

MOUNT PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH IMPACT BIBLE STUDY

1017 Ray Road,

Jacksonville, Arkansas 72076

From the lesson: "SPIRITUAL GIFT OF ADMINISTRATION"

Update on the difference between an Apostle and a Prophet:

In our studies on Thursday evening, there was confusion on the difference between an Apostle and a Prophet – on my part. Hopefully, this should provide a clear meeting.

The terms "apostle" and "Prophet" have distinct meanings and roles, particularly within Christian contexts, though they can also appear in other religious traditions. Here's a breakdown of the differences:

Apostle:

1. **Definition:** An apostle is generally understood to be a messenger or one who is sent out. In Christianity, the term is often associated with the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus Christ, who were sent to spread his teachings.
2. **Role:** Apostles are seen as foundational leaders in the early Church. They are responsible for establishing churches, teaching doctrine, and providing guidance to believers. They often had a direct relationship with Jesus and were witnesses to his resurrection.
3. **Authority:** Apostles are often viewed as having a unique authority to teach and govern the Church. In some denominations, the apostolic succession is considered important, meaning that later church leaders are seen as continuing the authority of the original apostles.
4. **Scriptural Basis:** The role of apostles is primarily outlined in the New Testament, particularly in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles.

Prophet:

1. **Definition:** A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God, delivering messages, warnings, or revelations. Prophets can be found in various religious traditions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

2. **Role:** In Christianity, prophets are often seen as individuals who receive divine inspiration to communicate God's will to the people. This can include foretelling future events, calling for repentance, or providing guidance.

3. **Authority:** While prophets are respected for their spiritual insight, their authority can vary. In some traditions, they may not have the same governing authority as apostles, but their messages are considered important for spiritual guidance.

4. **Scriptural Basis:** The role of prophets is found throughout the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, where figures like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel are prominent. In the New Testament, the gift of prophecy is mentioned in the context of spiritual gifts.

Summary:

- Apostles are primarily seen as foundational leaders and messengers of the Church, often with a direct connection to Jesus.
- Prophets are individuals who convey God's messages and guidance, often through inspiration or revelation.

Both roles are significant, contributing to the spiritual life and governance of the faith community.

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