

Apostolic Revolution Pt2

By Todd Bentley

The Tabernacle of David

In the vision, as I stepped into the harvest I saw, to my left, an old rickety tent. I thought, "God, what's that doing out here in the harvest?" Jesus said, "That's the tabernacle of David. I said, "Wait a minute here. I understand that there is something happening today in the prayer movement and worship, but what does that have to do with the great harvest, evangelism and healing movement? Why is the tabernacle of David out here in the great harvest? And why does it look like that?" Jesus told me that the tattered old tent was a picture of the Church's perspective on prayer. But until prayer, and the house of prayer, became a priority to the church, He said, we are not going to see the great harvest.

Jesus also gave me a revelation that until the church understands that the prayer movement (intercession, worship, the 24/7 prayer watch of the Lord, the house of prayer) and the evangelism/healing movement go hand in hand, it hinders God from releasing the great harvest. Around the world, we can see great evidence of God's people building the house of prayer. We're in the midst of a glorious construction project, but we've got a long way to go.

After my vision, I realized that the apostle James gives us insights regarding the mystery of the tabernacle of David that can help us. In the midst of revival and great harvest of Jewish and Gentile believers, in Acts 15, James addresses the Jerusalem counsel. Basically James says in verse 16, "Guys, this is the fulfillment of 'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up'" (Acts 15:16). He linked the great harvest (thousands being added to the church daily with miracles, signs and wonders) with the beginning of the prophetic restoration of the tabernacle of David. I began understanding that the house of prayer being built today is the "Forerunner" that will release the great healing revival. I said, "My God! It just means that we are all that much closer to the end!"

Acceleration

Before I discuss how the tabernacle of David will be restored in our day, let's take a look at how this prayer movement will look during the great harvest. This tabernacle of David prayer movement, I believe, first triggers a healing revival, then the great end time harvest.

In the book of Acts, we see an example of an apostolic movement marked by continual prayer. First, the Acts outpouring was birthed in 10 days of prayer and waiting on the Holy Spirit. Next, even in the midst of signs and wonders, the apostles upheld this priority of prayer: "... we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). This apostolic prayer movement launched and maintained the healing movement in the early church. Then the healing movement released the great harvest of souls: "... the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). I believe that the apostolic movement we are entering into will follow some of the same steps of the early church – prayer, healing, then harvest. We've begun to enter into what's happening in harvest. But I tell you it's coming!

Well, what can we expect God to do in our church, city and region? God says that He is going to raise up the tabernacle of David which has fallen down – the house of prayer days – and He will repair its damages, and days are coming when the plowman shall overtake the reaper (Amos 9:11, 13). Now when is this great harvest? It happens in the days that the mountains drip with sweet wine (renewal and refreshing) when the plowman shall take over the reaper. In the sweet wine there is the promise of the days of acceleration. And these days are upon us! The sowing and reaping time is speeding up! God will do in a day what He used to do in six months and in a minute what He used to do in an hour.

Now, thank God for this whole Moses-type training of 40 years! But what about the disciples? They were full-fledged apostles in just a few years. You know, I believe in the whole training process and that it can take some years to mature in the Lord, but things are changing. God is quickening the pace! Just watch what God is doing with young people today! Many of them have maturity and wisdom well beyond their years. You know, something special happens when young people pray; when they pray for the sick, it's like their very presence brings healing.

Healing in His Wings

I want to discuss several scriptures from the Old and New Testaments that will help to paint a picture of the coming healing revival.

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who Fear My name the Son of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves" (Malachi 4 1,2).

In verse one, Malachi begins by sounding a severe warning of a refining fire to come. But in the midst of this cleansing, God pours out His power: "But to you who Fear my name, the Son of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings... (Mal 4:2)

Healing revival comes in His wings. Scripture also tells us that we can find shelter and safety from "deadly pestilence" under the shadow of His wings (Ps. 91:3). Now let's look at the healing blessing of this shadow depicted in the book of Acts.

"And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch" (Acts 5:12). Notice that the signs and wonders were released "through the hands of the apostles." But it wasn't just their hands – look at this: "... they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. ... and they were all healed" (Acts 5:15,16b). The very presence of the apostles brought healing!

Did you know that there is a distinction between the hands of the apostles and the presence of the apostles? We can be encouraged by these scriptures – a time is coming when true modern-day apostles will carry a new dimension of healing manifested by God, through their very presence. As well, when that kind of presence is carried into a room or building, the sick are healed in that atmosphere, or "resident anointing" because of the intensity of God's manifest presence in that place.

It's all about the Son of Righteousness saying, I want that whole city to come under the shadow of my healing wings; a healing atmosphere will come, so even as people are lying on beds and couches in the streets, they are healed... not because of the anointing that is on the hands of the apostles, but because of the anointing that is on the presence of the apostles.

Not only does the Lord want to release healing through the anointing on the lives of individuals, He also wants to dig wells of healing in cities. Today, all over the world, He is establishing healing rooms, safe places where people can go to receive deep ministry. As well, the John G Lake anointing and resident anointing is being released, along with an emphasis on the restoration of the Voice of Healing movement. The church is about to see a healing revival greater than the healing revivals of the 1940's, 50's and 60's. The healing signs are already here and it will usher us into the second coming of Christ. One of the last moves of God will be a healing revival!

Laying a Foundation for Revival

As the healing revival gains momentum God is orchestrating divine order within the Church. It's His desire that the household of God would be established and built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets and joined to Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2: 19-22). Today, apostles and prophets are being raised up to help the body of Christ to come into maturity. One of their functions will mirror that of both John the Baptist and the prophet Elijah, who gave the people a strong call to repentance (Matt. 3: 1-3, 5-6; 1Kin. 18: 37-39). Today's modern-day apostles and prophets will boldly call God's people to true repentance – many people will experience severe distress and truly repent over their sinful condition.

