UNDERSTANDING THE

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY
The church, far too long, has focused on “getting everyone saved” as it’s main objective. Salvation is not to be taken lightly; Jesus came and died so that we could be freed from the bondage of sin and pay a debt that we could not pay, so that we could be brought unto salvation. We are saved by the blood of Jesus. We praise Him for that! But salvation in Jesus is not the end goal, it is the beginning of a new life in Christ!

An Apostolic church wants to not only see the lost come to salvation in Jesus, but wants to help grow and mature believers in to their purpose.

The current system of “the church” is to employ one gift called, pastor, and we maintain and care for people in their current condition, keep them dependent on the shepherd, and expect that pastor to do all the teaching, all the caregiving, and all the work of ministry. The model God wants is for five ministry gifts to help mature all believers to be able to do the work of ministry God has called each and every one of us to do!

An Apostolic Church has a clear mandate; a team working together for the purpose of the whole body of Christ growing and developing in to full maturity. There is an influence of an apostolic leader with a vision and a team to grow the body to maturity so the body can go and influence society for the kingdom of God.

Many churches do well in what Acts 2:42-47 teaches; hearts are mutually linked to one another, communion is shared, the church comes together for prayer, the people see signs and wonders, community and family is developed, and the church comes together to give praise to God and learn in teachings. The Apostolic church embraces this and embraces the shift in Acts 13:1-3; sending and equipping people in their purpose rather than trying to conform people in to our idea of what we think they should be and do based on our ideas of how they benefit our purpose. We aren’t trying to grow a mega-church or a church with a great business model that produces great numbers. We are focused on growing people!

Apostolic Churches resource, equip, and raise up people in their calling!

Apostolic Churches gauge growth by the substance and weight of the maturity of the people rather than the number of the people! Numbers are not bad, but are not the measuring tool! Slow is ok!

Apostolic Churches seek to influence an area, not be relevant to it. We are called to transform the culture!

The Apostolic church pioneers new endeavors and grows people.
WHAT ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH?

- It’s relational; not legal - we are a family!
- It’s not about control, it’s about empowerment!
- It’s trusting & honoring leadership; not voting!
- It’s about raising up leaders from within the house!
- It’s being driven by the winds of the spirit, not culture!
- It’s about worship and finding the sound; not performance!
- It’s built on a foundation of prayer in many forms/ways!
- It’s breaking down local/regional strongholds!
- It’s more than evangelism; we raise up sons/daughters!
- It’s about unity; we work together for the Father’s purpose!
- It’s honoring from bottom up, not top down!
- It’s sending and empowering, not keeping and maintaining!
- It’s creating autonomous houses; networked together!
- It’s about influence and transformation of culture!
- It’s laying groundwork for others to reap benefits!
- It’s biblical teaching; not preaching!
THREE CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

There are different types of gifts, known as spiritual gifts, that Holy Spirit gives us for the glorification of God through our identity, our influence, and the way we build.

Motivational gifts. These gifts shape how the believer views life, relates to others, and impacts the church body. These gifts are the lens through which you are motivated to impact the church. These gifts include: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, organizing (ruling), and mercy.

Manifestation gifts. These gifts are supernatural demonstrations of the power of God as a result of a believer being used by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of the glory of God. These gifts include: words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miracles, discerning of spirits, diverse tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

Ministry gifts. These gifts are used for one purpose; to equip and build up the people of God. These gifts include: the apostolic gift, the prophetic gift, evangelistic gift, pastoral gift, and the teaching gift.

FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

We get the term “Five-Fold Ministry” simply because Ephesians 4:11-12 gives us the 5 ministry gifts that we just listed: the apostolic gift, the prophetic gift, evangelistic gift, pastoral gift, and the teaching gift. These gifts are not for the exaltation of men or for platform building. These gifts are to equip God’s people for their purpose and call on their life. Ephesians 2:20 tells us that God’s house is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; an apostolic house leads from the bottom up. The foundations are laid so that people are equipped and empowered for ministry rather than depending on “roles” to do the work of ministry.

We are to recognize that the church needs to be built on the foundation of these gifts, not to have these gifts exalted above the people. When the 5-Fold gifts are in true operation, the people of God will be equipped to do the work of God and the day of the “superstar” preacher and the day of depending on “church staff” will come to an end. We will see a day where the people of God will know how to walk in their calling and be the church in every situation and every moment Holy Spirit calls them to.

The church will never reach fullness or maturity until all 5 ministry gifts are functioning because the functioning of these gifts brings the people of God, the church, into the maturity of their call to walk in the fullness of their anointing.
DEFINITIONS

APOSTLES
Apostles have a passion for the whole body of Christ and how it transforms the area it belongs to. They have a gifting to lead, develop, and expand the influence of the kingdom of God throughout the earth. Those with an apostolic gift tend to be very structured and intentional in everything they do. Apostles measure success by influence and seeing people grow in their gifts and abilities and help people to embrace their identity as sons and daughters in the Father’s eyes. Apostles awaken people to their God designed potential; helping people discover who they really are in the eyes of the Father.

