

## THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

“And he gave some, [apostles](#); and some, [prophets](#); and some, [evangelists](#); and some, [pastors](#) and [teachers](#); For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”  
Ephesians 4:11-13

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”  
1 Corinthians 13:1-3

### Gifts of Ministry / Callings for oversight of the Church (Eph. 4:11-13)

Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher. Also known as the five-fold ministry.

All believers may be involved from time to time in doing the works of the five-fold ministries but only God can ordain a believer into one of the five callings. When God creates a person to be in one of these positions then the person is anointed by the Holy Spirit with the grace to operate in a bondage-breaking anointing in that position of ministry. They have an ordained responsibility from the Lord for overseeing the Church. In most churches today you will not see the operation of the apostle or prophet. The chief leaders will be the administrators and the pastors and they make decisions based on business and not on faith. For example, we can't do that because it's not in the budget. So without the apostles and prophets, the modern church is without its spiritual eyes and ears and also without the fullness of God's power. But God is already beginning to change this.

### Gifts of the Holy Spirit for serving the Church (1 Cor. 12:8-10)

Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues.

All believers may have one or more of these gifts in order to serve the Church. It does not automatically mean they are in a position in the five-fold ministry.

Honor the weaker parts of the Body. (1 Cor. 12:23-24)

### Kingdom Order (1 Cor. 12:28)

Apostle, prophet, teacher, miracles, gifts of healings, helps (assistants), government/administration, diversities of tongues.

The apostles and prophets are the lowest in the kingdom.

### Maturity vs. Anointing

It does not matter how anointed someone is to operate in a particular gift or in the five-fold ministry, if the person does not have maturity, God will not allow them to take responsibility for the big things. He always starts us on the small things so we can learn how to be faithful with the small things before He gives us the big things. (“the mammon” Luke 16:10-12, “the talents” Matthew 25:14-30)

Now sometimes the Lord will let a person know what the big things are that He has planned for the person's life, and the person may say “I do not see how I will do those things”. But God will still start the person at a beginner's level and grow them at the right speed. (Jeremiah 1, Exodus 3)

We all start as an immature person in the kingdom of God. Then we grow and mature. This is normal.

Different people mature at different speeds according to God's will and according to the level of faith.

What are the signs of maturity? The words that we speak and the things that we do show our maturity.

Are we operating in the fruit of the spirit? (Gal. 5:22-23) or in the works of the flesh? (Gal. 5:19-21) (examples)

The antichrist is going to come with lyings signs and wonders (2 Thess. 2:8-12) and the people will say “oh look how anointed he is!” We need to ask: “where's the fruit?”

Jesus said you shall know them by their fruit (Matt. 7:15-20). Many false prophets are gone out into the world and many shall come in the Lord's name saying I am Christ and shall deceive many (Matt. 24:4-5).

The closer we become like Jesus the more maturity we will have.



### Apostle

There are at least 22 apostles named in the New Testament. There are many more today.

(original twelve -Matt. 10:2-4, Matthias -Acts 1:26, Barnabas & Paul -Acts 14:14, Andronicus & Junius -Romans 16:7, James the Lord's bro. -Gal. 1:19, Epaphroditus -Phil. 2:25, Apollos -1 Cor. 4:6-9, Silvanus & Timothy -1 Thess. 1:1, 2:6)

The apostle is the one sent by God to do a specific work. He is the one who has received the vision from God about what the church is supposed to do for the Lord, in that particular church's area that it is located.

The apostle is the one who is sent forth. They start churches. They start ministries. They attract spiritual leaders to help with the work. The apostle puts people to work. The apostle has a big heart.

The apostle has much spiritual authority and can also operate in the prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher position if necessary.

The apostle oversees the flock and the leaders of the flock in a fatherly way.

The apostle and the prophet establish the spiritual foundation of the church so that it grows right. The apostle Paul sent various letters to the churches (epistles) to help them with their spiritual growth.

When the apostle is present there is unity and peace. Those who function under an apostle also partake in the apostle's energy and anointing.

In the secular world, you may find apostles typically employed as business owners.

If you think an apostle is a big shot, you need to think again. This scripture shows us what the world thinks of the apostle:

"For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day." 1 Corinthians 4:9-14

### Prophet

A prophet is one who speaks forth the Word of God. He is God's direct mouthpiece.

The prophet's words are more direct and more powerful because they carry God's creative power and judgment power.

The prophet speaks God's direction, he speaks revelation and knowledge of the future, or he speaks rebuke and correction.

The prophet Jonah brought an entire city to repentance because he spoke the direct word of God.

