus was greater than that performed by Moses, therefore Jesus must be sent by God.

This capacity to reason and come to logical conclusions is a distinct feature of apostolic believers. It makes them instant teachers.

5.16 Ex - Communication - "And they cast him out".

The religious order will not accept apostolic believers.

5.17 Sought by God- "found him".

Jesus found him. This implies that Jesus was looking for him. God is looking for those who will demonstrate His works.

5.18 Revelation- "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Matt 16:16-17

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Peter's revelation of Christ came from the Father. Apostolic believers have a clear revelation of Christ the Son of God.

5.19 Rapid Upgrade - "Lord,"

The man's revelation was rapidly progressive - from man to prophet to Lord. This is a feature of the proceeding word.

5.20 Believe and Worship- "I believe!" And he worshiped Him".

Apostolic believers believe and worship. Belief is faith. Worship is the works.

James 2:20 – 'But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Apostolic believers have the works of faith.