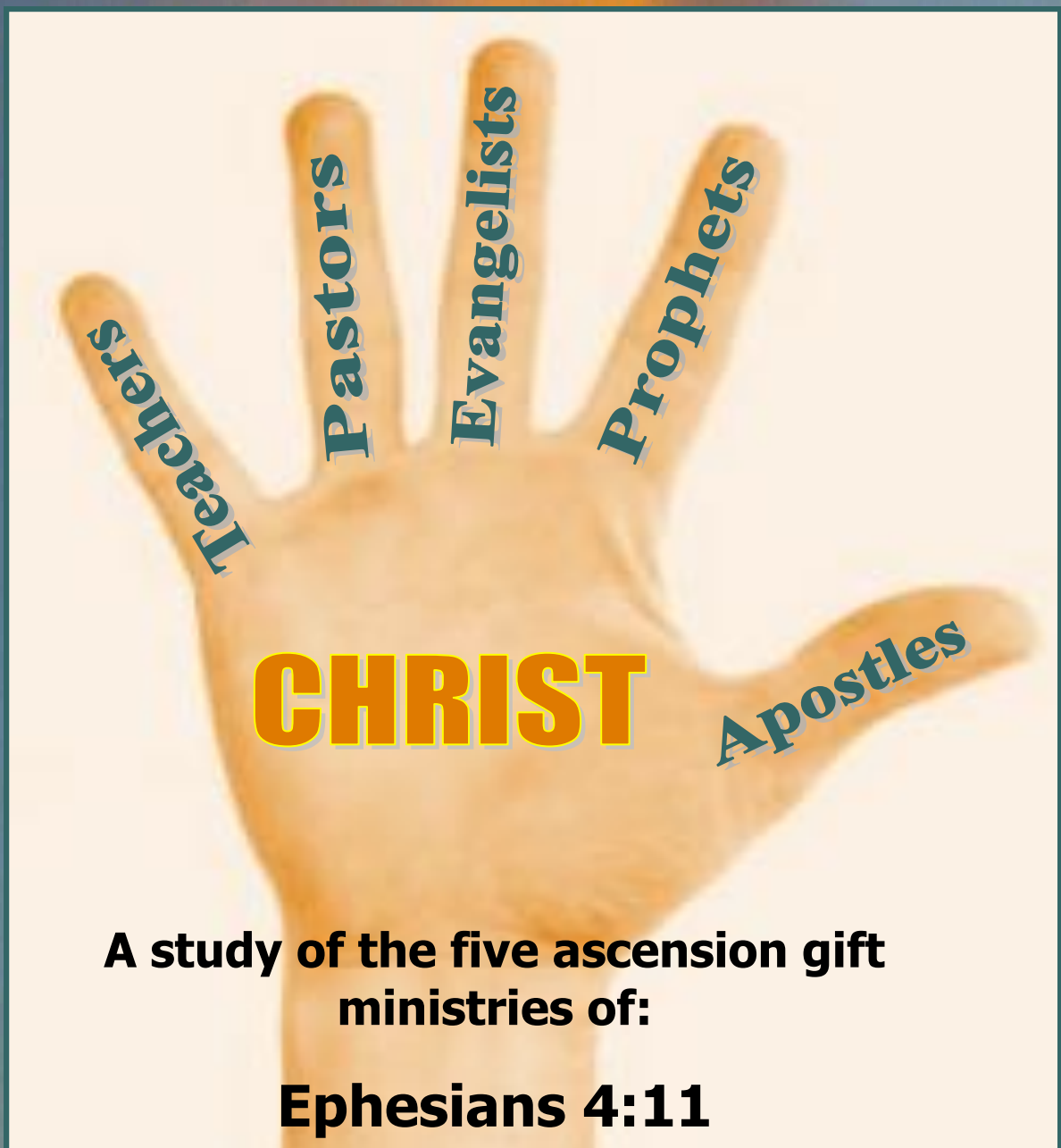


And He Himself gave Some to be.....



**Apostle Paul Galligan
REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA**

And He Himself gave Some to be...

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INTRODUCTION

**And He Gave Some to
be Apostles,
some Prophets,
some Evangelists,
and some Pastors
and Teachers.**

And He Himself gave Some to be...

AND HE GAVE SOME TO BE APOSTLES, SOME PROPHETS, SOME EVANGELISTS, AND SOME PASTORS AND TEACHERS ...

THE GOAL IS A PERFECT CHURCH

Jesus Christ is preparing for Himself a glorious church, one without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, a holy church without blemish (**Eph.5:27**).

He is preparing this church by sanctifying and cleansing her with the washing of the water of the word (**Eph.5:26**).

This is the church that has grown up into maturity (**Eph.4:11-16**).

This is the church that has gone on to perfection (**Heb.6:1-3**). We go on to perfection [maturity] *“if God permits”*. God expects us to have strong foundations.

This church is represented by the five wise virgins in **Matthew 25:1-13**. This glorious church is fully anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit; her lamps are burning brightly in a dark world given over to the anti-Christ.

This is the church that understands the mystery of the Body of Christ (**Eph.3:6**), that is made up of Jew and Gentile together as joint heirs (**Eph.2:14-16**).

This is the church that receives the deeper wisdom of God (**1Cor.2:6-10**); that has received the *“mind of Christ”* (**1Cor.2:16**).

There is much teaching in the Scripture on the mature church, the church that is to grow up into perfection, because that is God’s goal for us.

JESUS CHRIST GAVE EVERYTHING FOR HIS CHURCH

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, went through the humiliation of being incarnate as a man, *“making Himself of no reputation”*, and suffering death, *“even death on a cross”* (**Phil.2:7-8**), in order to gain for Himself the church. He is the Saviour of the body (**Eph.5:23**). Furthermore, *“He descended into the lower parts of the earth”* (**Eph.4:8-10**) [into hell itself **1Pet.3:18-19**] and then ascended on high, taking captivity captive. Through His descension and ascension, Jesus gained an awesome cosmic victory that changed history forever and as a result of His redemptive work He was able to deliver to His church the **fivefold ministry gift of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher**. Without these gifts the church could not be brought to maturity and perfection. The role of the fivefold ministry gift is manifold in producing the mature body of 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.”* (**Eph.4:16**)

That is the mature body that the LORD is bringing forth in the earth, and He is doing it by releasing the gift of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher.

GOD IS BUILDING A CHURCH

Jesus said in **Matt.16:18** *“... I will build My church ...”* God is building a house or a temple, to put it in Old Testament terms. The temple is made up of living stones; we are being built into a spiritual house for God to indwell, in which we as priests offer up spiritual sacrifices to God, (**1 Pet.2:5**). The building is being built on the foundation of firstly apostles then prophets (**Eph.2:20**, & **1Cor.12:28**) These are foundational ministries, often working behind the scenes. Without the apostles and

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prophets the building will not be built. It is the '*apostles doctrine*' that the church is to devote itself to (**Acts 2:42**).

The apostle lays the foundation, oversees the building and brings it to completion.

ZERUBBABEL IS A TYPE OF THE APOSTLE

Zechariah Chapter 4

To understand the ministry of the apostle we need to look at the ministry of Zerubbabel who was the governor of Jerusalem and was charged with building the temple of God, at the time of restoration after the Babylonian exile.

v.9 *"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple."* Zerubbabel had laid a foundation so he is a type of the apostle. The verse goes on to say *"His hands shall also finish it, then you will know that the LORD of host has sent Me to you."*

This is speaking of the ministry of the apostle. When God raises up an apostle, He gives to that apostle the master plan. Paul says of himself that he was the master builder (**1Cor.3:10**); that he had been given by God the plans to build the church. Paul reveals many of those plans for us in the book of **Ephesians**.

BUILT BY THE SPIRIT'S POWER

v.6 Gives the interpretation of the vision that the LORD had shown Zerubbabel, *"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel; not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."* This is the word of the LORD to the man who is charged with the job of rebuilding the temple. The work can only be done through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The word of the LORD to Zerubbabel is, 'it is not by human strength or might; it is not by human power or politics'. **It is by the Holy Spirit, by revelation, by the anointing of God that this church will be built.**

BUILT BY GRACE

Zerubbabel has been charged by God, through the prophet Haggai and the prophet Zechariah, to build the house of God. This is the builder, the apostle who is to lay the foundation, to build the walls and to bring forth the capstone with shouts of *"grace, grace to it!"* It is built by grace through faith not of works lest any man should boast, it is the gift of God, (**Eph.2:8-9**) and it is the gift of the apostle to whom God reveals the master plan of how to build the church of God in these last days.

BUILT BY FAITH

v. 7 *"Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!"*

The word of God says to Zerubbabel, 'before you the mountain will become a plain'. This prophecy also shows that the apostle has the authority to deal with all opposition to God's purposes (**2Cor.10:3-6**).

Isa.40:4 speaking of the coming ministry of John the Baptist says *"Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low,"* to make straight the way of the LORD.

Jesus said in **Mark 11:23** *"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."* Have the faith of God and you will move mountains. That is the faith that will build the church.

JESUS IS THE APOSTLE OF GOD, BUILDING THE CHURCH

The hands of the one who laid the foundation of the temple will complete it.

Jesus Christ is the one who has laid the foundation of this temple!

Jesus Christ is the one who is going to finish the work!

How is Jesus building the church?

Through apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, that He has given **Eph.4:11**.

When it is complete everyone will say, *‘truly this is the church of the living God’*. *‘Look at this awesome, worldwide church, that has been raised up out of every nation, out of every tribe and tongue, every people group.’*

v.10 “For who has despised the day of small things?”

The work has to start with foundations, with small things! The Welsh revival of 1904-5 faltered largely due to the lack of trained workers. A vital part of the ministry of the apostle currently is to raise up workers for the harvest.

For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.”

The ‘seven’ represent the Holy Spirit. **Revelation 5:6** tells us that the seven eyes are the seven spirits of God. Jesus is the anointed one who received the Holy Spirit without measure. The Holy Spirit of God rejoices to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. A plumb line is used to check the straightness of a wall. It is something to measure up to. We are to measure up to the Word of God. The plumb line is the Word of God in the hands of Zerubbabel, the apostle. The last days church is to measure up to the Word of God. When the people of God allow themselves to be judged by the Word, and line up with the Scripture, and not fall short of the glory of God any longer through sin, then the Holy Spirit rejoices and the anointing increases.

THE PROPHET

The **Prophet** works along side the apostle, strengthening the foundations, keeping the church on track. The ministry of the prophet is to guide the church on to perfection. The prophet brings revelation of the Word of God to the church. When the ministry of the apostle and the prophet are raised up and working together, the church has a strong foundation.

THE EVANGELIST

The **Evangelist** goes out into the quarry of the world to dig out some new rocks, to make suitable building stones for the walls of the church. The evangelist is the first public ministry. His ministry is an above ground ministry. He digs out living stones that get born again, and he brings them back to the church. The walls of the church are called walls of salvation. The evangelist preaches salvation and souls get saved, and then they become built into the walls of the temple.

THE PASTOR

The **Pastor** takes the new stones and begins to shape them and polish them and fit them together. The first important ministry of the pastor is to nurture the new believers, laying the foundations of the faith. The basic ministry of the pastor is to tend and to feed the flock. He brings restoration to them. **Ps.23:1 “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”** The pastor gives the new Christian the provision of God’s Word and God’s love. **V.2 “He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He**

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leads me beside the still waters.” The pastor feeds the new sheep with fresh food; he provides a safe place for the new believers, where they can begin to grow and be nurtured. Their souls are restored.

THE TEACHER

The **Teacher** takes hold of these young Christians that have been nurtured by the pastor and grounds them in the Word of God. He begins to disciple them. The teacher’s ministry is to teach the Word *‘precept upon precept, line upon line,’* (Is.28:10). The teacher feeds the Word to the nurtured Christian so that the young disciple graduates to the solid food, encouraging them to go on onto maturity as they are grounded in the Word. Then they are ready for the apostle to come along and show them how to become a minister. These ones who have been disciplined in the Word are now ready for training and equipping. A whole new generation of ministry can be raised up, a new generation of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

SUMMARY

The apostle and the prophet lay the foundation: a strong foundation in the Word of God. On that basis **the evangelist is strengthened to go out into the world and preach salvation and many souls are saved.** He knows he can bring them back to a strong, properly founded church, where there is a team of **pastors and elders to nurture all these new Christians and to feed them the ‘milk of the word’.** Then **the teacher comes in and begins to ground them in the word of God, discipling them** by building on the foundations. Then they go on to be trained and equipped so they can begin to teach others, to move in the anointing, and minister the power of God to others.

CHAPTER 1:

The fivefold Ministry Gift In the Book of Acts.

THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY GIFT IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GOD IS BUILDING A HOUSE OF GLORY

Eph.2:19-22 The saints are citizens of the household of God, built on the foundation of apostles & prophets. Foundations are the part of the building that is underground, not seen. A house without a good foundation will fall. Jesus Christ himself is the **chief cornerstone, the One who holds everything together, the One upon whom the walls are built!** It is He who authorises the apostles and prophets to minister. The evangelist, pastor and teacher are 'above ground' ministries, building on the foundation. Jesus is also the capstone of the building, i.e., the one who holds everything in place. (compare with **Zech.4:7**)

The book of **Haggai** [who was a restoration prophet after the exile of Judah in Babylon] speaks of the **glory of the latter temple being greater than the former (Hag.2:9)**. The latter temple is going to be filled with his glory. Prophetic interpretation suggests that the **former house is the church of the book of Acts**. God is building a house that will stand in these last days. This last days church, the house of the Lord, will be more glorious than the church of the book of Acts. All that was manifest in the Book of Acts in terms of gifts and ministries is to be restored. There is no revelation outside of the Word of God; rather **a restoration of what is spoken of in the Word of God (Acts 3:19-21)**.

We are studying the Book of Acts to see the release and development of the fivefold ministry in the early church and to understand the restoration of the fivefold ministry today.

THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE LAMB

Acts1:16-26 the choosing of a replacement for Judas. There were **twelve apostles of the Lamb**; Judas was a traitor and it was necessary to replace him.

Acts1:21-22 speak of the necessary qualifications to be an apostle of the Lamb. **One who had been with Jesus from the time of His baptism by John until the resurrection and ascension.** Only two men qualified and Matthias was chosen. These are the only apostles of the Lamb (**Rev.21:14**). Other apostles mentioned through the book of Acts are ascension gift ministry apostles.

The twelve apostles of the Lamb were the founding apostles of the early church, appointed by the Lord during His earthly ministry and the names of these twelve

are on the foundations of the walls of the holy city (Rev.21:14).

Other apostles are appointed by the Holy Spirit (Acts13:2-3 & 1Cor.12:28) and receive the ascension gift ministry of apostleship (Eph.4:7-12).

Acts 2:14 the apostles worked as a **team** [Jesus had trained them in team ministry]. Peter stood up with the eleven and spoke on behalf of them.

Acts2:42 the **apostles' doctrine was taught from house to house**; apostles going to house meetings to share the teachings of Jesus.

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Acts 6:4 The apostles declare the priorities of apostolic ministry: *“prayer and the ministry of the word”*.

PHILIP AN EVANGELIST

Acts 7 records the trial and death of Stephen, the **first martyr**.

Acts 8:1 The result of Stephen’s death was persecution of the church which resulted in the Jewish Christians being scattered. They *“went everywhere preaching the word”* (v.4) They were **an apostolic people!** So the church spread out from Jerusalem throughout Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8:4-8 Philip went to preach in Samaria; he was an **evangelist**. He was also a miracle worker. People were healed and delivered as Philip ministered. In **Acts 21:8** Philip is called an evangelist, but his ministry started here in Samaria. He went about preaching Christ, with signs and wonders and many were saved.

Acts 8:14 The apostles heard what was happening in Samaria and sent Peter and John. The new believers had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:17 The apostles laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The apostles released the impartation of the Holy Spirit. The apostles came down to help found the new church. The evangelist is not called to build the church but to win the lost.

Acts 8:26 Philip was called by the Lord to leave the revival and go to preach to one man.

Acts 8:36-38 Philip the evangelist led the eunuch to the Lord and baptised him. [remember

Mk. 16:15-16]

Acts 8:40 Philip again moved on, preaching in all the cities he came to. He had an itinerant ministry as an evangelist.

Acts 21:8 Philip is now known as the evangelist.

APOSTOLIC DELEGATE [compare with Titus in Titus 1:5]

Acts 11:22 Barnabas was sent out from Jerusalem.

Acts 11:24 He was a man full of the Holy Spirit, and of faith. He went and sought Saul and brought him to Antioch. Barnabas is an **apostolic delegate**: he is sent on a mission by the apostles but he is not an apostle yet.

PROPHETS

Acts 11:27 **Prophets** came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Prophets were an established ministry in the church by this time: they came from the Jerusalem church to the church at Antioch. They were received by the church at Antioch.

Acts 11:28 Agabus the prophet had visions; he was *‘shown by the Spirit’*, what would happen. What he said came to pass. [This is the sign of a true prophet, **Deut. 18:21-22**].

ELDERS: ARE THEY PASTORS?

In **Acts 11:30** we find the first mention of **elders**.

What is the ministry of the elder?

All ascension gift ministers can function as elders, as Peter says he is an elder, though he is also an apostle (**1 Pet. 5:1**). However a case can be made from Scripture that

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elders are specifically pastors, exercising oversight, and shepherding the people of God.

Acts 20:28, *“take heed ... to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God.”*

Paul was speaking to the elders from Ephesus.

1Pet. 5:2 *“shepherding [feed in KJV] the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers”*. Peter is speaking to elders!

Therefore it is clear that elders are pastors. Both Paul and Peter clearly address elders as pastors.

TEACHERS

Acts 13:1 Teachers are mentioned along with prophets in the church at Antioch.

This is the first mention of the ascension gift **teacher**; a leadership ministry of the church, along with prophets. It appears that the eldership at Antioch included prophets and teachers.

ASCENSION GIFT APOSTLES

In **Acts 13**, there is the ordination of Saul and Barnabas to be sent out as apostles. These two men are clearly not apostles of the Lamb; they are the first men to receive the ascension gift ministry of apostle, after the original twelve.

Acts 13:2 the Holy Spirit spoke to them and told them to lay hands on Saul and Barnabas and send them out as **apostles**. The prophets and teachers spend time in prayer and fasting, ministering to the LORD, then **the Holy Spirit spoke to them**.

2 Tim. 1:11 Paul saw himself as a **preacher [evangelist], apostle and teacher**.

(every 5 fold ministry gift needs a strong foundation in the Word of God; soundness of doctrine is the first qualification).

Acts 14:4&14 Paul and Barnabas are referred to as apostles. They had been commissioned by prophets and teachers, and they had been sent out by the Holy Spirit.

Paul and Barnabas are **ordained as apostles according to the word of the Holy Spirit. They receive the ascension gift ministry of apostleship (Eph. 4:11)**

APOSTLES and ELDERS

Acts 15:6 The Jerusalem church now has apostles and elders coming together to consider an issue. It is not clear from Scripture if elders are necessarily ascension gift ministers but it is clear that they have governmental leadership roles in the church. We have already made a case for elders to actually be the pastors, unless the elders are exercising another ascension gift ministry. The elders functioning in the Antiochan church were prophets and teachers (**Acts 13:1-4**).

Acts 15:22 Judas and Silas were chosen as *“leading men among the brethren”*;

Acts 15:32 *“themselves being prophets”*; they were among the **“apostles and elders”** who gathered for the council meeting; it is clear that **they were elders**, but also prophets.

Acts 15:13 James, the brother of Jesus, is a **leading elder of this church**. As an apostle (**Gal. 1:19**), he **speaks up with authority in a matter of faith and practice**. James has the word of judgement/discernment. Perhaps in this situation, James is an apostle serving in a ‘senior’ pastor or chief elder role in the mother church in

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Jerusalem. **James is speaking with the authority of an apostle** in matters of faith [interpreting the scriptures] and practice.

**IN THE BOOK OF ACTS THERE ARE CLEARLY APOSTLES,
PROPHETS, TEACHERS, AN EVANGELIST, AND PASTORS
[i.e. some of the elders].**

THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY GIFT IS OPERATING

PROPHETS SENT WITH APOSTLES

Acts15:27 the apostles and elders sent “Judas and Silas”, with Paul and Barnabas.

v.32 “*Judas and Silas, themselves being **prophets, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words**”.*

Acts 15:36 Paul decides to **revisit every city** where he had previously preached the gospel.

v.37-39 There was a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over Mark’s involvement.

v.40 Paul chose to take Silas, a prophet, with him.

An **apostle and a prophet team up to minister** to the churches.

THE APOSTOLIC TEAM

TIMOTHY GOES ON TEAM

Acts16:1-3 Paul chooses to take a young Timothy on team; “*he was well spoken of by the*

brethren”. The apostolic team is growing!

v.5 Evangelism is happening as the apostles and prophets go back to encourage.

The **church was increasing in numbers daily**.

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts16:6-7 The apostolic team is led by the Holy Spirit.

v.9-10 Paul is obedient to the “*vision*” received and makes their travel plans accordingly.

FROM PRAYER MEETING TO HOUSECHURCH

Acts 16:15 The church in Philippi emerged out of a **prayer meeting** (v.13) and was **founded in a home**, by Paul the apostle and his team.

TEAM MINISTRY

Acts20:4 Paul, the apostle, was accompanied by a team as he travelled.

PAUL IN CORINTH TEACHES

Acts18:3 The apostle Paul was prepared to work at his secular trade at times.

v.4 Paul went to the local synagogue first but was often rejected, although some
believed.

v.7 Paul withdrew from the synagogue and ministered in a **friendly house** –
“*many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptised*”.

v.11 “*And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God*

among them”. Paul exercised a **teaching ministry**.

THE APOSTOLIC TEACHING CENTRE

In Ephesus, the apostle Paul founded the church on right foundations; then he established an apostolic teaching centre from where revival spread throughout the province of Asia.

Acts19:1-7 Laying the foundations (**Heb.6:1-2**) of the church of Jesus Christ.

v.9-10 Establishing a teaching centre; teaching daily in this centre; the result being *“that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks”*.

v.11 *“Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul”*.

v.12-17 Evil spirits were driven out;

v.19 many *“who had practised magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all”*.

v.20 *“So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”*

All who dwelt in Asia heard the Word! There is a **pattern of apostolic ministry** here that we need to heed! Paul did not leave the city but taught daily in the school of Tyrannus. Preachers [evangelists] and other ministers went out from the apostolic training school doing the work of the ministry.

SOME SIGNS OF AN APOSTLE

Acts20:7&11 Paul sometimes spoke at length! As an apostle Paul taught and testified at

length, building up the churches at every opportunity in the Word of God.

v.8-10 Eutychus is raised to life! Mighty signs and wonders accompany apostles (**Acts2:43**)

Acts28:3-6 *“they will take up serpents”*(**Mk.16:18**); Paul is unharmed when bitten by a viper!

v.7-8 *“Paul laid his hands on him and healed him”; “they shall lay hands on the sick and they will recover”, Mark16:18.*

FOLLOW-UP, CARING FOR THE CHURCHES

Acts 20:17: Paul sent for the elders in the church at Ephesus; he had appointed elders there.

V.20: Paul had a teaching school through the day at Ephesus and ministered from house to house in the evening.

v.27 Apostles are to **declare the “whole counsel of God”**.

v.28 Paul speaks to the elders of the church in Ephesus. *“Take heed to yourselves and to the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God.”* (A.V. ‘to feed the church of God’). He is speaking to the pastors.

VARIOUS GIFTS AND MINISTRIES OPERATING IN THE CHURCH

Acts21:8 Paul and the team stay with Philip the **evangelist**.

v.9 Philip's daughters "*prophesied*"; **gift of prophecy**.

v.10 Agabus the **prophet** visited from Judea.

v.18 **all the elders** with James were present. James was an apostle, but his apostleship is as the leader of a large mother church in Jerusalem, and history records that James had a strong influence on the religious Jews of his day. He was martyred by the Jewish leaders for his faith.

JESUS SAID HIS APOSTLES WOULD TESTIFY BEFORE COUNCILS, SYNAGOGUES, GOVERNORS AND KINGS (Mt.10:17-20)

Acts22:1-21 Paul bears witness to the Jewish crowd in Jerusalem.

Acts23:1-10 Paul bears witness before the council.

Acts24:10-21 Paul bears witness before the governor.

Acts26:1-23 Paul's defence before the king.

*"I was not disobedient to **the heavenly vision**"*

Acts27:23 Paul is **visited by an angel from God**; the ship's personnel were to be kept

safe! **It is a supernatural calling and gifting!**

THE APOSTLE CONTINUES TO PREACH AND TEACH

Acts28:30-31 Paul, "*preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ*".

CONCLUSION

In this study we have briefly followed the Scriptural development of the five-fold ministry in the book of **Acts**, and have seen all the ministries released and functioning.

CHAPTER 2:

Ministry Gift

of the

Apostle

MINISTRY GIFT OF THE APOSTLE

APOSTLE means a “sent one”, a special delegate, one commissioned for a particular task or role, one sent forth with a message. The key to apostolic ministry is that God calls the apostle, raises that person up, generally after many years of training and preparation, and sends the person to do the work of an apostle.

