

FROPHET PROPHET WHO HAD NO PULPIT

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THE PROPHET WHO HAD NO PULPIT

Written by Pastor Keith Joel Walker

Introduction

In our contemporary Apostolic Pentecostal movement, there exists a troubling trend: the true prophetic voice is often unwelcome in the pulpits of our churches. The prophetic preaching of genuine prophets is frequently unrecognized or dismissed. I am not referring to self-proclaimed prophets or those who wear the title without the accompanying anointing. Instead, I speak of the role and function of a true prophet as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:28—the office and fruit of a prophet among us.

Throughout history, we have seen men of God who walked closely with the Holy Ghost, such as T.W. Barnes, Verbal Bean, Carl Blastero, Charles Frichey, Tim Sumner, Elder Wycliffe, Elder Crist, and Elder Triplet. These men were prophets who operated under the anointing and power of the Holy Ghost. However, today's pulpits often seem chained, resistant to the very gifts that God has placed within the church. Many shy away from the nine gifts of the Spirit, fearing the scandalous exhibitionism of showmen rather than embracing the authentic move of God.

The Call to Embrace Apostolic Doctrine

If we are to call ourselves Apostolic Pentecostals,

we must wholeheartedly embrace the entirety of Apostolic doctrine. This includes recognizing the fivefold ministry not merely in titles but in roles, functions, and operations. Ephesians 4:7-17 reminds us that the church cannot be balanced without the active participation of those within the fivefold ministry. Pastors must be led by the Holy Ghost in selecting who fills their pulpits.

In Acts 13:2, we see that the Holy Spirit directed the early church to send forth ministers. Philip was sent to the Samaritans (Acts 8:1-14) and later to the Ethiopian eunuch, leading him to the truth of who Jesus is—the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, incarnate in the flesh. Philip baptized him in Jesus' name, and undoubtedly, he was filled with the Holy Ghost, evidenced by speaking in tongues.

The Need for Prophetic Voices

We desperately need prophets in our pulpits who carry a word from the throne of God. These prophets should be filled with the Holy Ghost and fire, speaking only what the Holy Ghost imparts to them. Ephesians 1:19 reminds us that the power working in us is not our own but Christ's. The excellency of our ministry is not of ourselves but of Jesus who dwells within us. The Apostolic Pentecostal Church was birthed in brush harbors and tent revivals. We were once ostracized and labeled a cult. Yet, we persevered, fueled by a passion for truth and a commitment to the gospel. The Azusa Street Revival shook the world, bringing life to dead denominational churches that failed to preach biblical salvation according to Acts 2:38, John 3:3-8, and Mark 16:17-18.

Today, however, many pulpits remain silent, afraid to preach against sin—be it homosexuality, adultery, fornication, or the trivialities of modern entertainment. We must raise our voices and proclaim the truth of the gospel, which is built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets (Acts 2:42, Ephesians 2:20). We need Holy Ghost power in our preaching and in the lives of saints to live holy, separated lives.

The Prophet Without a Pulpit

The prophet without a pulpit often finds himself marginalized, deemed outdated, or pressured to conform to contemporary trends. The voices of apostles, prophets, and evangelists are often dismissed as relics of the past. Yet, there are still churches and men genuinely operating in the fivefold ministry who are available if only the pulpit were shared. Having pastored the same church for 28 years, I understand the importance of recognizing and utilizing the fivefold ministry. I brought seasoned elders into the pulpit, such as Elder Doug Wright, a man of God now in glory. We welcomed great apostles like Elder Vaughn Morton and Elder King, who preached with power and conviction.

We must seek out those who will preach the unadulterated truth, who will "chuck the corn" and proclaim the gospel because they desire souls to be saved.

The Prophets of Old

Consider John the Baptist, who would likely not be welcomed in our churches today. He preached with boldness, rebuking unclean spirits and calling for repentance. Would he be deemed too abrasive or out of touch? What about the Apostle Paul? Today, some claim that his epistles are not inspired or relevant. Yet, Paul's writings are foundational to our faith, and he would likely be barred from the pulpit for fear of offending someone.

Peter, too, would face resistance. He preached Acts 2:38 as the only plan of salvation, commanding the Gentiles to be baptized in Jesus' name and filled

with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues . His ministry was marked by signs and wonders, and the fear of God was upon the church. Yet, many today would hesitate to invite him to speak, fearing his straightforwardness and the weight of his prophetic words.

Conclusion

The prophet without a pulpit is a troubling reality in our Apostolic Pentecostal movement. We must recognize the importance of the prophetic voice, allowing God to use His chosen vessels to speak His truth. It is time to break the chains that bind our pulpits and embrace the full counsel of God.

We need to welcome the prophets who carry the divine oracles of God, who are filled with the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues , and who will speak only what the Spirit imparts. Let us not shy away from the gifts of the Spirit or the prophetic anointing but embrace them wholeheartedly. The church must rise to its calling, built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, empowered by the Holy Ghost to bring forth revival and transformation in our communities.

May we honor the prophetic ministry, allowing the truth of God's Word to be preached with power and conviction, leading many to salvation and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the old paths, but rather walk in them, seeking the face of God and the fullness of His Spirit in our lives and ministries.