

Why the Church Doesn't Work

And what needs to be done.

The Earthen Vessel

As the body of Christ, we organize to accomplish our shared objectives. The act of organizing produces a wineskin that ages. We have a hybrid: an aging organization that houses an ageless organism.

Our wineskins are aging! Many churches are in bureaucracy.

<p>Infancy An apostolic act-a new work planted. Outward focus – make disciples. People begin to work together.</p>	<p>Adolescence Other leaders begin to emerge and take various roles. Growth is good and strong.</p>	<p>Prime Is an unstable phase. The focus shifts back and forth from multiplying ministries to getting them organized.</p>	<p>Early Bureaucracy All seems balanced and in control, there is growth, order and mature leadership.</p>	<p>Late Bureaucracy Growth has all but stopped. Leaders and followers feel frustration - that things are 'stuck'.</p>
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To counter the aging wineskin problem

This is counter intuitive – the era where ‘how we organize to do it’ (form) and ‘doing the work’ (function) balance is the early stage of death. What reverses the trend is one thing: Authentic Transformational Leadership. This person leads the organization back into the somewhat chaotic state of prime where the organization expands their ministry and works hard to ‘catch up’. The scripture calls this type of leader: Apostle.

Note, the early church devoted themselves to fellowship, prayer, the breaking of bread and the Apostle’s teaching. The apostles were about planting new works. These are the new wineskins that Jesus spoke of. Without new wineskins, there will be no new wine.

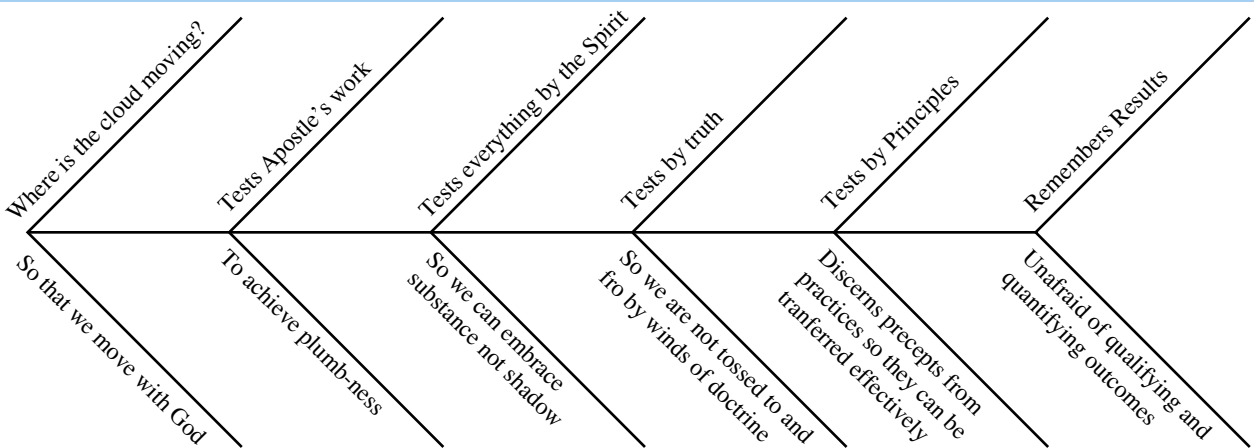
Key Issue:

Most Churches are led by Pastors who are inwardly focused on ‘feeding the sheep.’

Most Churches are not lead by Apostles who are outwardly focused on starting new works and restructuring and expanding existing works.

The Prophetic Ministry

CASE EFFECT



Do you function in the gift or are you an equipper?

	Gift	As an Equipper, equips others...
Apostle	Plants/Grows and Restructures ministries	To start, grow and restructure ministries
Prophet	Sees the cloud move, test with the truth	To hear God’s voice and test with the plumb-line of truth
Evangelist	Calls people to salvation	Equips the body to witness effectively
Pastor	Provides care and oversight	Stirs body to love in action
Teacher	Breaks down complex truths into simple concepts	Prepares men and women to teach what is good