Three features of an Apostle:

1. ***‘One who has had a visible encounter with the resurrected Christ.’***
What does that mean? Paul the apostle never saw Jesus in the flesh but he had a visible encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Damascus. Likewise Stephen the first martyr had a visible encounter of the Lord as he was being stoned. My testimony is that the apostolic calling needs to be based on a very clear encounter with the LORD, as there is much contending against this ministry.
2. ***‘One who plants churches.’*** The apostle is the church builder.
3. ***‘One who functions in the ministry with signs, wonders and miracles.’***
Every ascension gift ministry can expect to function with signs and wonders. The calling of the apostle should be confirmed by the Lord in this way, specifically. **Acts 2:43** “... *many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.*”
2Cor.12:12 “*Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.*”
{The three quotations are from the word wealth in the Spirit Filled Life Bible p.1738; the extra comments are mine.}

The Lord calls people by name to be apostles

Apostles are empowered by the Lord to cast out evil spirits and to heal

Apostles are sent by the Lord to specific people groups

THE CALLING OF APOSTLES

In **Matt. 10** we read of the calling of the first apostles by the Lord Jesus Christ. The first calling we all receive is the call to follow Jesus; **then comes the appointment to a specific ministry**. Out of many who were following Jesus, God called the twelve to be apostles.

Mt.10:1 “*When He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.*” The signs of the apostle given by Jesus are power over unclean spirits and the ability to cast them out, and the ability to heal the sick.

In **Matt. 10: 2-4** Jesus names the ones who are to be His apostles. **He called them by name**. They were chosen by Jesus after a night spent in prayer talking to His Father. (**Lu. 6:12–16**)

v.5-6 the **apostles are sent out by the Lord**. He gave them specific instructions: to which people group they were to go, and where they were not to go.

v.7-8 speaks of what the apostles are to do. They are to “... *preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.*”

And He Himself gave Some to be...

Mt. 10:9-15 how to conduct the ministry. They were sent out by the Lord and were obedient to His instructions.

Apostles will be persecuted for the conduct of apostolic ministry

v.16-20 Persecution will come when people step out into a full on ministry for the Lord, even from family. The apostles were to expect persecution but not to fear it because the Holy Spirit would tell them what they were to say (**v.19-20**).

v.27-31 The apostle is to be **prepared to lay down his life**.

v.32-33 The is called to **confess Christ before men**; if you do this Jesus has promised to confess your name before the Father.

v.34-39 this will bring division and cause strife. *'He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me'* (**v.38**).

He who receives an apostle receives the Lord

Mt. 10:40-42 There are rewards for those who receive an apostle. Jesus said [speaking to the apostles] *"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."* If you receive an apostle you receive the Lord (**v.40**). The Lord says this about no one else!

TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE LAMB

The apostles had been with Jesus for some time before He named them. They had already had some training with Jesus. He knew them. **Rev. 21:14** In the New Jerusalem the walls of the city are built on the foundations of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb. The walls are made up of living stones, (**1 Pet.2:5**)

There are only 12 apostles of the Lamb. In **Acts 1:15-26** we read of a replacement being chosen for Judas; the qualifications for that replacement: **one who had been with Jesus from the day of His baptism with John to the day of His ascension (21-22).**

There had to be 12 apostles of the Lamb.

The church is built on the foundations of the apostle. **Eph.2:20**, *"Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone."* The apostles, both the twelve and those who are given as ascension gift ministries, are foundational ministries upon which the apostolic church of the Lord Jesus Christ is built.

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Matt.16:18-19. Jesus gives to the apostle Peter the keys of the kingdom.

Peter uses the keys:

In Jerusalem - Acts 2:17-41 Peter was the one chosen by God to stand up with the 11 and preach on the Day of Pentecost with the result that 3000 Jewish men were released into the kingdom. On that day Peter used the keys to open the door to the kingdom of heaven to those 3000 Jewish people.

In Samaria - Acts 8:14-17 After Phillip had preached in Samaria as a successful evangelist with signs and wonders, men and women alike had believed and been baptised, but had not received the Holy Spirit. The church in Jerusalem sent Peter and John, the two leading apostles, who laid hands on them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Peter fulfilled his commission by using the keys to open up the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Samaria.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

In Caesarea – Acts 10:30-46 Peter went to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile, to share the gospel and using the keys of preaching about Jesus, released the Holy Spirit to them. Then he baptised them in water. Peter opened the kingdom of God to the Gentiles.

Peter is used as a foundational apostle in three specific ways in the book of Acts to fulfill the Great Commission (**Acts 1:8**).

Paul, the apostle, has the same keys Peter had and used them.

Paul was given the keys firstly when Ananias was sent to heal him, see him filled with the Holy Spirit and baptised in water. **Acts 9:15-16** we read the commission given to Paul by Jesus through Ananias, *“he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel”*. When Ananias laid hands on Paul, he released to him the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

In **Acts 13:1-4** Paul is sent out as an apostle by the Holy Spirit to do the ministry work of the apostle. Before that he is called a teacher. He is already recognised as having the ascension gift ministry of Teacher. The church met together *‘ministered to the Lord and fasted,’* then the Holy Spirit spoke to them *“Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”*. The other prophets and teachers then laid hands on them and sent them out.

In **Acts 14:1-4** Paul and Barnabas begin to minister as apostles, preaching and teaching to Jews and Gentiles alike, winning new converts and experiencing strong opposition. In **v.3** we read that the Lord was *“bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”* Signs and wonders follow the apostle!

In **Acts 19:1-7** we see Paul using the keys of the kingdom of heaven to plant the church in Ephesus.

How did Paul use the keys in Ephesus?

- 1. He preached Jesus to them.**
- 2. They were baptised in the name of Jesus.**
- 3. They received the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and prophesied.**

These twelve men became the foundation stones of the church in Ephesus.

APOSTLES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 2:38 *‘Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”’* Here we see Peter using the keys: calling people to repent, be baptised in the Name of Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-15 *‘Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.’*

The apostle is used to release the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:15-16 *‘But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”’*

Paul the apostle was called and commissioned by Jesus.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

Acts 10:1-44 Peter was sent by the Lord to the house of Cornelius, to Gentile believers. He preached Jesus to them, the Holy Spirit fell and he baptised the believers.

Peter the apostle is founding the church.

Acts 13:4 *'So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit ...'* **It is the Holy Spirit who anoints and sends.** Paul and Barnabas are sent out to do the ministry work of apostles.

Acts 14:21-23 *'And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.'*

Apostles plant churches, they strengthen the church, appoint and commission elders [pastors]. They are able to discern those who are to be raised up into leadership.

Acts 18:1-8 Paul visits Corinth and we see apostolic work happening: **the church is being raised up, the work of evangelism is being done and the word of God is being taught.** This was the foundation of a strong church being raised up in Corinth which moved in signs and wonders.

Acts 19:1-7 In Ephesus, foundations are being laid in individual lives and the church is being planted. **The church in Ephesus grew into a strong apostolic and evangelistic church with all the gift ministries operating.**

MINISTRY OF AN APOSTLE:

1. Apostles are called by name and are sent by the Lord to go forth.

Mark 3:13-19

v.13, Jesus went up on the mountain and *'called to Him those He wanted'.*

v.14-15, *'He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons'.*

Acts 13:1-4 the Holy Spirit identified Saul and Barnabas to be set apart and sent out.

2. Apostles are used to plant churches and lay foundations.

In **Acts 2**, Peter the apostle lays foundations on the day of Pentecost when he tells people that they are to *'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'*

In **Acts 8** the apostles Peter and John are sent to Samaria where Phillip has been preaching. They prayed for the new believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit, (**v.15**).

v.17 *'Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.'* The foundations are being laid.

Acts 10 records Peter speaking in the house of Cornelius. He preaches Jesus to the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit comes and Peter commands them to be baptized. The church is planted.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

In **Acts 19:1-7** the apostle Paul is used to establish the church in Ephesus. The disciples are baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Paul *'laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied'* (v.6).

3. Apostles are given power by Jesus to heal, cleanse, raise the dead and cast out demons. In **Matthew** Jesus sends out the twelve and commands them in v.8 to *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons."*

This is repeated in **Mk. 3:15**, where Jesus gave the apostles *"power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons"*. This is part of the great commission given to the apostles before Jesus ascended into heaven, **Mk. 16:17-18** *"And these signs will follow those who believe in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."*

Apostles preach the gospel with signs and wonders: **Rom. 15:18-19**, Paul is writing to the church in Rome, *"For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ"*.

A gospel without power is not a gospel at all!

2 Cor.12:12 *"Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds."*

4. Apostles are used by God to release the Holy Spirit. In **Acts 8** Phillip went down to Samaria and preached Christ to the people. Many responded, believed and were baptised. v14-17 *"Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."*

In **Acts 10** Peter preaches to the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius. v 44 *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word."*

In **Acts 19** Paul came to Ephesus and met a group of disciples and asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit. They replied *'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit'* (v.2). Paul opened up the Scripture to them and then he *'laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied'* (v.6).

5. Apostles have authority from Jesus to bind and to loose.

Matt.16:19 *'And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and what ever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven'.*

Matt.28:18 *'And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth'.*

Jesus imparted His authority to his apostles, **Luke 10:19** *'Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'*

And He Himself gave Some to be...

6. Apostles are called to prayer and ministry of the word.

In **Acts 6:1-4** a dispute arose between the Hebrews and the Hellenists (Greek speaking Jews) over daily distribution to the widows. The apostles decided to appoint seven men who would oversee these needs.

v2-4 ‘*Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”*’

7. Apostles exercise administrative oversight, raising others up to do the work of the ministry. **Acts 6:1-7** Seven others are raised up to help with the work; they are commissioned with the laying on of hands. The result of multiplying ministry: ***“the word of God spread, the number of the disciples multiplied greatly.”***

8. The ministry of the Apostle includes pastoring, feeding and tending, shepherding the flock. Peter the apostle was commissioned by Jesus to the pastoral ministry.

Jn. 21:15-17 Jesus instructed Peter to ***“Feed My lambs”, “Tend My sheep”,*** and again to ***“Feed My sheep”***.

9. Apostles are to minister publicly and from house to house.

Acts 2:42-47 The early church was taught the ***‘apostles doctrine’*** and they ***‘continued daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house’***.

In **Acts 20:20** Paul is speaking to the church at Ephesus, reminding them how he proclaimed the gospel to them and ***‘taught publicly and from house to house’***.

10. Apostles are to declare the whole counsel of God.

Paul as an apostle was able to say that he had not ***‘shunned to declare the whole counsel of God’*** (**Acts 20:27**). **Acts 2:42** speaks of the apostles doctrine which was taught in the early church. In **Hebrews 6:1-2** six foundations are listed which have to be laid before the church can go on to maturity. These foundations are: repentance from dead works, faith towards God, doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. The apostle is to call the church back to foundations, to ensure that they are properly laid. Unless foundations are properly laid, God is unable to release the greater depth of His word to believers.

James the Apostle declares the counsel of God to the council of Jerusalem. **Acts 15:6** ***‘the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter’***, then in **v13-21** he speaks the wisdom of God into the situation.

11. Apostles ordain elders.

The apostles visited churches in different cities: **Acts 14:21** then they ***‘appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed’*** (verse 23).

Paul commissioned Titus to appoint elders, Titus 1:5 ***‘For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you’***.

12. Apostles are to persevere and expect persecution and tribulation.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

Matt. 10:5-15 lists the instructions Jesus gave to the twelve before He sent them out, then in **v16-26**, Jesus warns them that persecutions are coming. In **2 Cor.11:23-28** Paul lists the sufferings he has endured as an apostle. Jesus warns in **Lu. 21:16** *'You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death'*. These warnings are repeated in **Mk.13:9-13**. Jesus was rejected and persecuted. He told His disciples, *'A servant is not greater than his master, if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you'* (**Jn.15:20**). The apostles in the early church experienced this persecution, **Acts 4:1-22**. Peter and John were arrested and put in jail, and commanded not to preach in the name of Jesus. Paul expected persecution and summed it up in **1 Cor.4:9** *'For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men'*.

13. Apostles carry concern or burden for the churches.

2 Cor.11:27-28 *"In weariness, toil, sleeplessness, hunger and thirst, often with fasting."* An apostle is like a parent watching over their children. By his letters it is apparent that Paul carried a deep burden for all the churches he had visited. **2 Cor.12:14** *'Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children'*.

14. The Apostle is prepared to give all for the souls of the saints in the churches.

The apostle Paul says to the Corinthians in **2 Cor.12:15**, *'And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved'*,

15. The Apostle does all things for edification of those in the churches.

2 Cor.12:19, *'Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But we do all things, beloved, for your edification'*.

