

Building Unity through the Five-fold Gifts
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Ephesians 4:11-16

I. Introduction – TEXT

A. What is the Five-fold Ministry

1. Simple Definition

The OFFICE GIFTS that Father God put in PLACE to ESTABLISH the FOUNDATION and FRAMEWORK upon which to BUILD HIS CHURCH

2. These **GIFTS** were provided for **HIS CHURCH** to attain **MATURITY** and **CHRIST-LIKENESS** and **BECOME** the **SPOTLESS BRIDE** of Jesus

a. These offices are God-ordained **ROLES** with **RESPONSIBILITY** and **ACCOUNTABILITY** to **GOD** and **ALL BELIEVERS**

b. They are **NOT HIERARCHIAL** nor are they to be **ELEVATED** in **IMPORTANCE** to serve their **OWN SELFISH INTERESTS** or **PERSONAL NEED** for **POWER** to **LORD** over **OTHERS**

EACH and **ALL GIFTS** are **ESSENTIAL** and **NEED EXPRESSION** within the **BODY** to **GROW** into **FULL MATURITY**

So, while Paul is listing **only FIVE HERE**, we **ALL KNOW** that there are **MANY MORE EQUALLY IMPORTANT GIFTS** that make the **BODY WHOLE**

So, to be CLEAR, today we are talking about **ONLY** these **FIVE OFFICE GIFTS**

c. **They** are also **HIGHLY TESTED** to the point that they:

1. have **endured the fire of preparation**

2. **display true humility** and **Christ-likeness**

3. have **NO DESIRE** to be heard

4. simply wish to **SERVE the KING** in any way

3. Apostles and Prophets are **FOUNDATION GIFTS** upon which Father is building His **HOLY TEMPLE** within **EACH INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER**

Ephesians 2:19-21 So, you are not foreigners or guests, but rather you are the CHILDREN of the city of the holy ones, with all the rights as FAMILY MEMBERS of the household of God. You are rising like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple, and your lives are being built up together upon the IDEAL FOUNDATION laid by the APOSTLES and PROPHETS, and best of all, you are connected to the HEAD CORNERSTONE of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ Himself. This entire building is UNDER CONSTRUCTION and is CONTINUALLY GROWING under His supervision until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord Himself. This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, His dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you.

- a. Jesus is the **CORNERSTONE** of His Church
 - b. The **Apostles and Prophets** are **FOUNDATION LAYERS**
4. The **Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers** provide the **Framework, Finish work, and Integrity** that **KEEPS** the **BODY** (including AP & PR) **STRONG and ENDURING**
 - a. Each has a **DIFFERENT ROLE** and **FUNCTION** to bring **COMPLETION** or **FULL MATURITY** to the **FAMILY** of Son/Daughters

And the **FINISHED PRODUCT** is an **EVER-MATURING EARTH EXPRESSION** of the **INTERRELATIONSHIPS** and **HEAVEN-PATTERN** of **FATHER'S KINGDOM**

Jesus prayed, *thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven (Matt 6:10)*

When **ALL GIFTS** work together in **HARMONY** for the **ONE COMMON CAUSE** of **MATURING** the **FAMILY of GOD**, the Body of Christ, the **CHURCH WILL BECOME** an **UNSTOPPABLE FORCE** in **EARTH**

II. The **ROLES** of the **FIVE-FOLD**

- A. **Apostles** are SET in the CHURCH to **GOVERN**

Jim Goll says that an *apostle* is one, *called and sent by Christ to have spiritual authority, character, gifts, and abilities to reach and establish people in Kingdom truth and order, especially through founding and overseeing local churches. He has a burden to build something that did not exist before.*

1. They **LAY** the **foundation** of the church
2. They **delight** in **seeing** the **church** come into **full maturity**
3. They have a **burden** to **ground the family** in **solid biblical teaching**
4. They carry the **burden** to **equip sons and daughters** for their **life assignments**
5. They **love to see** their **spiritual children** mature and **move** into their **sphere of influence** in the **mountain cultures**

APOSTLES are true **SPIRITUAL FATHERS** who **DESIRE** the **HIGHEST** and **BEST** for their **CHILDREN** – **Jim Hodges is THE very BEST ROLE MODEL I have ever KNOWN**

