

THE FIVE MINISTRY

GIFTS OF

EPHESIANS 4:11

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers” Ephesians 4:11.

In the context of **verses 7-10** we see that Christ Jesus, *“When He ascended on high ... gave gifts to men”* (Eph.4:8).

It is Christ who gave the gifts of:

- ❖ **Apostle**
- ❖ **Prophet**
- ❖ **Evangelist**
- ❖ **Pastor**
- ❖ **Teacher**

These ministry gifts were given *“for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* (Eph.4:12).

And these ministry gifts are to function in the body *“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”* (Eph.4:13).

Each of the ministry gifts has a specific work to do to bring the church to maturity – a fully functioning body *“joined and knit together”, every joint and every part doing its share to cause growth of the body* (Eph.4:16).

1. APOSTLE

- Jesus called and trained apostles

Luke 6:13 Jesus *“called His disciples to Himself, and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles”*. {see also Matt.10:1-4 & Mark 3:13-19}.

- God has set apostles in the body
1 Corinthians 12:28 *“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles”*. The apostle is to bring the revelation of the word.

- Apostles [along with prophets] are foundation ministries
Ephesians 2:20 *“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone”*. The apostles are a foundation ministry to bring the revelation of who Jesus is.

- Apostles make known the mysteries of Christ
Paul says in **Eph.3:3** *“that by revelation He [Christ] made known to me the mystery”*.
Eph.3:4 *“by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”*.

This mystery has *“now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”* (Eph.3:5).

- The ministry of the apostle is to set the church in order

Paul instructs Titus to *“set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city”* (Titus 1:5). In **Acts 14:23** the apostles Paul and Barnabas *“appointed elders in every*

church”. This is an apostolic work - to set the church on the right foundations.

2. PROPHET

- Prophets help to lay foundations
“Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” Eph.2:20. The prophet along with the apostles is to lay the foundation of the church, by bringing the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Prophets bring revelation of the mystery
The revelation of the mystery which has *“now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”* Eph.3:5. Prophets are anointed to know the mystery, and to have revelation of the mystery by the Spirit.

- Appointed in the church by God
“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets ...” 1Cor12:28. The prophet brings understanding of the word.

- Prophets exhort and strengthen
Acts 15:32 *“Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words”*.

- Agabus, an example of a prophet functioning
“Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout the world which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar” Acts 11:28. Agabus, the prophet was foretelling the future.

- **Prophets are sent**

Acts 11:27, "And in those days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch".

Prophets need to be sent from an established base.

3. **EVANGELIST**

In **Acts 21:8** Philip, who was one of the seven deacons appointed in **Acts 6:3-5**, is called an evangelist. By looking at the ministry of Philip, we get a good picture of the ministry of an evangelist.

- **The evangelist has a preaching ministry**
Acts 8:5 "Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them"

Acts 8:12 Philip "preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ".

- **The result of the evangelist preaching the gospel is that people believe and are baptised**

Acts 8:12 when the people "*believed Philip ... both men and women were baptised*".

- **The ministry of the evangelist is accompanied by signs and wonders**

Acts 8:6-7 the multitudes who heard Philip preaching were also "*seeing the miracles which he did*" – there was deliverance and healing.

- **The evangelist obeys the voice of God**

Acts 8:26 "An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip" giving him instructions of where he was to go. **V.29 "Then the Spirit said to Philip ..."**

Philip was following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- **The evangelist is able to preach Jesus from the Scriptures**

Acts 8:32-35 Philip was able to preach Jesus from the Old Testament Scriptures in such a way that the eunuch wanted to be baptised.

4. **PASTOR**

In **Acts 20:28**, Paul is speaking to the elders in Ephesus and says, "*Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God*".

Again in **1 Peter 5:2** Peter is speaking to elders saying, "*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers*".

- **The ministry of the pastor is to 'shepherd the flock'**

In **John 21:15-17**, Jesus is speaking to Peter and gives him a pastoral commission: "*feed My lambs*" "*tend My sheep*" "*feed My sheep*".

'Lambs' are as babes who need the "*pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*" (1Pet.2:2).

'Sheep' need "*solid food*" which is for "*those who are full age*" (Heb.5:14).

- **The ministry of the pastor is to nurture new believers by feeding them the milk of the word, and to disciple believers so that they can grow.**

Psalm 23:1-3 gives a picture of the ministry of the Good Shepherd: to **tend** and **care for** the

sheep; to **lead** and **guide** the sheep and to bring **healing** and **restoration** to the sheep

- **This is the ministry of the pastor.**

5. **TEACHER**

- **The teacher is a gift ministry set in the body by God**

"God has appointed these in the church ... third teachers". The teachers are essential to bring the knowledge of the word that has come through the apostles and prophets.

- **The teacher is to teach the faith [what we believe] and the truth [the word]**

Paul said of himself in **1 Tim.2:7** that he had been appointed "*a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth*".

In **Acts 11:26** we see that Barnabas and Saul/Paul for a whole year "*assembled with the church and taught a great many people*", laying a good foundation of discipleship in the church.

- **The ministry of the teacher is to teach the word precept upon precept, line upon line (Isaiah 28:10 & 13).**

It is the ministry we read of in **Nehemiah 8:8** where the word was being read "*distinctly from the book*" and the Levites "*gave the sense and helped [the people] to understand the reading*"

When all the five gifts are restored and released to do the work of the ministry, then the body will grow to maturity

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