16. Christ proves Himself mighty in the ministry of the Apostle.

2 Cor.13:3, *'since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you'*.

17. An Apostle lives and ministers by the power of God.

Paul knew he had to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor.2:1-5**, *'And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.'* Paul was dependent on the power of God that was within him, **2 Cor.13:4**, *'For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.'*

18. An Apostle knows the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit, 2 Cor.13:14.

19. The Apostle knows the weapons of warfare and is able to use them effectively.

2 Cor.10:3-6, *'For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.'*

An apostle is able to punish all disobedience.

20. Apostles are not to be compared with each other, or compare themselves with others. 2 Cor.10:12, *'For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.'*

21. Apostles know their sphere of ministry that God has appointed for them.

2 Cor.10:13, *'We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us, a sphere which especially includes you.'*

22. The Apostle facilitates the gospel going to the regions beyond.

2 Cor.10:14-16, Paul knows that he is called *'to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.'*

The Apostle is to obey the command that Jesus gave in **Matt. 28:19-20, *'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'***

23. The Apostle can be used to expose false apostles.

Paul exercised this discernment in **2 Cor.11:13, *'For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.'***

24. The Apostle is supported financially by various churches.

2 Cor.11:7-9, the apostle Paul states that he has received wages from other churches so he can preach the gospel *'free of charge'* to the church in Corinth. Apostles have a right to be supported. 1Cor.9:1-18, Paul is pointing out to the Corinthians that those who preach the gospel should be supported, just as those who render any service have a right to receive remuneration.

v13&14 *'Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel'*.

25. Apostles are also called to teach.

In the Great Commission given by Jesus (**Matt.28:20**) the apostles are commanded to ***'teach them all things that I have commanded you.'***

The apostles taught ***'the apostles doctrine'*** Acts 2:42. The apostle Paul taught in Corinth: Acts 18:11, ***'And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them,'*** in Ephesus: Acts 19:9-10, Paul ***'...reasoned daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks,'*** in Rome: Acts 28:30-31,

And He Himself gave Some to be...

'Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.'

Paul taught Timothy and instructed him to teach others, **2 Tim.2:2**, *'And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.'*

26. Apostles are sometimes abandoned.

2 Tim. 4:9-16. Paul found that there were those who forsook him, those who sought to do him harm and those who resisted him.

27. The Lord upholds His apostles.

2 Tim.4:17-18, *'But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.'*

28. Apostles must be disciplined in body/flesh.

1 Cor.9:27, *'But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself would become disqualified.'*

29. Apostles must be temperate in all things.

1 Cor.9:25, *'And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.'*

They are to exercise self-control. **Eph.5:18**, *'And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.'*

SEVEN OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APOSTLE.

{One Lord, One Faith. W.A.C.Rowe. p248-9}

1. God gives the Apostle the ability or enduement of Leadership.

Phil. 3:17 *'Brethren, join in following my, example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern'.* Paul is saying *'follow my example'*. The Apostle is to live a life that is an example to others. *'Follow me as I follow Christ.'*

2. An Apostle walks with authority.

2 Pet. 3:2 *'...that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior.'*

Peter had been given specific authority by the Lord, but that same authority is given to all apostles by the Lord. The people of God should be mindful of the words that come to them through the apostle that God sends.

3. An Apostle's life should be an exemplification of Grace.

Rom. 1:5 *'Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name.'* Grace is received through Jesus Christ.

Rom. 12:6 *'Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.'* Each one has received grace but there is a grace for the apostle to walk in and minister to the Body. The apostle's life ought to demonstrate the grace received..

And He Himself gave Some to be...

4. Comprehensiveness of Ministry in the Apostle.

1 Thess.5:23 *'Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* God is bringing the saints into this blameless perfection through the restoration of the five fold ministry. There is a comprehensiveness of ministry of the apostle to see the big picture and raise up the church.

5. An Apostle is to walk in integrity of stewardship.

Acts 2:42 *'And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine...'* Just as the law of Moses governed the life of the Old Testament church, the apostles doctrine is what governed the life of the New Testament church.

1 Thess.2:4 *'But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts'.* Apostles have been entrusted with the whole counsel of God.

6. Enablement of Administration.

2 Cor.11:28 *'...besides the other things, what comes upon me daily; my deep concern for all the churches.'* Paul the apostle has an administrative oversight for the churches. **Acts 4:35** *'...and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.'* The early church *'shared all things'*. When they wanted to give of their excess they brought it to the apostles, and sought the counsel and confirmation of the leadership as to the distribution of the gifts.

1 Cor.16:1 *'Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also.'*

Titus 1:5 *'For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.'*

2 Tim.4:10-12, Paul is exercising his oversight by giving instructions to the saints.

7. A Quality of Blending of the ministries.

Mature apostolic ministry often exhibits characteristics of all forms of other ministries. **Eph.4:11** *'And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.'*

Paul demonstrated that blending of ministry. **2Tim.2:7** *'...for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle – I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying - a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.'* Paul preached the gospel as an evangelist, he taught the Word and he ministered as an apostle.

CONCLUSION

As one reads the New Testament, looking to understand who are apostles and what they do, one finds an abundance of material. So much of the teaching of Jesus is directed to apostles. Much of Paul's writing is sharing about the ministry of the apostle. The New Testament is written by apostles or by their close co-workers as in the case of Luke. The book of Acts is the Acts of the Apostles.

The Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church, is restoring the gift ministry of the apostle in the church worldwide. The final *'setting in order of the church'* is taking place so that the Lord can release the last days revival in every nation. The river will flow, but not until the foundations are strongly and properly set, according to the Word of God and not according to denominational tradition.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

When the one hundred and twenty disciples gathered in the upper room after the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the Bible says, ***“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.” (Acts1:14)*** Out of the committed prayer Peter was led to replace Judas, the apostate apostle who had suicided by this time. Once the foundation apostles are fully in place, then the Day of Pentecost ***“fully came!”***

The Lord was setting the church in order to receive an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

And who was being set in order? Apostles, the foundation ministry of the church. The Lord is showing us that the apostles have been set in the church (**1Cor.12:28**); they are first! They are the foundation ministry upon whom all else is built. Apostles must be received, for when the church receives an apostle they receive Jesus the Messiah and in receiving Him they will receive the Father God!

The last days mighty revival is beginning to flow in some countries already.

Here in Australia it is time:

time for apostles to be set in place so that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will touch “all flesh” begins to flow (Joel 2:28);

time for the river of God that flows from the throne of God (Rev.22:1), under the threshold of the east gate (Ezek.47:1), to begin to be channeled over the foundation stones set in place by the Lord. Thus this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to every nation (**Mt.24:14**); the Gospel will be preached to every creature with signs following (**Mk.16:15-18**).

CHAPTER 3:

Ministry Gift Of the Prophet

MINISTRY GIFT OF THE PROPHET

Eph.4:11 *'And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers.'*

In this session we are looking at the ministry gift of the Prophet.

JESUS IS THE PROPHET

In **Deuteronomy 18:15&18** Moses prophesied concerning the coming prophet whom God would raise up from among the people of Israel. The LORD said to Moses, *"I will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."* **John 7:40** *"Truly Jesus is the Prophet."* John the Baptist recognised this when he spoke of Jesus in **John 3:34** *"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God."* The prophet speaks the Word of God.

Many scriptures in the New Testament speak of Jesus as a prophet: **Matt.21:11** *"So the multitudes said, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.'"*

The prophet will be recognised by the people of God. **Lu.24:19** *"So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.'"*

The prophet is recognised through signs and wonders and by the truth of the word he speaks. **Jn.4:19** *"The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive the You are a Prophet.'"*

The prophet moves in the gifts of the spirit, (**1Cor.12:8-10**).

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

Many prophets came in the Old Testament and spoke on behalf of God. The LORD spoke directly through them.

Jeremiah 1:4 *"Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying ..."*

Isaiah 6:8-9a *"Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying; 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for US?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.' And He said, 'Go, and tell this people ...'"*

The LORD spoke to the rebellious nation of Israel through the prophet Ezekiel. **Ezek.2:4** *"I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God.'"*

DEFINITION:

Prophet

Gr. *Prophetes*: one who speaks forth or openly, a proclaimer of a divine message, denoted among the Greeks an interpreter of the oracles of the gods.

In the Septuagint it is the translation of the word *'roeh'* a seer; **1Sam.9:9**, indicating that the prophet was one who had immediate intercourse with God. It also translates the word *'nabhi'*, meaning either one in whom the message from God springs forth or one to whom anything is secretly communicated. Hence, in general, the prophet was one upon whom the Spirit of God rested, **Num.11:17-29**, one to whom and through whom God speaks, **Num.12:2**; **Amos 3:7-8**. In the case of the O.T. prophets their messages were very largely the proclamation of the Divine purposes of salvation and glory to be accomplished in the future; the prophesying of the N.T. prophets was both a preaching of the Divine counsels of grace already accomplished and the fore-telling of the purposes of God in the future.

[*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words. Unabridged Edition, page 904*]

ANNA THE PROPHETESS

The first person called a prophet in the New Testament is a woman named Anna.

Luke 2:36-38 tells us Anna was a prophetess. The Scripture gives her genealogy and tribe. She is given stature and importance because she is a prophetess; she has the ministry of the prophet. The Scripture then gives more personal details about Anna's status and role: she had been a widow for some decades and had devoted herself to the service of God, **'not departing from the temple' (verse 37)**; in other words she spent all her time in the place of God's Presence, serving Him, **'with fastings and prayers night and day.'** She was focused and devoted; she knew the place of prayer and fasting in an intimate relationship; she stayed in His Presence.

Anna was an elderly lady, she had spent many decades in ministry, she was accepted as a prophetess and she spent her time in fasting and prayer in the temple, in the presence of God. **She was focused and devoted. She had an intimate relationship with God.** Through prayer and fasting she stayed close to the presence of the Lord, and **her prophetic ministry was to speak of the Lord and to speak of His redemptive purpose.** Because Anna knows the LORD, she doesn't miss the day of visitation.

v.38 'And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.' Anna spoke of the LORD; this was her prophecy, to speak of the LORD and His redemptive purpose. She gives thanks publicly as she recognises the day of visitation: she recognises the MESSIAH. She does not keep quiet but gives glory to the LORD, the God of Israel.

RESTORATION OF THE MINISTRY OF THE PROPHET

In these days God has restored the ministry of the prophet. Men and women are being raised up with a prophetic understanding of the Scriptures, teaching and preaching **"a word in season"**, opening up the Scriptures (**Luke 24:27**), and reminding God's people of **"the present truth" (2 Peter 1:12)**. This is very much what the prophet is to do in terms of the preaching ministry. The prophet opens up the Scripture with an understanding of what the present truth is.

How do we get established in 'present truth'? We get established in truth by someone continually bringing it to our attention: through preaching and teaching: through the Scriptures being opened up and we receive the revelation that 'this is what God is saying'.

WHAT IS 'PRESENT TRUTH'?

The word that is now: the word of God that is being emphasised right now. The whole Bible is God's Word, but what is He saying today? What is the Spirit saying to the church today that will cause us to overcome if we hear that word and obey it, as Jesus challenges us in the seven letters to the churches in **Rev: 2&3**? They are prophetic letters. Jesus says that if the church hears what the Spirit is saying through the letters they will be overcomers. We hear the prophetic Word of God and that is the Word we are to obey. That Word coming from the LORD right now!

The 'present truth' that God is wanting to establish us in right now is: **God is perfecting His people to contain His presence.** He is calling His people to go on into perfection.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

GOD IS RESTORING THE GIFT OF THE PROPHET!

Jeremiah 1:5 God is speaking *‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you*

were born I sanctified you, I ordained you a prophet to the nations.’

v.6 *‘Then said I, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”’*

v.7 – 8 *‘But the Lord said to me: “Do not say ‘I am a youth, for you shall go to all to*

whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,’ says the Lord.”’

v.9 – 10 *‘Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD*

said to me:

- 1) *“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.*
- 2) *See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms;*
- 3) *To root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down;*
- 4) *To build and to plant.”’*

These aspects of the prophetic ministry are being restored.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROPHETIC AND NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT WITH PROPHETIC UNDERSTANDING

2 Peter 1:19-21 *‘And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.’*

The prophetic word should agree with the Scriptures. Visions or words that people receive should always be confirmed by the Word of God. A person with the ascension ministry gift of the prophet will be able to rightly divide the word of truth prophetically.

Anna, the prophetess, **recognised the day of visitation**: we need the prophetic voice today so that we do not miss the day and times of this visitation.

Anna recognised the coming of the Messiah: we need prophets / prophetesses to speak of the LORD and His soon coming return, today.

God has raised up the ministry of the prophet for this purpose: to prepare the church for His return, and to guide the church by revelation from His word through the dark but *‘light’* days that precede His coming (*Isaiah 60:1-3*)

AGABUS THE PROPHET.

