

A Biblical Checklist for Testing Apostolic Claims

A prayerful, Scripture-centered guide for examining a minister's words, actions, character, and fruit—without rushing to accusation or being impressed by a title.

“I know your works, your labor, your patience... And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars.”

REVELATION 2:2 (NKJV)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Pray for wisdom. Compare teaching and conduct with Scripture. Seek mature counsel. Observe patterns over time. We evaluate words and actions; God alone judges the heart.

1 CHRIST, TRUTH & THE MESSAGE

Do they love the Lord Jesus and His presence? Does their teaching agree with God's Word and proclaim Christ's gospel and kingdom? Who receives the glory—Jesus or the minister?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Ephesians 4:15; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

2 CALLING, SENDING & CONFIRMATION

How were they called and sent? Is the assignment, people, or jurisdiction clear? Has the call been recognized by proven leaders—and does its long-term fruit confirm their testimony?

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11; Acts 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:14

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

3 CHARACTER, HUMILITY & MOTIVE

Does their life display the fruit of the Spirit, humility, teachability, and openness to correction? Watch for persistent greed, self-exaltation, power-seeking, manipulation, or habitual sin.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-20; Galatians 5:19-23; Jude 11

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

4 FRUIT THAT REMAINS

What follows their ministry over time? Are people equipped, leaders matured, churches strengthened, new works established, and communities served? Look beyond crowds and short-term excitement.

SCRIPTURE: John 15:16; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

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☐ CONCERN

5 SIGNS, WONDERS & OBEDIENCE

Do signs point people back to God's Word and encourage faithful action? Signs may accompany an apostolic ministry, but manifestations alone cannot prove a claim or excuse corrupt fruit.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:17-20; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:12

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

Look for a consistent pattern—not a performance.

No single item should be isolated from the whole. Biblical discernment considers calling, character, message, function, relationships, and enduring fruit together.

6 SPIRITUAL STRATEGY & ARCHITECTURE

Do they receive plans aligned with the Father's purpose? Is there wisdom and discipline to move revelation into action, lay sound foundations, establish order, and produce measurable results?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; Ephesians 2:20; Ephesians 3:10

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

7 TEAMWORK, EQUIPPING & SENDING

Do they collaborate with other leaders, especially apostles and prophets? Do they recognize gifts, equip people, and position others to fulfill their assignments—or build a ministry centered on themselves?

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; Acts 14:21-23

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

8 STEWARDSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Is the altar they oversee free from greed, coercion, manipulation, and habitual sin? Are people and resources stewarded well? Is there credible accountability and transparency?

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 11:7-15; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 Timothy 3:1-7

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

9 APOSTOLIC CAREER & ENDURANCE

What does their ministry history reveal? Can you identify completed assignments and long-term fruit? How do they respond to hardship, opposition, failure, delay, and setbacks?

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

10 COURAGE, CORRECTION & RESTORATION

Do they love and speak truth, demonstrate courage, and confront sin with restoration in view? Are they themselves humble enough to receive correction and make things right?

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:15; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

☐ CLEAR EVIDENCE

☐ NEEDS TIME

☐ CONCERN

RESPOND WITH WISDOM

● RECEIVE

A consistent biblical pattern is evident. Receive the gift with appropriate honor and accountability.

● WAIT & TEST

Immaturity or incomplete evidence does not automatically mean false. Continue to observe, verify, and seek counsel.

● DO NOT ENDORSE

Persistent deceit, exploitation, idolatry, corrupt fruit, or rejection of correction requires protective boundaries and mature oversight.



Go deeper than a checklist.

God's Strategic Servant Leaders expands these questions into a biblical and experiential framework for recognizing genuine apostolic ministry.

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