

There is a fire to come out of the Northland, particularly in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Of that I am totally convinced. God has said it through more than one prophetic individual. What our God wants, I declare in the earth for all who have ears to hear, to hear.

It is more than a fire of revival. It is a fire of a prepared people. It is a fire that has been poured out in the hearts of a Third Day people.

After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Hosea 6:2 (ESV)

He will raise us up. That word in the Hebrew means to “set us on our feet as if from a sitting position”. There is an Ekklesia (Greek word translated wrongly as “church”) arising in the earth with fire that is no longer content to sit on a pew, but will march with the fire of God wherever He takes them putting the works of the enemy under their feet. They will live in His presence, in His face, not just visit on occasion. They have made their home in His heart and where He goes, they go!

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Romans 16:20 (ESV)

The fire comes through a people who have prepared to live in the heart of God. They have stood up and they are ready to stomp on the works of Satan and his false kingdom. God’s heart is the place of fire and He is calling forth a people who are not afraid to enter the fire, and then carry the fire to the furthest parts of the earth. God is looking for a people He can prepare to carry His heart and to speak with His voice, to speak with one voice. Their voice no longer matters. They speak from the heart of God and it is His voice that thunders across the nation and the world.

God speaks through His prophets and His prophetic ones. He looks for a people who will hear and believe and do what He tells them to do. The problem is, most people do not know if they hear God’s voice. They are always looking for someone else to tell them what God is saying. But many of the voices today contradict each other, and no one knows who to follow. So, they follow this one for awhile and then they follow a different one until they are constantly going in circles.

What we call the five-fold ministries, which are the gifts given by Jesus to His Ekklesia, have failed to understand their true mission. God called them to be leaders, to not just teach and train, but to prepare God’s people to be able to hear God for themselves and to always obey Him; to know Him not just know about Him. There is a difference between leading and managing. Let me illustrate.

My daughter has a Mini Aussie. That dog knows how to get what he wants. He will come to me and whine, letting me know he wants something. I don’t know for sure what he wants, so I get up to follow him. Only thing is, he doesn’t lead. He has been bred to drive. He gets behind me and pokes me in the back of the leg to move, until I start moving. I don’t always know what he wants right away but he drives me in the right direction until I know whether he needs to go outside, wants food, or just wants to play. Then, I give him what he wants!

That is managing or driving and it is the way most pastors today operate with their congregation. They believe they receive direction from God, but they can't get there without the sheep. Therefore, they set about to round up all the sheep and drive them into the place where they believe God wants to take them.

The problem is, the sheep are constantly breaking loose from the gathering and either going in a different direction, or leaving the fold completely. They all have minds of their own and pastors dare not leave one sheep behind. Consequently, the congregation rarely gets anywhere. Instead, they continue to go one more time around the mountain.

All leadership gifts given by Jesus to the Ekklesia are called to lead, not to drive. You cannot be an effective leader if no one follows you. Leadership gifts are not called to force people to do anything. They are called to find God's heart and to live in it. They hear God's voice and another they will not follow. Because of that commitment, things happen in their lives and others begin to follow because they want what that leader has. The leader is intent on following Jesus.

These leaders are called to show people how to hear the voice of God for themselves and to follow God, to obey Him, to understand His love for them. Jesus is apostle, prophet, teacher, evangelist and pastor. He is all of these things. His leaders know these aspects of their King. Apostles are called to raise up apostolic people. Prophets are called to raise up prophetic people. We need them all to show us the fulness of our God, so EVERYONE can walk in the anointing of their King.

Jesus builds the Ekklesia, not man. The Ekklesia is made up of prepared stones (prepared by the leadership gifts Jesus gave to them). These stones are then placed in the house Jesus is building in the exact place He determines they belong. Jesus established them in the Ekklesia. The house is merely a metaphor. There are other metaphors in scripture to denote what the Ekklesia really is.

