

Second Baptist Church

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Understanding Spiritual Gifts (Part 3)

Speaking Gifts

The Gift of Apostleship (Eph. 4:11)

This gift is rather controversial because many believe that the office of Apostle D out when the apostles passed away.

There are two categories of apostles:

The Capital “A” Apostles

This category of apostles is comprised of the O Apostles who were the official leaders of the N.T. church. They all met certain criteria for apostleship:

1. **They had been with Jesus from the B** (Acts 1:12-22)
2. **They had a personal C from Christ** (Matthew 4:18-22; John 20:21)
3. **The were witnesses of the R** (Mark 16:14; Acts 1:22)
4. **They laid the doctrinal F of the church** (John 14:26; 16:13)
5. **They had powers to work M** (Acts 2:43)
6. **They will one day sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel** (Luke 22:24-30)
7. **Their names will be inscribed on the twelve foundations of the New J** (Rev. 21:14)
8. **They were carriers of foundational authority for doctrine and church formation** (Ephesians 2:20)

Paul was one of the apostles that the Lord raised up out of season (1 Cor. 15:8-9).

The Small “a” apostles

We know that there can only be one O twelve apostles. However, the Bible mentions many other men who were called apostles (Acts 14:14; Gal. 1:9; 1 Thes. 1:1; 2:6).

The word **apostle** means to S. The basic qualities of one who has the gift of apostleship:

1. I
2. A Church P
3. **Have sign and wonder gifts** (Acts 3:6-12; 4:29-33; 5:12-16)

The greatest difference between today’s apostles and the original twelve apostles is that today’s apostles do not W scripture.

Some equate the apostleship gift with the M of today.

Red Flags

1. Claiming A authority over churches
2. Teaching new revelation equal to scripture
3. Demanding unquestioned loyalty
4. Using the title to C rather than serve

True leadership is marked by humility, accountability, and faithfulness to scripture (1 Peter 5:1-4)