Acts 11:27-30.

v.27 *‘prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch’*

Already the ministry of the prophet is recognised in the New Testament church. The prophets came from one church (Jerusalem) to another (Antioch) – they are an accepted and recognised ministry gift to the Body of Christ. A prophet goes where God tells him to go.

v.28 Agabus is the only one specifically named. He *‘showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout the world’*. He received a vision; he was shown something. The prophet is not opening up the Scriptures here! He is

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prophesying, foretelling the future, as a warning, as something that requires a response. The prophet is able to foretell according to what the Spirit shows.

WHAT IS THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET?

Deuteronomy 18:18 – 22

1. **v.18** *'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.'*
2. God puts His words in the prophet's mouth.
v.15 *'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren, Him you shall hear.'*
3. The prophet's word is to be heeded, as the word of God Himself.
v.20 *'But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'*
4. Some prophesy presumptuously, that is, they have not heard from God, or they are inspired by another god.
v.21 – 22 *'And if you say in your heart, "How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?" When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken if presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.'*
5. What a true prophet foretells will surely come to pass; otherwise they have spoken presumptuously.

The Scripture tells us the Agabus' word was true; the famine occurred in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Acts 11:29 The disciples respond, having received the prophetic word. *'Each according to*

his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Jerusalem.'

v.30 *'This they also did'* – the word was carried, and it was sent via two elders, Barnabas

and Saul, to the elders at Jerusalem.

The prophetic ministry is a public ministry, even as the gift of prophecy is a public gift, that is, always prophesy in the midst of many witnesses, with elders present if possible, so that the prophecy can be judged, appraised and confirmed.

1 Cor.14:29 *'Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.'*

Avoid, if possible, giving personal words to individuals when on one else is present. Never force the word on anyone. Know the Biblical guidelines and safeguards for the gift and the ministry.

In **Acts 21:10–14** Agabus, the prophet, again prophesies, foretelling what will happen to Paul.

v.8 Paul and his company were staying with Philip, the evangelist.

v.9 Philip has four daughters who prophesied. We assume this is the gift of prophecy referred to. The daughters are not referred to as prophetesses.

v.10 Agabus is called a prophet specifically.

v.11 He spoke from the Holy Spirit, *'Thus says the Holy Spirit.'*

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v.12 The assembled company believed the prophetic word, the word of the Holy Spirit through the prophet.

v.13 But Paul already is aware of the dangers in Jerusalem, see **Acts 20:22 – 23**.

v.14 He affirmed the truth of the word, but it was confirmatory, and did not deter him from his course, and the company in the meeting acquiesced saying, *'The will of the LORD be done.'*

POINTERS AND SAFEGUARDS FOR PERSONAL PROPHECY:

1. The word was confirmatory not initiatory; the prophetic ministry is not meant to initiate new things in your life, but confirm what God has already shown you.
2. The person bringing the word had credibility; Agabus was a noted minister of the gift, proven;
3. Personal words are not directive in a controlling sense. Paul did not change his plans.
4. All prophecy is in part only (**1 Corinthians 13:9**) and generally fits into a bigger plan of God;
5. There were witnesses present to judge the word;
6. Acceptance of the veracity of a word does not mean blind or hasty responses to it.

[acknowledgment to *S.F.L.Bible, p.1669 Kingdom Dynamics*]

OTHER PROPHETS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

In **Acts 15:22**, Judas also called Barsabas, and Silas are mentioned as leading men among the brethren. They are mentioned again in **v. 32**, *"Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words."* These leading men were prophets: their leadership gift was *prophecy*. They used their gift to exhort and strengthen the brethren. The **ministry gift of the prophet is meant to exhort, strengthen and build people up.**

FURTHER TEACHING ON THE PROPHET

Matt. 10:41 gives a scriptural basis for receiving a prophet; *"He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward."*

Matt. 13:57 Jesus says, *"A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."*

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE WORD OF PROPHECY?

Prophets should be made welcome to speak in the church meeting,

1 Cor.14:29 *"Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge."*

v.30 *"But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent."*

v.31 *"For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."*

We can learn from listening to prophecy. If two or three speak it can expand and bring a deeper understanding of what God is saying.

v.32 *"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."* The gift is under the control of the prophet. If you have a word and believe it is of the Lord, ask Him to provide the opportunity for you to share it. The prophet is to bring the word the Lord gives; he or she is not responsible for how it is received or responded too.

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v.37–40 *“If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. Therefore brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.”*

GOD HAS SET EACH OF THE MINISTRIES IN PLACE

1Cor.12:18 *“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”* It is God who set the members in place in the body. God is building His church. He places us where He knows we will fit.

1 Cor.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.”*

Eph.2:20-22 *“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.”*

As people are being fitted into this house they are being built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets. This is the biblical foundation and if it is correctly in place the house will be strong.

GOD REVEALS HIS MYSTERIES TO THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS

Eph.3:2-3 *“if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery...”*;

v.5 *“which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.”*

These are the ascension gift prophets. The Old Testament prophets often prophesied about this mystery but they did not understand what they were saying because it was not revealed to them. They longed to see our day. God has now revealed the mystery by His Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.

CONCLUSION

The ministry of the prophet and all five ascension gift ministries given by Jesus to the church are callings from God. They are given to edify [build up] and equip the members [each one has been given grace according to Christ’s gift] of the body of Christ (**Eph.4:7**).

“There is no prescribed formula or ‘gift mix’ for any particular office.”
{**S.F.L.B.p1792**}

It is possible for the same person to have more than one ascension gift function. For example, Paul - preacher, apostle and teacher ... (**2Tim.1:11**)

In the case of the prophet, the gift of prophecy (**1Cor.12:10**) generally accompanies the ministry of the prophet, but in an enhanced way. **It is the prophet who fore-tells as well as forth tells.** In other words, there is prophetic preaching and teaching, but the prophet is also able by the Spirit to foretell future events and happenings, and give insightful direction to churches and individual members of the Body of Christ.

CHAPTER 4:

Ministry gift Of the Evangelist

MINISTRY GIFT OF THE EVANGELIST.

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

The Evangelist.

Ezekiel 34:5-6 are foundational verses where the Lord expresses His own heart for evangelism, *“So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them.”* God’s people had been scattered and no one had been searching for them. This is an expression of the Evangelist’s heart.

In the book of **Ephesians Chap.4**, we have the fivefold ministry that Jesus gave to the church. **The apostle and the prophet are the foundation ministries.** They are working behind the scene, underground, laying the foundations, raising up other ministries. **The above ground ministries are firstly the evangelist who gathers, then the pastor who nurtures and looks after the flock, then the teacher who brings the word forth to ground the new believers in the word of God.**

In **Ezekiel**, God is saying: ‘because the pastoral ministry, the shepherding ministry is not working, His own people have become scattered and no one is searching for them, or seeking them.’ When Jesus came He said, *“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost,”* **Lu.19:10**. He said He was specifically sent to the lost sheep of Israel.

**Through His death and resurrection He then released
the ministry of evangelism to all the Gentiles.**

Ezek.34:11 *“For thus says the Lord God: ‘Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.’”*

v.13 *“And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.”*

v.16 *“I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and strong, and feed them in judgement.”*

In **Luke 15**, Jesus tells the story of the shepherd who has 100 sheep, 99 are safe in the fold and one is missing. What does the true pastor do? He leaves the 99 who are safe and goes after the one that is missing. In the true pastor’s heart there is also the ministry of evangelism, to gather the lost, to minister salvation to the lost.

The gathering of God’s people is evangelism. It is the ministry of the evangelist to go after the lost ones. The ministry of the evangelist works closely with the ministry of the pastor.

There are **two groups of people to reach**: God’s people who haven’t said ‘YES’ yet, and God’s people who have wandered away.

JESUS IS THE EVANGELIST.

Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. He knew He was called to reach the lost. **Matt.15:24** *“He answered and said, ‘I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’”* Jesus spent most of His time going from place to place preaching about the kingdom of God. We see the itinerant nature of the evangelist in Jesus ministry.

Mark 1:38 *“But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.’”*

The preaching ministry is the ministry of the evangelist, to preach the gospel to the lost. Jesus said in **Mark 16:15** when He commissioned the disciples to go out, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel.”* The Word of God is taught to the believers and preached to the lost. **Lu.4:43** *“He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also because for this purpose I have been sent.’”* The message has to be preached in every town and city.

The church historically has tended to restrict preaching to the church and yet the Scriptures testify that we are to preach the gospel to the poor, the spiritually poor, so they can be made rich. Yes, preaching can happen in church buildings, but preaching scripturally and historically in great revivals such as the Wesleyan one in the 18th century, is in the open places of the towns and cities, in the town square, in the market place, in the open fields, outside the factory gates.

EVANGELIST AN ASCENSION GIFT MINISTRY (Eph.4:11).

The ministry of the evangelist is a powerful expression of the risen Christ in His church. Phillip is called *“the evangelist”* in **Acts 21:8**. The first mention of Phillip is in **Acts 6:5** where he was among those who were appointed to oversee a daily food distribution to widows, (v.1-3). There were certain qualities or characteristics that had to be present in the lives of those chosen (v.3): -

- 1. They had to be men of good reputation**
- 2. They had to be full of the Holy Spirit**
- 3. They had to have wisdom**

Phillip qualified and was chosen. His initial ministry was to serve, to wait on tables, to be a deacon. He was set apart by the apostles with the laying on of hands, (**Acts 6:6**). Serving as a deacon is a good training ground for an evangelist. **1Tim. 3:13** *“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”* The evangelist needs boldness!

In **2Timothy 4:5** Paul says to Timothy *“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”* Timothy is an apostle, but he is also to do the work of the evangelist.

Linked closely to the ministry of evangelism is Jesus’ command in **Luke 24:48&49** *“And you are witnesses of these things. Behold I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high”,* and in **Acts 1:8** *“and you shall be My witnesses ... to the end of the earth”*.

Witnessing to the faith is the work of evangelism.

THE EVANGELIST

An evangelist: **one who is sent out with a message, or the messenger going out.**

In Acts 8:4 *“those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word”*. They were doing the work of evangelism. v.5 *“Then Phillip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them”*. It is interesting that the disciples had not voluntarily gone to Samaria, even as later (Acts 10) Peter needed divine intervention to get him to go to the Gentiles. Jesus had commanded the disciples to witness in Samaria in Acts 1:8. Philip preached and miracles took place: Acts 8:7 *“unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.”* This resulted in much joy (v 8.)

The fruit of Philip’s preaching and ministry in signs and wonders is the total overthrow of the anti-Christ demonic stronghold in the city, with the human strong man, Simon the sorcerer, losing his power over the city, (Acts 8:9-13). Acts 8:14–17 The apostles, Peter and John, were sent from Jerusalem when the Jerusalem church heard of the breakthrough in Samaria. Peter and John were used to impart the Holy Spirit’s power to the new converts. Notice that the evangelist was not able to fully found the new church; apostles were sent.

WHAT DOES THE EVANGELIST DO?

Acts 8:26 *“Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, ‘Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’”*

Philip was called by the Lord, to leave the mass revival in Samaria and to go and preach to one man! WHY? Because Philip was an evangelist.

Characteristics of an evangelist

1. Every soul is important to the evangelist
2. The evangelist goes where the Holy Spirit tells him to go.
3. The evangelist preaches Jesus, Acts 8:35 *“Philip ... beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”*
4. The evangelist brings the message of salvation and the kingdom of God, which results in repentance, faith and baptism. (Acts 8:36-38).
5. The evangelist moves on to other places. The evangelist goes out with the message to
the places and the people where the Lord leads, (Acts 8:40).

Evangelists are soul-winners; evangelists are harvesters.

HARVESTING SOULS

It is time to reap souls! Many have been content to “sow the seed”, trusting that someone else will reap. The Lord is calling for workers for the harvest because it is reaping time. Luke 10:2 *“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

The Lord sends forth labourers into the harvest: it is His harvest. He has overseen the planting and growth of the crop.

Harvest means bringing in the sheaves: Ps. 126:5-6 *“Those who sow in tears, shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”* The tears are

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tears of intercession, the sheaves are souls. Prayer intercession is vital to effective evangelism.

Harvest is the time when the tares are separated from the wheat (Matt.13:30).

At the end of the age there is a harvest of wickedness as well as a harvest of righteousness.

Instructions for the Harvester

In **Isaiah 28:23-29** the Word of God tells us that God will instruct us in ploughing, planting and reaping. The parable of the sower and seed in **Matt.13:3-9** and Jesus' explanation of this parable in **v 18-23**, gives further instructions about the soil condition of the human heart. The Holy Spirit will instruct us and teach us to be effective harvesters.