The Ekklesia is God's people who have matured enough to hear God's voice and to obey. Only then can they walk in unity and not be divided. Only then can they work together to accomplish what God wants done in their communities, their states, and their nation, both spiritually and culturally.

The only way this is going to happen is for God's people to hear His voice and follow Him in doing what He says to do. Groups of believers who gather together, called "churches" rarely get beyond the place illustrated by the holy place in the Old Testament tabernacle. This part of the tabernacle had articles that spoke of the coming Messiah, Jesus. It represents the place where saints know their Bible and they know all about Jesus. However, they have not yet been prepared to enter the Holiest of Holies where they can know Him!

This place is available to them. The veil that separated these two sections of the tabernacle was torn in half when Jesus died on the cross, inviting all to come into it. Yet, so few truly enter it. The Holiest of Holies is the place of God's presence. It is the place where the Third Day saints enter and live. It is a place where a few individuals have found, but the true Ekklesia collectively, has never found. We will!

The saints of God have not been prepared to be an apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, teaching and caring people who hear the voice of their God, and another they will not follow. They know about Jesus with years of teaching and training, but most do not know Him. They do not know His heart enough so that to know Him is to love Him, and to love Him is to love His creation.

If we are going to go into unknown territory, a place we have never been before, we must have a prepared people, a people who know God's heart and will obey no matter what the cost, because we know it pleases Him and He knows what is best for us.

If apostles raise up an apostolic people, if prophets raise up a prophetic people, when God speaks they will follow. There will be no need to drive them. They will see and know the Father's heart and will follow Him willingly. It is their choice to enter into all God has, or not. We cannot force them or drive them into this place.

We have taken these gifts from Jesus to His Ekklesia and made them special, almost untouchable. The true gifts are men and women who have seen the King and live in His presence. They have chosen to lay down their own lives to serve the King, no matter what He tells them to do, and to serve the people that God loves and with whom He desires to have fellowship. They see the Father's heart to have a people who will love Him enough to want to hear His voice for themselves and will love with the love of the Father. Only then will they reach cities and states and nations and turn the world upside-down.

The five-fold leadership gifts have not understood their function. They are not there to make a name for themselves, or to find a place behind a pulpit. They are not there to control and manipulate the people into following their plan for their particular ministry.

These leaders are what they are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are what they are, no matter where they go. They do not just function in what we call a "church" building on Sunday or Wednesday nights. They do not automatically get drenched in apostolic or prophetic anointing the minute they step behind a pulpit. They carry the anointing with them wherever they go, because they carry in them the Anointed One.

God sends them forth, just like He sends us all forth, into our places of business, our schools, our entertainment and recreational places. He wants an apostolic and prophetic people in these places to know how to make them prosperous and godly in the cities so His people can live in peace. We have relegated these gifts to only spiritual matters, when God created us as both spiritual and physical beings. We cannot separate the two.

God gives us strategies and plans as apostolic and prophetic people wherever He sends us. As an evangelistic and pastoral people, God gives us wisdom in how to reveal Jesus and His ways to people, and how to touch them in their need. As a teacher, we are always ready to explain to people, the goodness and the love of God and how He operates in the earth to bring everything back to rightness. In all aspects of the Savior, we are a people who know righteousness (what is right in God's sight) and we understand justice (what God wants to do to make a situation that is not

right, right). We are a people who walk in discernment all the time, not just occasionally.

We do not have a people like this, because our leaders have failed to be leaders. Paul told the saints of his day to follow him as He followed Christ. That was not to gather a following unto himself, but to show the way for the saints to learn to follow Jesus for themselves.

These things cannot be taught nor can people be trained like a monkey or a dog. We must be prepared and we prepare by waiting on God in every situation to hear His voice and obey. The more we do it, the easier it becomes. We go through processes to become a prepared people. We go through processes to be able to understand His love and His heart. It doesn't happen overnight. It is a journey, but it is worth it!

God gave me this back in 2006 at a small "church" in North Dakota. I have changed a few words and added a couple of thoughts over the years, but it is still pretty much the same and It still applies today. God told me that walking with Him is really SIMPLE, but man has made it COMPLEX.

