



Who Needs a Pastor?

by Lois Taucher

I have discovered that the more I love and commit to the purpose of the Church, the more I'm able to be an effective part of what Jesus wants to do today in the earth. This is true for every believer. In fact, I've come to believe that if something begins to interfere with a Christian's commitment to the Church — specifically, to his or her *local* church — that person can be assured that it isn't God.

During Shekinah Glory's 31 years of ministry, we have always made one thing very clear when we minister: We are not pastors, nor do we want to pastor those on our mailing list. Our role as ministry gifts is to serve and assist the pastor in his or her crucial calling in the Body of Christ.

The understanding of this truth will not only bring increase, but it will also bring *healthy fruit* to any itinerant ministry. Some traveling ministers and television ministers don't want to hear that. In fact, there are some ministers on television who actually give the impression that the purposes of God would be accomplished if people sent their tithe to them. But if congregations started giving their tithes to other ministries besides their own church, it would greatly diminish what God would be able to do through the local church.

As Christians, we all need our spiritual influences to be more than television ministry and reality shows.

It is the local church that brings a living, breathing, moving Jesus into our own lives and to the streets of our neighborhoods every day.

As much as one might enjoy the ministry of a favorite teacher or televangelist, there is no traveling or television ministry that can fulfill the unique, tangible role the pastor plays in the life of each believer. Pastoring is not an occupation; it's the office God has chosen a man or woman to stand in that serves to execute and fulfill the calling God has placed on the local church for our generation.

What Is God Doing in Our Generation? (Do You Know What Time It Is?)

I've actually heard people make statements like, "God is finished with the Church" or "He has moved out of the Church." Those types of statements hurt and anger me. To say that God is finished with the Church is one of the most ungodly, devilish things we can ever hear. Jesus lived, died, rose again, and is coming back for the Church!

The word "church" in some form is used 114 times in the New Testament. Ninety of these references denote a local assembly within the Church. In other words, if you read through the New Testament, especially the book of Acts, you will see that every missionary journey was undertaken for the purpose of establishing, strengthening, sustaining, and continuing



Lois Taucher

Lois Taucher is a long-time friend of Denise and me. We have known Lois, her husband Ray, and Cindy Duvall — the three members of the group Shekinah Glory — for approximately 24 years, and we can personally testify that they are among the most sincere, passionate, and committed Christian leaders we have ever known. Lois has become a tremendous teacher of the Word of God and burns with a passion to see the Church of Jesus Christ move upward into her glorious call for these last days. I am thankful for Lois's contribution to this issue of IMPART, and I believe she has something wonderful to impart to your heart today.

— Rick Renner

the local church. For example, every person who accompanied the apostle Paul on a missionary journey was a part of and was known by the local church.

World evangelism is the vision of the local church — and God designed true evangelism not only to begin in the church but also to *end* in the church. If an evangelist never connects with a local church, his big evangelistic meeting is going to hinder, not help, the plan of God because it's going to cause people to be scattered. This is evident in Matthew 9:36 (NKJV), where the Bible associates *scattering* with *having no shepherd or pastor*.

But when He [Jesus] saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

We don't want people to scatter! We want to *gather* them to the local church to be nurtured and cared for as they grow up in Christ.

The Roles of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, and Teacher in Relation to the Pastor

It's very important what other ministry gifts say about the local church. If you are called as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, or teacher, you must be careful not to diminish the local church by implying that you or others don't need it. If you desire God's anointing upon you so you can stand effectively in your place, you must understand what your place is and what your place is *not*. You are not the shepherd of the sheep, and you must be careful never to discount or undermine the man or woman who is called of God to fulfill that responsibility and assignment.

The Purpose of Each Ministry Gift Begins and Ends With the Church

When other ministry gifts leave the impression that people don't need the local church, it causes a great hindrance to the work of God. Ministers who say that people don't need a local church are implying that people don't need a pastor. However, without a pastor, all the fruit produced by the other ministry gifts cannot and will not be sustained.

If people don't find a strong local church to nurture the things of God they receive through the apostle, prophet, evangelist, and teacher, the devil will make sure that the revelation they received — and their commitment to act on it — doesn't take root and grow. The seed will lie dormant, producing no fruit. As a result, a person in this situation will experience

a growing hardness to the things of God where there once was a tender heart. He or she will grow cold and become more difficult to reach the next time around.

But God has anointed *the local church* to ensure that this doesn't happen — and that includes the *pastor*!

In his book *He Gave Gifts Unto Men*, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin said this about the pastor of a local church:

There are two primary organizations or institutions that God has put His approval on. Number one, the home and family. He instituted that first. And number two, the Church... People are always asking me: "What is God doing today?" as if God is going to do something new every day... One of the main things that God is doing today is emphasizing the local church. But that's not new! It might be new to you...but it's not new. God has always put His blessing, approval, and emphasis on the local church. But because some of these things have gotten out of balance, He is re-emphasizing the local church to let us know it is a priority with Him."¹

Jesus Chose the Vehicle of the Church To Execute His Strategic Plan

God is not finished with the Church! He is doing something great and wonderful today in the earth, and He's doing it *through* the Church! Ephesians 3:20,21 (AMP) makes this important truth clear.

Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams] — To Him be glory IN THE CHURCH and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

When you have a revelation of who you are in Christ, it will *always* lead you to a revelation of the Church. The Church is where Jesus Christ is today. He is standing in the midst of the Church with all His fire and all the brightness of His glory that He received when He conquered death, hell, and the grave (*see* Revelation 1:13; 2:1).