EVANGELISM IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

In **Ruth chap.2** we see Boaz, a type of Christ, overseeing the harvest. The reapers are a type of the evangelist. Ruth is a type of the evangelist, or at least a soul winner.

v.4 Boaz, the lord of the harvest, a type of Christ, came from Bethlehem. He and his reapers were in the Lord together.

v. 5 The lord of the harvest notices the new one among the gleaners.

v.6 The chief servant testifies as to who she is. Each harvester is known by the Lord.

v.7 Ruth has already been working hard in the harvest, but she also knows she needs to

rest in the house.

v.8 Boaz welcomes the stranger to glean in his fields, and to fellowship with the young

women.

v. 9 There is safety in this place of fellowship and water to drink in the harvest.

v.10-12 The Lord blesses faithfulness; the Lord sees all our works and will reward accordingly; so Ruth is rewarded by Boaz. Her testimony had gone before her.

v.14 Boaz offers her bread and vinegar; is this a form of communion? Boaz confirms her

place in fellowship.

v.16 Boaz purposefully pours out blessings on Ruth and she gleanes much grain! He provided the grain for her. The Lord brings the souls into contact with us when we are willing to work in the harvest. He does not require that we be qualified, official reapers!

Harvesting the grain

The evangelist not only gathers small amounts of grain but the Lord of the harvest provides sheaves to be gathered. There is a harvest at the end of the age: a great ingathering of souls into the kingdom of God. Ruth is a stranger, a Gentile, someone who was born into a despised tribe. The Moabites were the descendants of Lot by his own daughter. But Ruth became a true believer. She is fully accepted by the Lord; so much so that He desires to marry her. **Ruth 3-4**, notice that after the harvest was complete, **there was a wedding**. After the great harvest at the end of the age, the wedding supper hall will be full. Jesus and His bride will be wed!

FURTHER TEACHING FROM THE SCRIPTURE ON EVANGELISTS

The book of **Proverbs** has some important instructions concerning the conduct of harvesters (evangelists).

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Prov.6:6-8 The diligent ant gathers her food in the harvest, whereas the sluggard (person)

is asleep.

Prov.10:5 Again, the person is asleep during harvest, but the wise son is gathering.

Prov.11:30 tells us that “... *he who wins souls is wise.*”

Prov.20:4 The lazy man has not done the preparation; so there is no harvest for that one. It

is time to do the work of the evangelist!

THE EVANGELIST NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE SCRIPTURE TEACHES ABOUT THE HARVEST

In the **Prophets** there are some clear references to the harvest:

Isaiah 9:3 “*You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest. As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*”

There is joy in the harvest! How we rejoice when souls come to the Lord.

Jeremiah 5:24 “*The Lord gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest.*” Even as the people did not acknowledge the Lord of the harvest in that day, so many today are sitting by asleep and listless, not willing to go into the fields at the Lord’s command, not understanding the prophetic fulfillment of the feasts of the LORD; that each feast was related to a harvest.

Jeremiah 8:20 “*The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved!*”

What a tragedy: to miss the harvest! to miss salvation.

Hosea 6:11 “*Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, when I return the captives of My people.*” It is the “*appointed harvest*” that we are called into! The captives are being released. This appointed harvest is the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles at the end of the age. There is an appointed harvest. Many souls will be saved from every nation, tribe, language and tongue.

Joel 2:23-24 The Lord promises the “*former and the latter rain*” together and a double harvest results; wheat (the cereal harvest) and new wine and oil (the fruit harvest). **Pentecost and Tabernacles together: one great ingathering.** This is the “*appointed harvest*” at the end of the age. (cf. **James 5:7-8**). The appointed harvest is a double harvest, or a double anointing or outpouring – finally the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all flesh. There will be a world-wide preaching of Jesus.

Joel 3:13 suggests that there is a harvest of wickedness coincidental with the harvest of righteousness. This is confirmed in the parable of the wheat and the tares (**Matt. 13:24-30**).

THE LORD SENDS OUT THE EVANGELIST!

Luke 10:1 “*The Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.*”

A wonderful summation of the role of the evangelist: a John the Baptist type of ministry – going before the Lord to prepare for His coming, going equipped to heal the sick and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God (**verse 9**) and to cast out devils (**verse 17**).

Saturation Evangelism

The evangelists are sent before the apostolic team comes. They go to a friendly house (**Luke 10:5-7**). The team of evangelists is to go into an area to saturate it with the gospel. This will be done in various ways: house to house ministry, visitation and

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praying for the sick, sharing the gospel, tract distribution; invites to special events such as a children's program or a family rally on the weekend; sharing the Jesus film publicly and from house to house. For example a team was able to share the Jesus film in the Buddhist monastery of a Buddhist village in Myanmar and over 500 tracts were handed out.

Doing the work of the ministry

As in **Acts 8**, the evangelist is not called to plant churches, but to win the lost. The apostolic team can follow to plant or set the church in order.

Equipping the Saints

The role of the evangelist as a fivefold ministry member is two fold – as well as going out to preach and win souls, the evangelist has the task of equipping the saints for the ministry of evangelism (**Ephesians 4:11-12**). This is done in a number of ways such as training seminars, taking trainees on team, ministering in fellowship meetings to motivate the whole church to do the work of evangelism.

Every member evangelism

Every minister and every Christian is to do the work of evangelism. This is the witnessing Jesus has commissioned each of us to do. We are called to *“give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”* (1 Pet. 3:15).

Empowered to witness

The Holy Spirit empowers us (**Acts 1:8**) to be a witness. The signs of **Mark 16:17-18** are signs that accompany those who believe. Believers can confidently pray for the sick, cast out devils, speak in new tongues and expect divine protection in the exercise of sharing the gospel.

A Demonstration of Power

Witnessing the gospel includes the demonstrating of the power of God through the signs. A gospel in word and doctrine only is not the full gospel. The gospel is characterised by power, by signs and wonders.

It is time to raise up Evangelists

The church needs to support those called to the ministry of evangelism, not see them as second class ministers who one day may become pastors. The current church does not generally receive evangelists as ascension gift ministries. Very few churches actually employ evangelists. It is time to pray the LORD of the Harvest to raise up workers [evangelists] for the end time harvest, both full time employed ministers and many saints and other ministers doing the work of the evangelist.

CHAPTER 5:

Ministry Gift Of the Pastor

MINISTRY GIFT OF THE PASTOR

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

The pastor

EZEKIEL 34 – GOD’S KIND OF SHEPHERD

Ezekiel 34 is a chapter that gives us teaching about the shepherd. An aspect of the shepherd’s heart is to go after the lost. Jesus himself demonstrated this. In every true pastor there is also the heart of the evangelist.

Ezek.34:1-10 speaks of irresponsible shepherds who have been demanding and controlling, not looking after the flock properly. God sees what is happening to the flock and is not pleased with the shepherds, v 10 *“Thus says the Lord God; ‘Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them.’”*

v 11 *“For thus says the Lord God: ‘Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.’”* **God Himself will go after His sheep.**

A TRUE SHEPHERD

v 14 *“I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.”*

The ministry of the pastor is to feed and to tend the flock.

v 15 *“I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,” says the Lord God.”*

v 16 *“I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgement.”*

The ministry of the pastor is to seek the lost and bring back what was driven away, binding up the broken and strengthening/healing the sick.

Ezekiel 34:14-16 in summary: the true shepherd/pastor -

1. Feeds good pasture
2. Provide a field on the high mountains, i.e. the high places of God
3. There is rest in a good field, i.e. to lie down, and safety
4. A true shepherd seeks the stray/lost and brings them back
5. Binding up the broken and strengthening the sick

THE LORD IS THE SHEPHERD

In **Psalm 23:1-6** the ministry exercised by the Lord who is our Shepherd is further expanded.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

Ps.23:1 all our needs are provided for

v. 2 the concept of good pasture for food and a safe place for rest

v. 3 healing/restoration for the soul, leadership in paths of righteousness

v. 4 protection and comfort in the midst of evil, trouble and death

v. 5 a table prepared (perhaps a reference to the table of the LORD)
and a

fresh anointing to enable us to overcome our enemies

v. 6 there is a future and a hope for the sheep of the LORD

Judgment on the Strong who have abused the Weak

Ezek. 34:17-22 the LORD judges the sheep who have acted selfishly and mistreated the weaker ones.

A Shepherd will be raised up

v 23 – 31 speak of a Shepherd being raised up who would feed and watch over the flock. **This is referring to Jesus. John 10:1-18** is the fulfillment of these verses in Ezekiel.

A Covenant of Peace

Ezek.34:25 speaks of a covenant of peace; wild beasts [demonic beasts] will cease from the land and there will be safety.

SHEEPFOLDS WILL BE PLACES OF BLESSING

v 26 the sheepfolds will be blessed places; showers of blessings will come down.

v 27 the earth shall yield increase, fruit, grain, freedom.

v 29 a garden of renown raised up; [compare with **Mal.3:12.**]

v 31 we, human beings, are God's flock.

JESUS IS THE TRUE SHEPHERD

John 10:11 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."* The true shepherd is prepared **to give his life for the sheep, he watches over them and guards them.** This is the role of the pastor, to lead the people into a personal relationship with the chief Shepherd Himself. We are the Lord's sheep not the pastor's sheep. Jesus is the chief Pastor over His church. The flock belongs to God. The ministry role of the pastor is to rightly relate the people of God to the Lord, so the people hear His voice and are led by Him.

The call to ministry is costly

In **Jn.10:8-11** Jesus says that those who enter by the door will find pasture and that they will have life. If the sheep come to Him they will be safe. The good shepherd **"gives His life for the sheep". A pastor must be willing to give his life for God's people.** Anyone who accepts the call to ministry, it is on the basis that your life is no longer your own. All pastors truly called and gifted by Jesus for this ministry are under-shepherds to Jesus.

The true pastor is to follow the example of Jesus: -

He will provide food for the flock, ensuring that they are fed the Word
so that they will have life and grow

He will guard the flock and be prepared to lay down his life for them

And He Himself gave Some to be...

JESUS IS THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

Jn.10:7 *“Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.’”* The sheep are to know the voice of the shepherd, [Jn.10:3].

One who is not a true pastor will not take adequate care of the flock [Jn.10:12-13]. Such a one is a hireling who does not stand against the attack of the enemy, but allows the wolves to devour the flock. **A pastor protects the people of God from the evil one.** He prays hedges of protection around the flock.

A true pastor does not draw disciples to himself but rightly relates every person to Jesus.

JESUS HAS OTHER SHEEP NOT OF THIS FOLD

Jesus also showed concern for those who were outside the flock [v 16]. This reflects the evangelistic heart of the pastor. There are always more to be saved. One of the traps for pastors is to simply concentrate on the saved community, ignoring the lost.

JEREMIAH’S VISION OF GOD’S FOLD

The LORD has promised that there will be secure, safe, sheepfolds [dwelling places] for the people of God, where there is health and healing, peace and truth, restoration and cleansing from all sin.

Call unto the Lord

In **Jeremiah 33:3** the LORD says *“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show, you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”* Then in the rest of the chapter He tells us what those ‘*great and mighty things*’ are.

Health and healing

v 6 God says that where there have been houses that have been pulled down, where there has been death and destruction (**v 4 & v 5**), He is going to bring **health and healing**. He is going to *“heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.”*

Restoration

v 7 God is saying that even though destruction is coming, **He will restore.**

Cleansing and pardon

v 8 *“I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me.”*

Joy, praise and honour; goodness and prosperity

v 9 Then this place that has been desolate and has now been healed and restored will become a place of joy and praise and honor. This will be a place of goodness and prosperity.

v 10 *“... in the cities of Judah [praise] in the streets of Jerusalem[peace] ...”* what will be heard?

The Sounds of a Wedding

v 11 *“the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: Praise the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for His mercy endures forever.”*

And He Himself gave Some to be...

Safe places of rest for the people of God

v 12 The LORD has done a wonderful work of restoration, and then He says that *“there shall again be a dwelling place for shepherds causing their flocks to lie down.”* The true shepherd will only allow the flock to lie down in safe, peaceful places.

Everyone is known by the Lord

v 13 *“... the flocks shall again pass under the hands of him who counts them, says the LORD.”* It is Jesus who counts His flock, He knows if any are missing.

How is the LORD going to bring to pass all these things He has promised?

v 14-15 *“In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely, and this is the name by which she will be called; THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”*

This glorious church that is going to arise will be called by the same name as her Husbandman, **YHWH TSIDKENU [THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS]!**

This glorious church is being formed in secure, Godly fellowships that are being raised up in every place around the world, **where God’s people are forsaking the traditions of men and returning to the Lord through His Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

WHO ARE PASTORS AND WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF THE PASTOR?

The word ‘**pastor**’ only appears once in the New Testament in **Eph.4:11**. It is an ascension gift given by the ascended LORD Jesus to the church to bring the church to maturity. All of the fivefold gifts are portions of Himself that the LORD Jesus gives to men for the purpose of ministry to bring His church to glorious perfection.