We are always trying to come up with new gadgets, new methods for signs and wonders, new words to describe the old things in more appealing ways, just to draw the people into our houses. There is only one House being built and it is being built by Jesus. It is simple and not full of wizardry and entertainment. Keep in mind that I am talking about the true Ekklesia in the following and not man's version of "church".

- **It is simple because the apostolic is really just letting Jesus be the head of His church.**

It is complex because man has run the Church for two thousand years. It is not easy to let go and we don't know how the Church will look with Jesus as the Head, because we have never seen it before.

- **It is simple because it is a new day, a new order after that of Melchisedec, the one who carried the anointing of both priest and king. All we need is to hear the voice of our Commander-in-chief and then to obey.**

It is complex because the body has not matured enough to be confident that we are hearing the voice of our Commander-in-chief. How can we obey, if we do not know? What if we hear incorrectly and do something we are not supposed to do, or don't do what we are supposed to do?

- **It is simple because we don't have to determine the processes or steps to follow before we start.**

It is complex, because we are used to having the steps determined for us, so we can look at them and say yes, I can do that, or I am not sure if I can do that. The steps ahead are not always clear, but we follow so

closely in his footsteps, that we don't miss a beat. We are going where no man has gone before. We go willingly, but maybe with a little apprehension. We must be prepared to allow God to take us wherever He wills.

- It is simple because all we have to do is follow Him, but it is complex because we are in danger of not knowing Him when He comes to us and bids us follow. When he came as a baby, the Jews were not expecting a Savior, a Shepherd, they were expecting a King. Today we are expecting a Savior, and a Shepherd, one who loves us and takes care of us, and saves us from ourselves, a gentle Lamb, but He is coming as the Lion of Judah, as the Commander-in-Chief. We are expecting a Bridegroom, but He is first coming to His Church with fire and purging so that He will have a mature Bride without spot or wrinkle. We must recognize Him.

- It is simple because we have so much more understanding and knowledge in the things of God, than the Church did over the last 1000 years. We have the word of God in many different translations and all sorts of commentaries and cross-references.

It is complex because this is the time of the revealing of mysteries hidden in time from the very beginning by God. And it is a fact that the more we know and experience, the more we realize we do not know. There is so much more truth God wants not only reveal to us, but see us walk in the truths of those revealed mysteries. We not only need knowledge and understanding, we need wisdom.

In closing, Paul said it best in II Corinthians. As a five-fold gift given by Jesus to His Ekklesia, Paul understood His job was to love God's people enough to prepare them to be the bride. He was jealous over the people, because he understood the great love Jesus had for His people, His Ekklesia. What was Paul's desire? That the people would not be led astray FROM the SIMPLICITY of the gospel.

I would to God you could bear with me a little in my folly. Indeed, bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy. For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve through his trickery, so your minds might be led astray from the simplicity that is in Christ.

II Corinthians 11:1-3 (MEV)

We simply get to the place where our hearts seek God's heart. God is looking for a people who are prepared to hear His voice and obey. They do not do this

occasionally, but it is a way of life for them. They do not obey because they must, but because they love Him and understand He only wants the best for them. It really, really is that SIMPLE.

If you are willing, tell your Heavenly Father that is what you want, and then watch throughout the day for the little things He sends your way to show you who He is and what He wants to do in the earth through you, one step at a time. It gets easier the more you follow Him. Everyday there should be signs of God speaking to you.

It is time for leadership to lead and not direct or manage. It is time we become an apostolic and a prophetic people, who know their Father's heart and can present it to the world in every area of society. It is time for God's people in the Northland to rise up and show forth the SIMPLICITY of the gospel and let it spread like wildfire to the rest of the nation and to the nations of the world. It is a time for God's people to stand to their feet and watch God destroy the works of the enemy through them as they walk the earth wherever He sends them.

Are you prepared and ready?