PROPHETS
Prophets have a passion for inspiring and motivating people to walk in their calling in the Kingdom. They have a gift in seeing in to people’s true identity and calling it in to fruition. They also have a divine sense of timing to help leaders make moves/shifts in line with God’s desire. Those with a prophetic gifts influence people through edification, comfort, and creative expressions. Prophetic gifts call out potential as well as discern situations to assist in aligning God’s people with the Father’s desires. Prophets help reveal God’s heart for the people, both corporately and individually.

TEACHERS
Teachers have a passion for communicating the truth of God’s word in such a way that helps people to grow in their walk with God. They have a generational conscious and want to bring a clarity to divine principles to help individuals and families walk in alignment with God’s plans and purposes for them. Teachers not only want to teach truth, but they measure success by people’s ability to discern and express that truth for themselves.

EVANGELISTS
Evangelists have a passion for the lost; introducing them to a life-changing relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They have a gifting in communicating truth in a way that relates to individuals and culture without compromising the truth of scripture. Evangelists measure success in the harvest of souls and seeing these people connected to a local church body that fosters discipleship and development of giftings in new believers.

PASTORS
Pastors have a passion for the people of God. They love people and have giftings of care and helping people walk through the highs and lows of life. Pastors want to see people healthy, safe, and accepted in a family of believers. They measure success by meeting the needs of people in such a way that enables them to move forward in life with their eyes set on God through all situations.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RELENTLESS?

5 Functions/Not Positions
We are not trying to find an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a teacher, or a pastor. We want to embrace and empower all of these gifts! We believe there can be multiple people in one house that can walk in these giftings. We choose to honor these gifts instead of reject them. When we identity the mantles of these gifts on people, we help grow them and put them in to action in the life of this house. When we identify these gifts in people, we find where these gifts can empower and equip this house to grow in their walk with God!

APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AT RELENTLESS

Apostolic Overseers are apostles/leaders of respected congregations and ministries who love Relentless Church, and its leader, and are willing to provide spiritual protection and direction to the house. They may be called in to help in accountability matters relating to the Apostolic Leader if requested to do so by the elders of this house. The overseers are not involved in day-to-day operations of the ministry, nor have any governmental control of Relentless. They are simply the ones to provide wisdom and oversight to the leader of this house and are a valuable resource to an apostolic body that moves by the winds of Holy Spirit. We are connected with NEI (Network Ekklesia International). They provide oversight to the leader of our house. We honor this relationship by heeding the words of the lead apostle of NEI (Dutch Sheets) and the words of the apostles we have direct relationship with, Jacquie Tyre and Clay Nash.

Apostolic Leader - the set person who leads this house. This leader leads in teaching, culture, and casts the vision for the future of Relentless. The Apostolic leader raises up leaders and is kept accountable by the elders of this house. While this leader has the authority to overrule decisions of the elders as it relates to vision and planning, Relentless honors from bottom up. Simply put, the apostolic leader doesn’t abuse authority and chooses to only move forward in decisions when there is 100% agreement among the elders.
**Elders** are spiritual leaders who set an example in their faith and conduct of life and are responsible for the spiritual government, direction and leadership of the house under the submission to the Apostolic leader. According to 1 Timothy 3, elders must prove themselves as mature believers who are appointed by the apostolic leader with 100% agreement of current elders.

**Prophets** are those who walk in a mantle of “prophet” - meaning they hear the voice of God in specific areas of future and current discernment of what God wants to do through this house. Prophets submit words of prophecy to the apostolic leader and trust the apostolic leader to move on that word or simply pray whether that word is for this house currently or at a later time. An example of this relationship is the apostolic leader leading a people in a direction and the prophets giving words that help the apostolic leader steer in the direction that God wants. In short, this is about relationship!

The term, Apostle, comes from a term referring to a leader in a fleet of ships sent by Rome to establish a new colony. They set sail and steers the fleet in to uncharted waters by the winds. In short, the winds of the spirit are words from the prophets (of yesterday and today) and the apostolic leader decides when to catch the winds and how to take the house in that direction.

**Teachers, Evangelists, and Pastors** lead in their respected areas. Teachers teach the word of God in such a way for the people to understand and embrace biblical concepts. Evangelists come up with ways to spread the message of Jesus and teaches others how to do so. Pastors are able to teach, but have a specific gift to care for the people and lead them through life’s circumstances. Pastors are not the leaders of the church, they are leading the church through caregiving, shepherding, and discipleship.

**Deacons** - this word comes from the Greek “diakonos” meaning a “servant” or “minister”. In this house, deacons do not oversee the church, but they are servant leaders and lead different areas. These are the ones that serve in the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church and/or in teams/ministries of this house. These servant leaders serve the people of this house and honor the leadership of the Apostolic Leader and Elders.

**Congregation** is the family of this house. They volunteer or simply come and engage in anything this house offers. We do not do membership, we embrace all as family!