To understand the ministry of the ‘pastor’ we need to look at the role of the ‘elder’ in the Scripture. **The instructions given to elders in the Scripture reveal that the primary ministry of an elder is that of a pastor.**

ELDERS: ARE THEY PASTORS?

The first mention of **elders** in the New Testament, is in **Acts 11:30** *“This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”* This mention of elders refers to the office of the elder. It is not a ministry per se [all ascension gift ministers are elders **1Pet.5:1**]. While all ascension gift ministers are elders, the ministry of the pastor is understood by looking at the instructions to elders in the New Testament.

ELDERS ARE TO EXERCISE OVERSIGHT AND TO SHEPHERD THE FLOCK OF GOD.

Eph.4:11 Pastors S.C. #4166, of uncertain origin, shepherd (lit. or fig.):-
shepherd, pastor.

Vines: ‘poimen’- a shepherd, one who tends herds or flocks [not merely one who

And He Himself gave Some to be...

feeds them] is used metaphorically of Christian overseers. Pastors guide as well

as feed the flock. 'Poimaino', to act as a shepherd as in Jn.21:15,17 & 1 Pet.5:2.

In **Acts 15:6** we see apostles and elders in the church in Jerusalem coming together to consider an issue. It is not clear from Scripture if elders are necessarily ascension gift ministers but it is clear that they have governmental leadership roles in the church. In **v13** James, the brother of Jesus, is a **leading elder of this church**. As an apostle [**Gal.1:19**], he speaks up with authority in a matter of faith and practice. James has the word of judgement/discernment. Perhaps in this situation, James is an apostle serving in a 'senior' pastor or leading elder role in the mother church in Jerusalem.

OVERSEERS AND SHEPHERDS

In **Acts 20:17** we read of Paul calling for the elders of the church in Ephesus to bring exhortation and encouragement to them. In **v28** he says, *"therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*

Paul is exhorting these elders to 'shepherd the flock'. So **elders are shepherds**.

The ministry of the pastor is to look after i.e. shepherd, the flock.

The Holy Spirit had appointed them as overseers.

The ministry of the pastor is to oversee the flock and it is an appointment by the Holy Spirit.

Bishops are overseers

The elders are to serve as overseers and to shepherd the flock of God. In the Scripture the words 'bishop' and 'elder' are used interchangeably. 'Bishop' means 'overseer'

Titus 1:5 "... and appoint elders in every city..."

v 7 "For a bishop must be blameless ...".

Bishops / Elders are pastors

They are the ones who are to oversee and shepherd the flock of God.

In **1 Tim.3:1-7** we read **the guidelines for bishops:-**

He must be blameless	Husband of one wife
Temperate	Sober-minded
Of good behaviour	Hospitable
Able to teach	Not given to wine
Not violent	Not greedy for money
Be gentle	Not quarrelsome

Not covetous

One who rules his own house well

v 7 "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

And He Himself gave Some to be...

1 Pet.5:1-4 *“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed; 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.”*

Peter the apostle confirms Paul’s instructions:

- 1. elders are to shepherd the flock of God;**
- 2. elders are to serve as overseers;**
- 3. elders are to be an example to the flock.**

PASTORS GUIDE AND FEED THE FLOCK

This is a ministry that is to guide as well as to feed the flock. **Jn.21:15-17** teaches that the flock need to be ‘fed’ and ‘tended’. There are two different Greek words used here, which are both translated as the word ‘feed’ in the K.J.V.

v 15 “Feed My lambs.”

S.C. #1006 *Bosko*, to pasture, to fodder, to graze:- feed, keep.

This is the ministry of feeding the sheep: the nurture and discipleship

v 16 “Tend My sheep.”

SC. #4165 *poimaino*, to tend as a shepherd, figuratively to tend as a supervisor:- feed (cattle), rule.

This is the ministry of overseeing, giving guidance, leading into safe pastures and providing places of rest.

Peter as **an apostle is called by Jesus to ‘pastor’ His sheep**. True ministers of Christ must rule by example. Jesus led by example. He is the Good Shepherd and He laid down His life for the sheep. Those who are good shepherds of the flock will receive a reward from the Chief Shepherd.

JESUS RULES AS A SHEPHERD KING

Rev.2:27 *“He shall rule them with a rod of iron...”* The word ‘rule’ in this verse is the same Greek word *poimaino* - to tend as a shepherd, to supervise. The way Jesus rules is as a shepherd.

Rev.19:15 *“... and He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron, the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”* Again the word rule means the same as to shepherd the flock of God. **Jesus rules as a Shepherd King.**

THE OVERSEER MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT

Heb.13:17a speaks of another aspect of the ministry of the pastor,
“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account”.

The ministry of oversight of **the pastor is to watch out for your soul and to give account to the Lord.**

Pastors will be held accountable by the Lord for the way they give oversight to the sheep.

CAN WOMEN BE ELDERS?

In **Acts 18:26** Priscilla is mentioned exercising a *‘teaching ministry’* with her husband, she is a ‘helper’ or ‘fellow worker’ with Paul (**Rom.16:3**) and the church in Corinth met in her home (**1Cor.16:19**).

The apostle John writes to *“the elect lady”* in **2 John**. The letter reads as if addressed to a person ‘exercising oversight’ in the house of God. She has spiritual children.

‘Junia’ which could well be a female name, is mentioned in **Rom.16:7** as an apostle.

In **Rom.16:1** Paul commends Phoebe and exhorts the church to give her all the help she needs for the successful conduct of her ministry. **She is a minister of the church.**

WHO ARE ELDERS AND WHAT ELSE DO THEY DO?

1. Elders are the leading men

SC. Gr.#4244 Eldership [presbiterion] – a body of elders (literally aged men), composed of men of dignity, wisdom and maturity.

2. Elders can ordain imparting gifts

1 Tim.4:14 Paul says to Timothy, *“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”* Timothy had been ordained by elders/pastors through the laying on of hands.

3. Elders include all ascension gift ministers

The eldership that ordained Timothy included Paul the apostle. All apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers are also elders. Each of these ministries can function in the ministry of the pastor. **Acts13:1-4** the eldership included prophets and teachers.

4. Elders are to teach the word

1 Tim.5:17 *“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.”* [Titus 1:9 & 1Tim. 3:2]

CONCLUSION

It is not clear in the New Testament how the ascension gift ministers functioned in the local church. The contemporary church has been criticised for having a predominant number of pastors, few teachers, occasionally an evangelist in fulltime ministry, sometimes a prophet and rarely an apostle.

In the New Testament apostles and prophets traveled from place to place, and from church to church. The evangelist was also itinerant, though Phillip obviously had a home base in Caesarea (**Acts 21:8**). The pastor and the teacher were home based. There is no evidence of travelling pastors and teachers.

In **Acts 13:1** it appears the elders (pastors) of the church at Antioch were designated prophets and teachers. When we study the New Testament thoroughly, searching out the ministry of pastor, we find that elders are to be appointed in every city, (**Tit.1:5**).

And He Himself gave Some to be...

These are the ones appointed and gifted [anointed], to function as pastors, i.e. exercising oversight and shepherding (feeding and tending) the flock of God.

If an apostle is resident in a local church and exercising oversight and shepherding the flock, he is rightfully called a pastor because that is the ministry he is exercising. The same applies if an evangelist, a teacher or a prophet is based in a local church and exercising the ministry of the elder. Therefore it is understandable and valid for the church to have mainly pastors. They are the ones charged to exercise oversight and shepherd the flock of God. However, the change that needs to come is in the recognition of the other four ascension gift ministries of apostle, prophet, evangelist and teacher.

CHAPTER 6:

Ministry Gift Of the Teacher

MINISTRY GIFT OF THE TEACHER

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

The teacher

JESUS THE TEACHER.

To understand the ministry of the teacher we need to look at the example of Jesus. He called Himself ‘teacher’ and He was recognised as ‘Teacher’ by others.

Matthew 23:8 *“But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’, for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.”* Verse 10 *“And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.”*

The ministry of the teacher is the ascension gift ministry of the LORD in us.

1. The first aspect of the teaching ministry is the servant role. One of the notable things Jesus does as a teacher is to wash His disciple’s feet.

John 13:13-14: *Jesus said “You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”*

2. The second aspect of the teaching ministry: evidence of signs and wonders accompanying the ministry.

In **Mark 10:17** the rich young ruler recognises that Jesus is a Teacher, *“Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?’”*

Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, also recognised Jesus as a teacher. **John 3:2** *“This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’”*

3. Jesus the Teacher taught His disciples: we are to teach disciples the word of God.

Matthew 5:2 *“Then He opened His mouth and taught them.”*

4. He also taught in the synagogues: the teaching ministry is for the saved, **Matt. 4:23** *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”*

The teaching ministry is for the saved, in the church; the preaching ministry is to the lost, bringing the message of salvation.

GOD HAS APPOINTED TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH

In **Matthew 28:19-20** Jesus instructed His disciples to *“go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

To make disciples

And He Himself gave Some to be...

The ministry of the church is discipleship *‘make disciples of all the nations’*, firstly *‘baptising them in the name’*, this is evangelism because only believers are to be baptised; secondly *‘teaching them to observe all things’*. Disciples need to be taught the word of God. Jesus is the **‘Teacher’**; He commands us to teach *“all things that I have commanded you.”* The teaching ministry is the fundamental ministry of the church. Without thorough teaching of the Word of God, the church does not grow into maturity.

God has set the teaching ministry in the church.

1 Cor.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.”*

TEACHERS IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE

Teaching is one of the gifts listed in **Romans 12:6-8**. God the Father has given to the human race the gift of **‘teaching’**. Teaching is vital in every aspect of human life, not only in the gospel.

THE MINISTRY GIFT OF THE TEACHER

God appoints teachers in the Body Of Christ even as it is God who appoints apostles and all the other gift ministries.

Paul is an apostle, but he also knew himself to be a teacher appointed by God.

In **Acts 13:1** we are told that there were prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch. Paul was among these so he was ministering as a teacher at the church in Antioch.

In **1 Tim.2:7** Paul says of himself, *“... I was appointed a preacher and an apostle – I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying – a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”* Paul was a preacher [evangelist], an apostle [church builder], and a teacher. He taught the faith, he taught truth and he was appointed by God to do so.

2 Tim.1:11 *“to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.”* Paul had three of the five fold ministry gifts released in him.

There is an apostolic aspect to the teaching ministry.

Paul as an apostle is also a teacher. It is the apostles’ doctrine [teaching] that lays the foundation of the faith and that reveals the deeper wisdom to the church.

WHAT IS TO BE TAUGHT?

1. A teacher is to teach the ways of God and to teach in truth.

In **Matt.22:16** we read what the Pharisees said about Jesus *“Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth ...”*.

2. A teacher is to teach that which the LORD has commanded him to teach.

Jesus said in **Matt.28:20**, when He was giving the Great Commission to His disciples, *“teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you ...”*.

3. The apostles doctrine is to be taught. The new converts need to be taught about Jesus.

In **Acts 2:42** the early church *“continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

4. A teacher is to teach sound doctrine.

Titus 1:9 *“holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”*

5. Teachers need to be able to teach new believers foundations.

The teaching ministry is so vital to the growth of the church that the writer to the **Hebrews**

is expecting all believers to become teachers at some level. **Heb.5:12** *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”*

The first principles are listed in **Heb.6:1-2** *“... the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement.”* These are the *“foundations”* that are to be taught. These foundations have to be firmly laid in every believer’s life so that they can go on into maturity.

6. Teachers need to speak with wisdom which is from God. 1 Cor.2:6-7 *“However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.”*

WHAT IS THE TEACHING MINISTRY?

The teaching ministry involves **laying foundations in people’s lives**. Foundations are referred to in **Heb.5:12** as the milk of the word, but Christians need solid food.

The teaching ministry involves **teaching people the deeper things of God**, which enables them to go on to maturity, (**Heb.6:1**). They need to hear the word of righteousness, (**Heb.5:13**). It is the word of righteousness that will cause the believer to grow into maturity.

Teachers teach the Word of God: the word is a powerful word because it judges the heart.

This is the word spoken of in **Heb.4:12** *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

A person who sits under **the word of righteousness and receives the deeper wisdom of God** will no longer be deceived, but grow up in all aspects into Christ who is the Head (**Eph.4:14**)

The work of the teaching ministry

The Apostle Paul clearly tells us what the work of the teaching ministry is in **Col.1:28-29**, *“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”*

1. **We are to preach Christ.**
2. **We are to warn every man and teach every man in all wisdom**

In **Ephesians 3:8** Paul speaks of preaching the *‘unsearchable riches of Christ’*.

And He Himself gave Some to be...

Col.2:3 tells us that in Christ *'are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge'*.

It is the teacher's privilege to search out the hidden riches and to impart them to others. **Wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus Christ.** They are unraveled by devoted study and opening up the Word of God.