The prophet's anointing breaks spiritual bondages off of people and groups of people. There are great spiritual forces behind the prophet's words.

God may send a prophet to a church or denomination to speak correction to it or to help it get back in order.

Prophets may seem unbalanced at times because they will speak the same thing over and over until it is either accepted or rejected.

They are a type of spiritual policeman and often get involved in spiritual warfare and identify attacks of the enemy. They are also commonly involved in intercessory prayer groups.

Sometimes the prophet may seem hardheaded or stubborn, frustrated and intense, and see things only in black or white. Either it's right or it's wrong. The prophet can spot sin or a wolf in sheep's clothing a mile away. They have low tolerance to sin and their hearts are burdened for the holiness of the church.

The office of prophet is the most rejected one in the Body of Christ. They are also more lonely than other persons in the Body of Christ.

Sometimes God limits the prophet to deliver only one message at a time, to maintain an intense focus.

Prophets are used by God to transmit, to confirm, or to recognize anointings on other people; to help other people know what their calling is.

You will find more prophets at prophecy conferences than at any other type of conference.

In the secular world, you may find prophets typically employed as soldiers, police men, security guards, or inspectors.

### Evangelist

This person wants to help people get saved; to help them to repent and receive the forgiveness of sins.

This person is usually aggressive, bold, and energetic and goes to where the sinners are.



The evangelist enjoys preaching to crowds of people, the simple and direct gospel of Jesus Christ. He has a love for the people and wants them to know Jesus. The evangelist smiles a lot.

Because of the evangelist's anointing, crowds of people are attracted to hear the message and they are emotionally convicted of their sins. The evangelist invites the people to join the Body of Christ and the people respond. The people believe the evangelist's words of the gospel and they receive an impartation of grace from the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes evangelists are reaching out to lost sinners and sometimes they are preaching revival to churches. In the secular world, you may find evangelists typically employed in sales jobs more than any other job.

#### Pastor

He shepherds the people and wants to take care of them and their needs.

His eyes and thoughts are continually on the welfare of his flock.

He is involved in their lives and in their problems. Shows them love and fellowship and welcomes them into his home.

Causes people to be drawn together and to feel more relaxed and secure in the Body of Christ.

The people develop a special trust for the Pastor.

His anointing frees people from bondages of isolation, independence, loneliness.

Of the five minister types in the five-fold ministry, the pastor is the sheep's favorite.

In the secular world, you may find pastors typically employed as counselors, nurses, or care givers.

#### Teacher

This person has a desire to learn and to understand God's truths and principles in the Word.

The teacher has a desire that others in the Body of Christ correctly understand and apply the Word of God.

They are willing to defend the correct understanding of the Word and to bring it to the attention of the apostle or other church leadership if somebody has the wrong understanding.

The teacher is willing to spend the extra time and energy to help someone to understand the Bible because God pulls on their heart to help people by teaching them.

Their anointing frees the Body of Christ from the bondage of lies, deception, fear, false doctrine, and sin by explaining to the person what the Bible has to say about it.

These people enjoy study and research and you will typically find more teachers in Sunday school, Bible studies, teaching grade school and teaching in colleges. It is what they enjoy because God made them that way.

There are different maturity levels of teachers according to which group of people that God wants the teacher to teach. In this world there are teachers from first grade to twelfth grade and there are teachers for colleges. And the same is true in God's Kingdom. Do not despise someone who is teaching first graders because their job is just as important as teaching the college level. You cannot go to college without learning first grade. The foundation must be in place. As you grow in the Lord you may go from teacher to teacher, from book to book, from audio tape to audio tape. You may start reading the Bible by beginning in the book of Psalms or from one of the four gospels. As you mature, you start reading the other books such as Revelation. As you continue to mature, God will show you more about the deeper understanding of Revelation and other books. Just because you read the Bible does not mean you will understand what you read. You do not choke the baby with meat. You give the baby milk first. The Bible is not like any other book. So do not be frustrated or impatient. Be mature and ask God to help you understand the part you need help with. He will do it at the right time.

#### Intercessors

Prayer warriors. Regularly in prayer meetings. Lifting up the needs of the Body of Christ and also praying for specific direction and protection. They fly in formation like a spiritual Air Force. Go buy the book Rees Howell: Intercessor, and you will better understand the depth of this calling and get your socks blessed off.

#### 1 Corinthians 13

Without love, all of these callings and positions will not operate the way that God wants. Read, memorize, and begin to live 1 Corinthians 13 if you really want to get up to speed quicker in your calling.

The LORD bless thee and keep thee...

