

For Such A Time As This, Inc.  
"Calling The Church to Awaken to God's Purposes in this Hour"  
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*From the desk of Abner Suarez*

***The Spirit of Reformation-Transitioning from good to better-IV Keys to entering into Reformation***

(This is the third article in a series of articles concerning the current apostolic reformation)

I believe that in this hour God wants to shake the very foundation of the Church to release a unique expression of Christianity into the earth that history, and not even the original Apostles experienced. The Holy Spirit is going to unleash the grace that has been on certain individuals, throughout history but will now come upon an entire remnant of people who in their pursuit of the knowledge of God, will bring change to the Church and create a release of a unique presentation of Jesus in the nations of the earth. I believe this stirring that is taking place within the hearts of a remnant people, comes not from ungratefulness or rebellion, but from a desire to see where we are currently stand as a Church to what we could become.

This desire and stirring can be best described in my mind as the spirit of reformation. We are in need of reformation in the body, a reformation that changes our values, focus, and in the end the fruit and effectiveness on the world we have been called to transform. Word net offers an insightful and practical definition of reformation-

. improvement (or an intended improvement) in the existing form or condition of institutions or practices etc.; intended to make a striking change for the better in social or political or religious affairs

I chose this definition of reformation because it declares the intended purpose of reformation in this hour- to make a striking change for the better in social/political/religious affairs. In

advocating reformation to our current Church structure, I am certainly not declaring that all is wrong in the current state of Church affairs, but rather that it could be better. I believe it's important and appropriate for leaders in the body of Christ to begin to ask ourselves questions related to how we function as a Church and our effectiveness to the nations of the world. Here are some questions that often come to my mind, when I look at critically analyzing the status of the Western Church.

1. In the United States, where there are at least two or three Churches in every city that we in the Church world would consider a mega- Church (and also therefore successful), what has been the practical effective on city in which thousands of people attend Church and claim to be followers of Jesus? Has there been a book of Acts type of effect where the whole city was filled with the doctrine of Christ?
2. At least in the South where I currently live, there are hundreds if not thousands of Churches who name Jesus Christ as the head of the Church. How many of these Churches were birthed by heaven?... or by the will of man?
3. If Jesus has called the Church to be a house of prayer, then why are prayer meetings usually the least attended meeting by people of God (if there is even one taking place in the local assembly)?
4. If Africa is now supposed be the most Christianized continent in the world, then why does mass poverty and disease exist in nations where millions claim conversion?
5. If Jesus performed most of his miracles in the public, why do believers no longer demonstrate the Kingdom on a regular basis in the marketplace?

6. If the purpose of the five-fold ministry is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, then why does the average believer sitting in our Churches not know how to lead someone to Christ or pray for the sick?
7. If Jesus commanded us to disciple nations, then what efforts are being made to disciple nations by the people of God?

I realize that many of these questions are “loaded” questions whose answers and implications cannot be unpacked in one article or even a book, for that matter. My experience as a minister of the gospel is many other leaders are also wrestling with these and similar types of questions. I believe we are wrestling with these types of questions because reformation is on God’s heart in this hour. I am an advocate of change, not just for the purpose of change, but rather because it is on God’s agenda in this hour. We are in need of reformation because our potential is unlimited, but we limit our ability as the body of Christ if we fail to transition with heaven’s agenda. To conclude this article, I want to offer four practical steps that I believe are keys to entering into reformation. I certainly do not offer this list as exhaustive but rather qualitative.

**Key #1- Repentance-** If we are going to practically move into a reformation, then we must recognize our need for repentance. In the natural, if I do not know I am sick, it is unlikely that I will not go see a doctor. The same is true I believe, in entering into reformation. If we do not recognize our need for reformation, we will not recognize our need for repentance. As a minister of the gospel, I believe repentance begins with those who God has given authority to lead the Church. We need to repent for accepting a standard less than what God has intended, or for simply accepting the current status as the “way things are and should always be.” One of the meanings of repentance in the original language is to change our thought process. I believe as we

repent, God wants to release revelation that will change the thought process of the Church. A change in our thought process begins with repentance.

**Key Verses:**

**Matthew 4:17 (New King James Version) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

**Matthew 13:11 (New King James Version) He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."**

**Key #2 Structure-** Repentance in the body of Christ will open the door wide open for us receive revelation on how to shift the current structure of the Church to receive the new wine that God wants to pour out in this Hour. God cannot and will not pour out his Spirit into a structure that cannot handle the grace he wants to release in this hour. I believe God is transitioning the body of Christ to a "new" type of Church government that is lead by Apostles (I wrote extensively on characteristics of Apostles in article two). This structure can only be put into place as we gaze upon Jesus the chief cornerstone of the Church (Ephesians 2:20). While this structure appears to be new to us, it is actually the standard that God has always intended for the Church. While I am advocating a change in the Church government then one that currently dominates the western church landscape, I do not think there is a perfect system of Church government or apostolic networks. As an advocate of change, I am also aware that many denominations were begun by forerunners (or had roots in a forerunner) who advocated change and never intended a denominational Church structure as it currently exists. What I am advocating is a system of Church governance led by Apostles and Prophets that as we seek the Holy Spirit for revelation, will allow us to become more effective and fruitful in this hour.

**Key Verses:**

**Mark 2:22 (New King James Version)** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins.”

**1 Corinthians 12:27-28 (New King James Version)** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

**Key # 3 The Message-** It was John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus, who preached the message of the Kingdom. It was Jesus who the Apostle Paul in the book of Colossians, called the express image of the invisible God who preached the message of the Kingdom. It was also Jesus who, before he ascended to heaven, talked with His disciples about things concerning the Kingdom. It is also the message of the Kingdom that we too must study, (ask God for revelation concerning his Kingdom), and preach and demonstrate. The body of Christ cannot limit our offer to a fallen humanity to simply a God who forgives sin and one day will allow you to enter into eternity with Him. A partial message of simple salvation has caused us in the body of Christ to have partial results. While the message of salvation must always be the door to the Kingdom, it cannot become the Kingdom itself. We can no longer assess success in ministry by how many people have signed decision cards, but rather by how people are entering into a life in the Kingdom here and affecting the world around them.

**Key Verses:**

**Matthew 3:1-2 (New King James Version)** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

**Acts 1:3 (New King James Version)** to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

**Key #4 Purpose-** As we move into this transition that the Holy Spirit desires from the body of Christ, I believe the Holy Spirit wants to highlight the importance of the leaders in the

Church equipping people for the work of the ministry. I believe He wants leaders to emphasize that each person in the body of Christ is equally called. A young lady called by God to teach in the public school is equally as called as a another young man who feels called to the underground Church in China. As equally called sent ones from God there must be a concentrated effort to equip these people for the work of the ministry. We as leaders must not only equip people for ministry, but we must also create and put people into environments where people can hear the call of God on their lives directly from heaven (much like Hannah placed Samuel in the temple where he had revelation of his prophetic call). God will honor us with an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we make the transition to the structure He desires for us. This end time move of God will be a move of the saints, and nameless and faceless generation as has been declared many times over.

**Key Verses:**

**Ephesians 1:4-5 (New King James Version) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,**

**Ephesians 4:11-13 (New King James Version) And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**