I believe that the conviction of sin and respect for holiness will reside in the church once again, and whole cities will cry out in repentance. The Lord will respond to this godly sorrow and true brokenness with gifts of cleansing, forgiveness, redemption and restoration for the lives of His children (2 Ch. 7: 14-15). Such deep healing is a vital part of the healing revival. As a result of this repentance, God will restore an anointing for evangelism, miracles, signs and wonders to the church and, specifically, to His apostles and prophets.

God is preparing Forerunners

The Lord is also preparing forerunners. John the Baptist and Elijah not only had powerful ministries that facilitated repentance, they were both forerunners. In fact, their anointing concerning repentance went hand in hand with being forerunners. This forerunner anointing is at work in our day. God sends apostles and prophets with this anointing, who work ahead of time, often behind the scenes, to "prepare the way," so that God's plans and purposes may begin. They prepare the church for the new things God wants to do. The prophet Isaiah prophesied about John's forerunner anointing:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God'" (Is. 40:3).

After John launched into ministry with his message of repentance, he described himself as "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" (Matt. 3: 1-3). He was actually quoting Isaiah the prophet's words about the coming forerunner. John himself was that forerunner, one preparing the ground for the appearance and ministry of Jesus Christ.

In Malachi 4, the prophet speaks of the Son of Righteousness rising with healing in His wings; he also announces the coming of "Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord" (Mal. 4:5). Healing and the Elijah anointing seem to go hand in hand. However, the religious leaders did not realize that the spirit of Elijah had rested on John the Baptist. Many Pharisees and Sadducees wouldn't receive Jesus Christ as Messiah because they knew Malachi 4, that Elijah the prophet must come first to prepare the way of the Lord. The disciples couldn't understand the Pharisees' arguments so they; "... asked Him, saying, 'Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?'" (Matt. 17:10). Jesus answered something like this, "Well if you can receive it guys, Elijah has come already." Yes, in those days people were wondering where Elijah was, waiting for the dude to show up and walk around Israel again. They didn't understand that Elijah had already come and gone; they missed it because they really didn't think he would come in the form of John the Baptist, who came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

New levels in Anointing

We can see that as the forerunner anointing emerges in this hour, God also wants to release new levels of anointing. It's happening quickly. I had a vision years ago of an end time release I call the "pop-corn release." You see, I was released into the ministry like pop-corn! One day I was working in the mill stacking lumber on the green chain. Then, I went to one meeting, received one prophecy, and "pop," I'm in full-time ministry.

Did you know that the apostle Paul experienced the pop-corn release? After a lengthy transition time, eventually he went about preaching with Barnabas. The scriptures repeat several times (Acts 11:30, Acts 12:25, Acts 13:1,2) that it was always "Barnabas and Saul." It was Barnabas who first led the way (Acts 13:2).

But a time came, when the prophets and teachers laid hands on them, that there was an ordination and a transfer of anointing. The next thing we see is Saul being renamed Paul, and then watch – it's the pop-corn release! From that day forward it would never be Barnabas as the first man and Saul as the second man: "Now when Paul and his party set sail..." (Acts 13:13).

Scripture also starts to name Paul first, in verses like Acts 13:43, which tells of proselytes who "followed Paul and Barnabas" (Acts 13:43). This apostolic release is an example of what I believe God wants to do today. There can be an anointing released, and instantly, we're changed and we go from being "Barnabas and Saul" to "Paul and Barnabas". I am prophesying that many of you reading this will be changed by the power of God. You will be receiving a new mantle and, quickly, you will be functioning in your mantle – it will be like night changed to day!

New Government, New structure

A whole new government is coming to the church – it's apostolic. This new structure will consist of apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelist and team ministries running churches. They will yield to one another, recognize each other after the spirit and have freedom to operate in their different anointings. Competition will not exist; friendship, relationship and a team spirit will be the order of the day. Local churches will exist, but the face and the government of the local church will change.

I also see this new face, or new structure, being established in apostolic centers. God isn't just planting churches, He is planting apostolic centers! During the last few years of ministry I've been in numerous cities and regions where the Holy Spirit said, Todd, I want you to prophesy about the emerging apostolic centers and what they look like. In this strategic hour, a call is going out to many believers to take their place in this apostolic revelation. You, yes, you, may be led by the Holy Spirit to join with others, corporately, to focus on facilitating this whole new thing that the Holy Spirit is wanting to do in the Body of Christ today.

I know these changes won't come easily because it's a new thing God is doing. There isn't much language for this new movement, and so, at this stage most people are walking cautiously into it. However, I want to tell you that God is now giving Fresh Fire somewhat of a model for an apostolic network – we have begun to build a center in Fort Mill, SC connected with key people and leaders around the world, based on relationship and trust.

I'm encouraged to realize that so many Christians are ready to take part in the new things God has purposed to accomplish in these last days. Even though we still lack many clear details, let's say "yes" to a move of God in our churches, cities, region and nation. Let's commit ourselves to this new apostolic move; "God, I am ready to pay the price. Here I am, Lord, send me. This is what I want. From this day forward I want to dedicate myself wholeheartedly in this present move of God. This is what I am going to live for and what I am going to contend for."

Right now, God's people are hungry for spiritual gifts, mantles, anointing and commissioning. It's not going to be a Barnabas and Saul commissioning; it's going to be an instant Paul commissioning. We're ready for a change of identity, position, government, influence and promotion to come from the Lord. I believe God is releasing promotions for some of you. Some of you will be changing garments; you're not going to be wearing the same thing much longer. It's not going to fit the same. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. I say, it's reward time!

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