

SPIRITUAL GIFTS – PART TWO

The Fivefold Ministry

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant...

1 Corinthians 12:1

Spiritual gifts, are the supernatural graces or endowments which individual believers, as well as the Corporate Church, need to fulfil the mission of the Church. These are gifts from God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, Himself.

Diversities of Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1. The Gifts of the Spirit
2. The Fivefold Ministry
3. The Ministerial Gifts

THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

Ephesians 4:7-16 (NLT)

“However, He has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. That is why the Scriptures say, “When He ascended to the heights, He led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to His people.” Notice that it says “He ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. And the same One who descended is the One who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that He might fill the entire universe with Himself. Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

As Christ ascended on high, He released the following gifts to the Church:

1. Apostles
2. Prophets

3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

The Fivefold ministry, unlike the Gifts of the Spirit, are actual offices bestowed upon men and women, who have been chosen and appointed by Christ to represent Him. – *Mark 3: 13-19*

Origin of the Fivefold Ministry

The fivefold offices are first and foremost held by Christ, who holds the title of Chief of them all.

1. **Chief Apostle:** Jesus was the 'Sent One' who came from heaven to earth. Jesus is the Chief Apostle of the Church.

John 4:34

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work."

John 8:29

"And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

Hebrews 3:1

"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession"

2. **Chief Prophet:**

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."

John 4:19 – *"The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet."*

John 6:14

After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

- *Matthew 21:11; Luke 7:16; Luke 24:19; John 7:40; John 9:17*

3. **Chief Evangelist:** Jesus is the ultimate soul winner. For three and half years, Jesus went about evangelising – preaching and proclaiming the Gospel.

Luke 19:10 – *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

Matthew 4:23

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

Luke 8:1

"Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him"

- Luke 9:6; Luke 20:1

4. **Chief Shepherd or Pastor.** Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of the Church. He said so Himself. His love, care, compassion, care and protection of His sheep is unparalleled.

Isaiah 40:11

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

John 10:11 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

John 14:14-15

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."

5. **Chief Teacher:** Jesus Christ was known as the Teacher. He taught with great knowledge, wisdom and authority,

Matthew 23:8-10

"But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ."

Matthew 7:28-29

"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

The fivefold office of Apostle-Prophet-Evangelist-Pastor-Teacher IS, first and foremost, held and occupied by Christ, and released by Him to the Church through men and women as spiritual gifts.

- When Christ ascended, He sovereignly bestowed His fivefold office/ministry on men and women, chosen, appointed and ordained by Him, according to His own will and pleasure.
- These men and women would manifest the specific aspect of Christ's fivefold office/ministry bestowed on them, for the benefit of the Church.
- Therefore, the individual offices do not work solely on their own or in isolation, as they are all part of a whole. The fivefold office/ministry must work in synergy to fulfil Christ's purpose for the Church.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY GIFTS

Ephesians 4:12-16 (NKJV)

"For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit

together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1. To equip God's people to do the work of ministry. Ministry simply means to serve God and do His work. – Every believer must be equipped to do the work of ministry, that is, to serve God. No one must be idle in the Church. Every believer is a minister
2. To edify and build up the church, the Body of Christ. This is done through discipleship

When the fivefold ministry work in synergy to edify and build up the Church, and the saints are properly taught, equipped and trained, the following will be the outcome:

- a. Unity of faith - We all come to such unity in our faith.

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

6. Jesus prayed for this in John 17

- b. Knowledge of God's Son – to know Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Not a casual knowledge of His name, but to encounter Him, and know by the Word and Spirit, His person, nature, will, plans and purposes. – *Philippians 3:8-11*;

Ephesians 1:17

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him"

- c. Mature and grow to a perfect man. Christ is the only perfect Man. The saints will grow and mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. We will become more and more like Christ, partaking in His, nature, essence, power and glory. This will happen and continue as we grow to know Him more and more.

2 Peter 1:1-4

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

- d. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. We will not easily be deceived.
- e. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the Church.
- f. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

The Apostle

An Apostle is one who is set apart, ordained and consecrated and sent to represent Jesus Christ in a generation, community or geographical location. The Apostle receives a direct revelation of Jesus Christ as very God and very Man. That revelation totally changes his or her world.