ELDERS ARE REQUIRED TO TEACH

1 Tim.3:2 *"A bishop [elder] then must be ... able to teach."*

1 Tim.5:17 *"Let elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine."*

A WARNING ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

2 Tim.4:3-4 *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*

2 Pet.2:1 *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them and bring on themselves swift destruction."*

Destructive heresies are things that cause division. We need to beware of false teachers who teach false doctrine.

THE ANOINTING TEACHES US ALL THINGS AND WILL NOT LIE

John tells us that **the indwelling anointing that God gives to each one is a teaching anointing and the Holy Spirit within will always witness to the truth (1Jn.2:20 & 27).** We will not be deceived if we abide in the anointing.

TEACHERS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD FOR WHAT THEY TEACH

James 3:1 *"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgement."*

CONCLUSION

The ministry gift of the teacher is foundational and all encompassing in the life of the church. In the closing verses of the book of **Acts28:30-31** we read of the apostle Paul, *"Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him."*

Paul had the ministry gift of 'teacher'. In the last reference to Paul in the Book of Acts he is continuing in the teaching ministry which has been given to him by the Lord.

Wherever the Word of God is faithfully taught there will be strong effective disciples rising up to further the gospel. The emphasis today is the restoration of the teaching of apostles in the church. As the apostles' doctrine is received again the ministry of the teachers will also be fully restored and released. *"These are teaching ministries that have the living waters – the truth that gives life."* [Rick Joyner, p.62, Morning Star Journal, Vol.11, No.4] The prophet Habakkuk saw it this way, *"For the earth*

And He Himself gave Some to be...

will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” (Hab.2:14)

CHAPTER 7:

Ephesians 4:7 – 16

Grace to grow

To maturity

GRACE TO GROW TO MATURITY

EPHESIANS 4:7-16

THE GOAL IS MATURITY [PERFECTION]

God's goal for the church of Jesus Christ is for the church to grow into maturity; there will be a glorious church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing as befits an eternal companion for the Son of God! **Ephesians 4:7-16** is the only place in Scripture where the fivefold ministry is clearly presented. It is in this context that we find that grace is given to each member of the Body of Christ through the ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to enable each member and thus the whole Body to grow into maturity.

GRACE COMES THROUGH EACH MINISTRY GIFT

Eph.4:7 *"But to each of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."* The gift is the fivefold ministry gift of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers given to the church by the ascended Lord. Through each of these gifts grace is released to the Body of Christ. If any of these gifts are not released and operating then the Body of Christ does not receive all the grace she needs to grow into maturity.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE FIVEFOLD GIFT

Elsewhere we have shown from Scripture that **Jesus Himself is the full representation of the fivefold gift:**

He is the **Apostle of God**, sent into the world to build the church;

Jesus is the **Prophet** raised up by God from among the brethren of Moses (**Deut.18:18**) to speak the words of God;

Jesus is the **Evangelist** who came to seek and to save the lost, and give His life as a ransom for many;

Jesus is the **Pastor**, the Good Shepherd of the sheep;

Jesus is the **Teacher** come from God, who taught as one having authority.

JESUS TOOK CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE

Eph.4:8-10 show us that when Jesus ascended on high, He led the captivity of hell and of Satan captive, and gave these gifts to men. To achieve this amazing result it was necessary for Jesus to *'descend'* into the lower parts of the earth, **enforcing the victory of the cross on Satan and the hordes of hell**. This is how He led captivity captive. A major portion of the plunder Jesus received through His victory over the devil and hell was the release of the five ministry gifts to the church, thus enabling the work of the ministries to operate, bringing the church to maturity. God had promised Jesus great reward in **Isaiah 53:12** because He bore our sin. Unfortunately the church has little understood that the giving of the fivefold ministry was so costly for our Lord and is so important and vital in the fulfillment of His purposes.

THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD

In the book of Ephesians and elsewhere Paul speaks of **the mystery which has been revealed (Eph.3:3-4,9)** and he speaks of **the eternal purpose of God which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph.3:11)**. We need to understand that God is about His own eternal purpose. He has never wavered from His purpose for which He created the universe and for which He created us humans in His own image

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and likeness. All that was lost in the first Adam through sin has been regained by our Lord Jesus Christ.

According to Paul's teaching in **Ephesians 4**, the gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher were regained when Jesus took the captivity of hell captive. It was then that Jesus gave these gifts to men. It is possible to see that these gifts were innate in the first Adam, but were taken into captivity through Adam's sin and submission to the devil. God has always intended for the glorious church to be formed and raised up in the earth for His Son. God had always made provision for this to be possible but it took the death of Jesus and His descent into hell and his glorious ascension to fully release the means whereby God's purpose can be realised.

JESUS IS BUILDING HIS CHURCH THROUGH THE FIVEFOLD

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the church, which is represented as a building. He is the foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation (**Isaiah 28:16**). We are the living stones that are built upon Him to make up the walls of the temple of God in the Spirit (**1Pet 2:5** & **Eph. 2:19-23**). Jesus has given the ministries of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher to enable His building work to go ahead and for the eternal purpose of God to be fulfilled.

FIVEFOLD MINISTRY BRINGS THE BODY TO PERFECTION THREE PURPOSES OF THE FIVEFOLD

Eph. 4:12 *"For the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."*

1. FOR THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS

The fivefold ministry is given **for the equipping of the saints**.

Equipping, katartismos (kat-ar-tis-moss); **S.C.#2677 Gr.:** a making fit, preparing, training, perfecting, making fully qualified for service. In classical Greek the words used for setting a bone during surgery. The Great Physician is now making all the necessary adjustments so the church will not be 'out of joint'.

{ *Word Wealth, S.F.L.B. p.1793* }

God intends for every member of the body of Christ to be equipped for service. Obviously not all are destined to be fivefold ministers but everyone has a specific ministry role to fulfill. Until every saint is equipped to minister the Body of Christ will not grow into maturity.

2. FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

The fivefold is given **for the work of the ministry**: each of the fivefold ministries must function. Much of the church does not receive the grace that has been given by Jesus the Head of the Church, because apostles, and often other fivefold ministers are not received. If I am called to be an apostle but I function only as a pastor in a local church then I am not doing the work of the ministry I am called to do. One of the wonderful restorations that is happening across the Body of Christ worldwide is that the saints are being released into

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ministries because **Jesus is raising up apostles and sending them to do the work of the ministry.** Also people already functioning in ministry are boldly stepping out into fivefold ministries as the Holy Spirit calls and separates particular people to these ministries. This is illustrated in the life of the apostle Paul who was not ordained to be an apostle until **Acts 13**, but he was already functioning in ministry prior to that.

So much of the work of the ministry is equipping the saints and then releasing them [or commissioning them]. For example recently in Myanmar, a brother who is an evangelist but had never been commissioned by an apostle or another fivefold minister, was winning many souls but was not baptising them because he felt he did not have the authority to do so. **One of our team, doing the ministry work of the apostle, saw the need and commissioned this brother.** He now is confident to baptise. Hallelujah!!

3. FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

The fivefold is given **for the edifying of the body of Christ:** that is, the building up of the Body. Jesus promised in **Matt.16:18** that He is building the church. How is He building the church? He is building the church through the fivefold ministry gift that He has given. This is why the restoration of all five ministries is crucial to the fulfillment of God's purposes; the glorious church which has grown into maturity will not be built without the fivefold ministry gift fully restored and functioning.

SIGNPOSTS OF MATURITY

Eph.4:13 *"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."*

1. THE UNITY OF THE FAITH

The first measure of maturity is **the unity of the faith.** This means we agree concerning the Word of God. Such **agreement is based upon receiving the apostles doctrine**, not adhering to the doctrines of men, whatever the church tradition may be. The first church continually devoted themselves to the apostles doctrine (**Acts2:42**). Peter tells us *"that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation"* (**2Pet.1:20**). Unfortunately the church historically has divided on the basis of a particular leader's doctrine and often that doctrine is taught rather than the Scriptures. The emphasis has been on what the man said rather than what the Scripture says.

The unity of the faith is the **holding fast of the faithful word that has been taught**; it is adherence to sound doctrine in matters of faith and practice.

Titus 1:9 *"Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."*

The unity of the faith is having sound doctrine, that is, believing and living by the word of God.

The unity of the faith is that faith [apostles doctrine] *"which was once for all delivered to the saints"* (**Jude3**). The apostle Jude exhorts us to contend earnestly for that faith, that is, **the doctrines given by the word of God through the apostles.** The first church devoted themselves to the apostles

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doctrine. The last days church will only come to maturity in the faith as once again the apostles doctrine is taught and received.

2. THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD

This is revelation knowledge; receiving *“the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”* (Eph.1:17). This means that Jesus is central to our faith and experience, *“having preeminence in all things”* (Col. 1:18). Paul cries out saying, *“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection”* (Phil. 3:10).

Peter teaches us the steps to being fruitful in the “knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 1:8) being *“neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”*.

The steps are: “to your faith add ...”

Faith > virtue > knowledge > self-control > perseverance > godliness > brotherly kindness > love

3. UNTO A PERFECT MAN

The Body of Christ is to become a mature man, **conformed to the image of His Son (Rom.8:29); knowing the word of righteousness (Heb. 5:13)**. We are to **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2)**.

4. THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

We are **to be like Christ, the anointed one, the Son of God, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren (Rom.8:29)**. The church is the fullness of Him who fills all and all (Eph. 1:23). The glory of the LORD is the fullness of Christ as He fills His church.

5. NO LONGER LIKE CHILDREN ...

EPH. 4:14 *“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.”*

It is time to grow up, living by the anointing that we have received, that will teach us all things and will not lie (1Jn.2:20,27). Jesus said in **Mt. 24:5**, *“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ’, and deceive many.”* Beware of false teachers: many will come in Christian ministry garb! We are to be established and rooted in the faith, not led astray by philosophy and vain deceit (Col. 2:6-8).

We are to be **strongly founded and grounded on the Rock and in the Word of God**. What does **Matthew 7:24-27** teach us? **We are all to look Jesus, not to any man, building according to His instructions.**

6. SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Eph. 4:15a *“but speaking the truth in love”*

Disciples growing into maturity no longer involve themselves in gossip or back-biting; they do not speak behind another’s back; rather we speak the truth in love! The maturing church is a body of people growing in relationship. For relationships to grow in godliness and true Christian love, the truth needs to be spoken in love one to the other. There is no place for criticism of one another.

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If a problem arises among brethren and is dealt with according to the guidelines of Scripture, then the love will cover a multitude of sins (**1Pet.4:8**).

7. GROWING UP IN ALL ASPECTS INTO CHRIST

Eph.4:15b *“May grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ”*

The Christian individually and the church corporately is to grow. Every aspect of our lives is to measure up to God’s word as the work of grace is completed in us. We are to be found in Christ [Anointed One] not having a righteousness of our own, but having the righteousness that comes through faith in Him (**Phil.3:9**). Everything we do in word or deed, we are to do *“in the name of our Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (**Col.3:17**).

8 GOD’S LOVE REVEALED IN THE MATURE CHURCH

Eph. 4:16 *“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*

This is a powerful picture of the mature church; notice the key characteristic of the mature church is LOVE, God’s kind of love, sacrificial, self-giving love! The mature church is mature because every part functions effectively, having been joined and knit together – true unity! Each part and every joint [in the body a joint is where two members are able to fully cooperate to function] supplies life and every part works for the upbuilding of the whole. All of this life flows from the Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

WE ARE THE HOUSE OF GOD

“We are the house of God” (**Heb. 3:6**) and Jesus Christ is the SON over God’s house. *“He shall build the temple of the LORD”, Zech. 6:12. “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men” Eph. 4:8.* He gave these gifts to ‘build up the body of Christ’ **Eph.4:12**.

The church is to come into maturity [perfection], to be the expression of His glory in the earth, *“that the world may know that You have sent Me” John 17:22-24,*

“that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” Eph.5:27. God has glorious intentions for the church: she is the body of Christ.

Through the church God intends to reveal His Son. For this to eventuate there will be a full restoration of apostolic ministry along with all the ministry gifts. This is happening in our day and is being quickened for God intends a quick work to be done in the last days. (**Is.60:21-22**).

One of the key roles of the apostle working in tandem with the prophet is to lay a foundation for the church of Jesus (**Eph.2:20**). Such a foundation releases the other ministries of evangelist, pastor and teacher to function fully, and thus the saints are properly ministered to and raised up to function in the body. The apostle is responsible for doctrine [that is, accurately teaching the Word of God] and for the building strategy. Paul says he was a wise master builder (**1 Cor.3:10**). God reveals to the apostle how to lay the foundation; others are to build on it. The prophet has a role alongside of the apostle and together they

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provide a firm foundation in Christ for the training and equipping of the saints, and the raising up other ministries.

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