

## Qualifications for full Apostleship

- (1.) Chosen, called, and sent forth by Christ himself. They had received their commission directly from him. (John 6:70; 13:18; 15:16, 19; Galatians 1:6).
- (2.) Qualified and empowered for their tasks by Jesus and have been ear and eyewitnesses of his words and deeds; specifically, they are the witnesses of his resurrection (Acts 1:8, 22; I Corinthians 9:1; 15:8; Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 3:2-8; I John 1:1-3).
- (3.) Given a special unction in the Holy Spirit and it is this Holy Spirit who leads them into all truth (Matthew 10:20; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-14; 20:22; first Corinthians 2:10-13; 7:40; I Thessalonians 4:8).
- (4.) God blesses their work, confirming its value by means of signs and miracles, and giving them much fruit upon their labors (Matthew 10:1, 8; Acts 2:43; 3:2; 5:12-16; Romans 15:18, 19; II Corinthians 12:12; I Corinthians 9:2; Galatians 2:8).
- (5.) Their office is not restricted to a local church, neither does it extend over a short period of time; on the contrary it is for the entire church and for life (Acts 26:16-18; II Timothy 4:7, 8).



There are no biblically qualified Apostles today as Christ is not ordinarily appearing in person to commission them. There are no men alive today who witnessed his work or heard his words, or were witnesses to his resurrection. There are no verified signs and miracles given on the order of number and magnitude as occurred when Jesus was walking the earth for men to observe. There is no Vicar of Christ needed upon the earth today because of the presence of the Sovereign Holy Spirit of God who is filling the hearts and souls of men as they learn from Him of Christ Jesus. Also, there is no longer a need for signs and wonders to attest to the authenticity of Holy Scripture or of ministries as they may be tested by the spirit and the Word.

Therefore, it is both reasonable and acceptable to assert that, the office of Apostle ceased upon the earth with the death of the last Apostle who served the Church in the First Century A.D.

On a second note, the office of Apostle is no longer necessary today because of the full and complete canonized word of God. Signs and wonders were given to authenticate the witness, testimony, original authorship, and authority of those men who were with Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit. In addition, their work was accepted by apostles, disciples, theologians, churchmen, and churches, as well as church scholarship.

The material related to Qualifications for Apostleship is attributed almost entirely to *New Testament commentary* Hendriksen and Kistemaker, eds. *New Testament Commentary, Exposition of Thessalonians, the Pastorals, and Hebrews*, Baker book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995.

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