

Advanced Kingdom Leadership Course

Module 2

Session Two: Apostolic Foundations and the Blueprint of Heaven

Overview

This session continues the discussion of the blueprint of heaven by examining how the Church has historically shifted away from its original apostolic foundation. The teaching emphasizes the need to recover a leadership model that mobilizes believers to transform the world rather than simply maintaining religious institutions.

1. The Blueprint Begins in the Heart of God

Anything that is truly from God existed in His heart before it appeared on earth.

This means that our calling, our families, our workplaces, and our leadership opportunities originate in God's purposes.

When leaders recognize this truth, they gain confidence that God is actively guiding their lives and leadership journey.

2. Confirming God's Direction

Leaders must develop certainty that they are operating within God's will.

This confidence comes through prayer, seeking God's presence, and listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

When leaders are confident that God has positioned them where they are, they can lead with greater clarity and conviction.

3. The Example of the Early Church

The book of Acts presents a powerful picture of the early Church.

The early believers demonstrated:

- Bold faith
- Supernatural power
- Deep commitment
- Willingness to sacrifice

They were actively transforming society through the power of the Holy Spirit.

However, throughout history the Church has often drifted away from that original dynamic.

4. The Apostolic Foundation of the Church

Scripture teaches that the Church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

Apostolic leadership focuses on vision, mission, and sending people to advance God's Kingdom.

Prophetic leadership focuses on the presence and power of God.

Together these two foundations help establish healthy Kingdom movements.

5. The Shift Toward a Pastoral Model

Over the centuries the Church gradually shifted toward a model primarily focused on pastors and teachers.

Pastors and teachers are essential for nurturing, caring for, and instructing believers.

However, when pastoral care becomes the primary foundation, the Church can unintentionally become inward-focused.

This can create a culture where believers primarily seek personal care rather than participating in God's mission.

6. The Difference Between Pastoral and Apostolic Emphasis

Pastoral emphasis tends to focus on gathering and caring for people.

Apostolic emphasis focuses on training and sending people into the world.

Both roles are important, but a healthy Church must maintain the apostolic emphasis that mobilizes believers to influence society.

7. Mobilizing Every Believer

God's intention is that every believer would grow into maturity and leadership.

Believers are called to be:

- Salt and light in the world
- Representatives of Christ's Kingdom
- Influencers in every sphere of society

This includes families, businesses, schools, media, government, and culture.

8. Moving from Consumer Christianity to Kingdom Mission

A pastoral-only focus can sometimes produce a consumer mindset where believers primarily seek personal benefit from church involvement.

The apostolic model challenges believers to take responsibility for their gifts and use them to advance God's Kingdom.

Jesus consistently called His followers to sacrificial commitment and active participation in His mission.

Questions

1. What differences do you see between a pastoral approach and an apostolic approach to leadership?
2. How might a stronger apostolic foundation change the way believers view their role in society?
3. In what ways can you begin stepping into a more mission-focused expression of leadership?

Activations

- Reflect on your current leadership environment and consider how it might shift toward greater mission and mobilization.
- Ask God to show you how your gifts can be used to influence the world around you.
- Identify one step you can take to move from passive participation to active Kingdom impact.