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Understanding the Five-Fold Ministry: God's System for the Equipping, Edification, Empowerment, and Expansion of The Body of Christ.

6. The Apostle: The Builder

This chapter defines the office of Apostle by three measures: occupation (what the role is), operation (what it does), and qualifications (who is fit for it). It argues that a true apostle is proven not just by position or works but by accompanying signs and wonders.

Key takeaways

- An apostle (apostolos) is a delegate, messenger, and ambassador of the Gospel — a commissioned representative of Christ.
- Danger sign: people get placed in the office for their works alone, with no signs of authenticity or power to back it.
- The apostle's operation: starts movements, stirs cities, plants churches in new territory, and sets elders and church order.
- The signs of an apostle include patience (tested maturity and wisdom), unexpected miracles, and mighty deeds. Without signs and wonders, one is not apostolic.
- Qualifications (Romans 1): called, separated unto the Gospel, and obedient to the apostles' doctrine.

- The apostles' doctrine: anchoring in Christ's deity, salvation in Jesus' name, being filled with the Holy Ghost, and the divine inspiration of Scripture.
- Leadership means making hard decisions — give the team credit, take the blame yourself. A gift that only tears people down is immature.

Passages worth keeping

*"You're not apostolic if you don't walk in signs and wonders.
Without them, there are no miracles!"*

States the chapter's core test for the office.

How it connects

Revelation 2:2 warns that some claim to be apostles and are not; the chapter's insistence on visible signs is offered as the test that exposes such false claims.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Corinthians 9:1-2** -- The works of an apostle
- **2 Corinthians 12:12** -- The signs of an apostle
- **Romans 1:1-6** -- Qualifications for the office
- **Acts 2:42** -- The apostles' doctrine
- **Acts 4:12** -- Salvation in Jesus' name
- **2 Timothy 3:16** -- Scripture divinely inspired