Role of the Apostle

1. Apostles are primarily called to Christ, to be with Him, know Him, know His mind and will, and and represent Him to the people. (*Mark 3:13-19; Acts 22:14-15; Exodus 3:7-10*)
2. The Apostle is primarily a personal representative of Jesus Christ, vested with a measure of His authority. To do this successfully, the apostle receives a personal revelation of Jesus Christ as God and man.
3. The Apostle is 'Sent' by Christ to represent Him by faithfully proclaiming the true gospel of the Kingdom of God. He/she could be sent to a geographical location, a city congregation, local assembly or a people group, to faithfully deliver the message of the Lord.
4. Apostles carry a governing grace – and exert a greater dimension of the authority of Jesus Christ when they appear in locations where they are sent to.
5. Apostles lay foundation to the work of the Lord, ensure that the Church is built and operated according to the Master plan of Jesus Christ.
6. They also apply the plumb line and draw the standard to the work of the Lord in territories they are assigned to ensure purity of the word, doctrines and practices and bring correction where necessary. True apostles hate lukewarm-ness and shallowness in the saints and Body.
7. Face and endure hardship and the challenges that accompany the office, and carries a burden in line with the size of the assignment. – *2 Corinth 11:23-28*
8. Sign and wonders often follow the apostolic office.

The Prophet

A prophet is a person elected by God to be a vessel for declaring His mind to the saints and their generation. The New Testament prophet is different from the Old Testament prophet.

The Role of the Prophet

1. The New Testament Prophet is called by Jesus Christ as personal representative to ensure that the Church is shown the way forward in its walk with Him.
2. In effect, the prophet is a conduit or mouth piece through whom Jesus speaks to His Church
3. Prophets reveal God's heart to His people, giving guidance to individuals and the body, giving revelation, as well as often interpretation, application and timing.
4. Keep the saints on the path of holiness.

Apostolic and Prophetic Foundation

Ephesians 2:19-22

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the

apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

The Evangelist

An evangelist carries a great burden for those who are lost, who have not yet entered the kingdom of God, as well as a special grace and anointing to preach the gospel to them. Their preaching comes with great conviction and draws many to the Lord. They have a special grace and ability to bring in the harvest more than any other member of the five fold. They will often have signs and wonders following them to confirm their message.

The Role of the Evangelist

1. To carry Christ's burden for the lost.
2. To preach the Gospel of the Kingdom
3. To create converts
4. Teach and equip the believer and Church to reach out to the unsaved

The Pastor or Shepherd

The Pastor is one who is called by Jesus Christ and vested with the authority to feed and care for the flock committed to his trust. He or she is, in effect, a shepherd that leads the flock to find pasture. The pastor is the heart of the church. He is a shepherd who deeply cares for his sheep, ready to lay down everything for them.

Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, taught a lot about the sheep and shepherding the sheep, giving us a great example of what a pastor should look like.

Role of the Pastor/Shepherd

1. To raise and care for the church - to feed, nurture and grow the saints.
2. The pastor's greatest concern is always the well-being of his sheep and his body, not only bringing training, but correction and protection where necessary.
3. To equip the saints and to develop their giftings and step into the calling of God for them.
4. To act as the bridge between the different offices and functions, listening to all sides and restoring calm and order where necessary.

1 Peter 5:1-4

“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

The Teacher

A teacher is an individual vested by Christ with the gift and capacity to gain a deep understanding of the Word of God. A teacher carries the anointing and capacity to rightly divide and present the

truths within the scriptures to saints in such a way that they are able to hear, understand, learn, do and become transformed into the image of Christ

The Role of the Teacher

1. To teach, edify and disciple the church
2. To illuminate scripture and reveal hidden truths to the believer and Church. This creates a hunger for the Word of God.
3. To impart not just the letter but also the Spirit of the word to the believer.
4. To show the way for the saints to walk and be established in the Word
5. To make clear the principles of God and show how they are for our good. Good teaching should show clearly the way God wants His people to go
6. To bring transformation in the life of the believer through sound teaching

Finally, To help you remember...

1. Apostles GOVERN
2. Prophets GUIDE
3. Evangelist GATHER
4. Pastors GUARD
5. Teachers GROUND

“If a medical doctor, examined the physiology of the Body of Christ, the Ministry Gift of “apostles” might be compared to the skeletal/muscular system of the Body because they provide structure and strength – the Ministry Gift of “prophets” would be like the nervous system of the Body for they are a direct line of communication from the Head, revealing the mind of Christ, stimulating activity in line with God’s revealed will – the Ministry Gift of “evangelists” would correspond to the digestive system of the Body because they take food from outside the body and transform and incorporate it into being a living part of the Body – taking those outside of the Body and facilitates their entrance into the Body of Christ by the Gospel – the Ministry Gift of “pastor” and “teacher” correspond to the circulatory and immune systems of the Body because their role is to feed and nourish the cells, and to be on guard against infections, in order to help keep the Body functioning with full health, vitality and strength.”