

# PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

## ARE THERE MODERN DAY APOSTLES?

The answer to the question that serves as the title for this article is, “*Absolutely not!*” We’ll see why in just a moment.

However, let’s quickly note that many in the “religious” world are very confused about just who is, and who is not, an apostle (in the sense of an official office or position). For example, read carefully the following words offered up by “Pastor” Jim Feeney: “*Should we identify and recognize apostles and prophets today? Certainly! My prayer is that once more in the 21st century, as in the first century, the Church will return to the clear pattern of Scripture. May the body of Christ once again grow and thrive as we open our hearts to the God-given ministries of modern day, 21st-century apostles and prophets.*”

Mr. Feeney, and anyone who shares his belief concerning apostles, is off-base biblically. Way off-base! Here’s why: when one examines the scriptural data regarding apostles it’s clear that there are certain prerequisites which must be met before one can rightfully be deemed an apostle (in the official sense). Read the scriptures below, and then note said prerequisites.

*Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)... But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:1, 11-12).* The point? To be deemed an apostle, one must have been taught personally by Jesus. There is not one modern day “apostle” who can claim such in that today God communicates with us through His written word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

*Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection... And he said, the God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? (Acts 1:22; 22:14; 1 Cor. 9:1).* The point? To be deemed an apostle, one must have seen the risen Lord with his own eyes. Although modern day “apostles” may claim to have seen Jesus in a vision and received heavenly instructions, their words conflict with scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

*And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach... And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles... But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel (Mk 3:13-14; Lk.6:13; Acts 9:15).* The point? To be deemed an apostle, one must have been personally selected and commissioned by deity. If we are to be content to stick with scripture, then it is clear that deity only ever commissioned fourteen apostles: the original twelve, Matthias (Acts 1:26), and Saul of Tarsus (1 Cor. 15:8-9).

*Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover... Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds (Mk. 16:14-18; 2 Cor. 12:12).* The point? To be deemed an apostle, one had to be able to perform miracles. Can modern day “apostles” do miracles like we read about in scripture? If so, let them come to the cemetery with me, and there put some lightening with their thunder (cf. Acts 20:9-10).

*Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money... And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied (Acts 8:14-18; 19:6).* The point? To be deemed an apostle, the ability to endow others with miraculous powers is a must. Can modern day “apostles” do so? If so, let them prove it.