The first time the word “church” appears in the New Testament is in Matthew 16, where Jesus gives a clear understanding of why He was here and what He would accomplish through His death, burial, and resurrection. In this passage, Jesus asks His disciples, “...Who do you say that I am?” (v. 15). And with a revelation straight from God, Peter answers Him and says: “...You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (v. 16 *NKJV*). Jesus responds to Peter, saying, “...‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven’” (v. 17 *NKJV*).

The Church Age: A New Day and Time

When Jesus died and rose from the grave, a new day and time began. In Matthew 16, He reveals to us what the witness of our day would be of all that He is and all that He did through His death, burial, and resurrection. That “witness” today is the Church and the innumerable company of believers who corporately make up the Church.

After Jesus said to Peter, “...Blessed are you...for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven,” He went on to tell His disciple, “...I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church...” (v. 18 *NKJV*).

In *The Message*, verses 17 and 18 read: “...‘My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I’m going to tell you who you are, *really* are....’”

Receiving a revelation of Christ as the Head of the Church was what Peter was created for — it’s what *every* Christian was created for! When Jesus revealed to Peter who Peter really was in light of his acceptance of Jesus’ divinity and lordship, the Savior was also revealing the identity of every person who would ever be a member of His Body, the Church!

With Peter’s identity came purpose. Jesus said to him, “...I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18 *NKJV*). Jesus was saying, “*On this revelation of who I am and who you are in Me, I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!*”

The Glorious, Victorious Church

The word “prevail” means *victorious*. In other words, before you as a believer ever face a battle, you *have* the victory. You *are* victorious. Consequently, you don’t

fight *for* the victory; you fight *with* the victory already given to you through Jesus’ resurrection power!

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a *victorious* Church. We’re not trying to get victory — Jesus already got it for us!

The Church is the divine instrument of God’s strategic plan for this hour. When nations go dark, it’s not because the world — the people outside the Church — refuse to move with God. Rather, it’s because the people *inside* the Church refuse to do so.

The glory of God is in the Church to resist and restrain the working of the evil one, whose whole purpose is to fill this earth with darkness so that no man can see and no man can believe. But the Bible says it is the glory of God, “*Christ in you*,” that gives hope to the world and fills it with light. And that light will shine through and penetrate the darkness (*see* Colossians 1:27).

Timing Is Everything

God wants strong local churches today that are flowing in the ways of the Holy Spirit. If we fail to focus on what God is doing today through the local church, we’re going to wake up one day older and tired — and, much worse, we’re going to miss the move of God for our time.

The enemy cannot stop what God wants to do through His Church. *The Church cannot be stopped!* But the enemy *can* stop believers from being a part if they don’t understand what time it is. Just ask the squirrel that was hit in the middle of the road. If he could talk, he’d tell you, “*Timing is everything!*”

Set Apart for Purpose

In *The New Testament: A Translation by William Barclay*, there is a section entitled “New Testament Words” in which the word “church” is defined as a *gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place*. That is the secular meaning, which was the common understanding of the Greek word *ecclesia* (church).

The local church isn’t a building; it is a group of people contained in a building that has been set apart for a particular purpose: so a local body of believers can gather together for corporate worship and to be supernaturally sustained and changed by the Word and the Spirit of God. That purpose is the reason why the atmosphere in a church can powerfully affect the way someone responds to the Lord in a way not often

seen in a coffee shop or library. Atmosphere most certainly affects a person's response to God.

Hebrews 10:25 (*NKJV*) says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." I believe that the physical assembling of believers as the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in these last days is integral to His Second Coming. Just as John the Baptist was given a mandate from Heaven to prepare the way for the first coming of the Lord, the Church, through the new birth, has been given the mandate from Heaven to prepare the way for His return.

Does Everyone Really Need a Pastor?

The strength of every generation is dependent on the strength of the local church. It's not about what the world is doing; rather, it is most important what the people of God are doing. This is the mandate of the Church — to shine victoriously as a light in a dark place, holding forth the Word of life (Philippian 2:16).

If you desire to fulfill this mandate, don't let *anyone* keep you from the place to which God has called you — whether it is your place and calling in His Body, or your place and calling in your local church!

We must each hearken to the divine call to take our place in these last days, for we are greater together than we are alone. We must also refuse to allow the enemy to deceive us into thinking that the local church is yesterday's news. Despite the constant bombardment of opinion and information that tells us otherwise, *all* believers need a pastor to help steady and strengthen them in the faith as they do their part to prepare for Christ's return! ■

¹Kenneth E. Hagin, *He Gave Gifts Unto Men* (Tulsa: Faith Library Publications, 1991), p. 208.

PROFILE

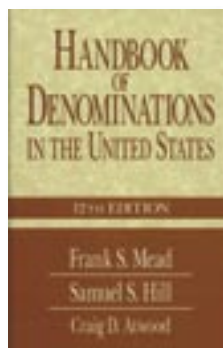
■ **Lois Taucher** is a member of the group Shekinah Glory, an evangelistic music and teaching ministry based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her inspired teaching of the Word of God has brought insight and revelation to congregations around the world for nearly 30 years. The hallmark of her teaching is a sharp focus on the importance of individual believers' commitment to the local church. Shekinah Glory's most recent efforts have been centered in France, where the group hosts an annual Ministers' Conference, strengthening and encouraging pastors and ministers from all across Europe.

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