B. **Prophets** are SET in the CHURCH to **GUIDE**

1. They **REVEAL** God's **HEART** to HIS **FAMILY**
 - a. They **ENCOURGE** / give **current REVELATION** of the **LORD**
 - b. They often receive dreams and visions to release **DIVINE INSIGHT** regarding **TIMINGS** or **APPLICATIONS** of the **THINGS of GOD** to the **FAMILY**
 - c. They are to **exhort and encourage** the family, even with **warnings**

Example - Acts 21, Agabus warns Paul NOT to go to Jerusalem

- d. They may be called to the **local body** or to **nations** or **groups**
- e. **Held** by God to a **very high standard of CONDUCT**

The **PROPHET** was the **ONE GIFT** in OT that was subject to **DEATH** if his **WORDS** were **OFF**. So, when one said, **thus saith the Lord**, it better be **JUST THAT**

2. **Prophets** are **HUMANS TOO**
 - a. Are **SUBJECT** to **trials and struggles** like **ALL of US**
 - b. They can seem **moody and isolated** at times, but few know the **spiritual load that they often carry** and the **spiritual conflicts they go through**

- c. One **PRESSURE** they **face** above other gifts is **DEMAND** from believers **PULLING on their gift to foretell their future** – like a fortune teller
- d. Can also **exalt themselves** rather than walk as **humble servants** of the Lord

We are blessed to have many Prophet gifts to assist us in our growth process

C. Evangelists are SET in the church to be **GATHERERS**

- 1. This gift carries a **burden** for those who are **NOT a part of the kingdom**
- 2. Have a **strong anointing** to **preach** the **gospel of salvation** with **deep conviction**
- 3. **Signs and wonders** often follow them to **confirm** the **validity of the message**

Evangelists create **CONVERTS**; **Apostles** create **DISCIPLES**

- 4. So, **evangelists** are **great** at **getting people SAVED**, but not so much at **bringing them into maturity**

They **LOVE** to **TEACH OTHERS** how to **WIN the LOST** and **RARELY FEEL** that they are **DOING ENOUGH** to get people **SAVED**

D. Pastors are Set in the CHURCH to **GUARD**

- 1. The **PASTOR** is the **HEART of the Church**
 - a. Pastor gifts are **shepherds** who **deeply care** for the **sheep** and will go to extremes to **PROTECT, FEED, MATURE, EQUIP, and DEVELOP** the giftings of the **BODY**
 - b. The **PASTOR bridges** the **different offices and functions** in the CHURCH
 - c. Pastors desire that the **FAMILY** be **PEACEFUL and PRODUCTIVE**
 - d. Pastors are also **tasked** with the **responsibility** to bring **CORRECTION** whenever necessary

2. There are **MANY** in the **ROLE of PASTOR** who really are not **PASTOR GIFTS** – because the church doesn't recognize them
 - a. **Some may be EVANGELISTS** – may have large churches drawn by their **energy** and signs/wonders that all want to see
 - b. **Some are actually APOSTLES** – many are drawn to their **FATHERHOOD GIFT** or may be connected to their **CAUSE**

Mature churches are those with **ALL FIVE OFFICES** represented and **GIVEN PLACE** to **EXERCISE** their **UNIQUE GIFTS** as they have been **GRACED**

E. **Teachers** are SET in the CHURCH to **GROUND**

1. Teachers are **TRUTH SEEKERS** and they to **LOVE** to unfold the **TRUTHS** of the **WORD**
2. Office Teachers do not simply teach the **MECHANICS** of the Word but rather **IMPART** the **LIFE of its TRUTHS** to those receiving
 - a. They are **ENERGIZED** by the **TRUTHS of the WORD**
 - b. Their **MINDS** become **ENLIGHTENED to TRUTH**
 - c. Their **EMOTIONS, THOUGHTS,** and **BEHAVIORS** align with those **TRUTHS**

An **OFFICE TEACHER** will **LEAD LISTENERS** to **BECOME** the **ESSENCE** and **SUBSTANCE** of the **TRUTHS** of the **WORD of GOD**

3. Prophets and Teachers work well together

PROPHETS have revelation of hidden things in the **FUTURE**, **TEACHERS** have revelation of the **HIDDEN** things in the **WORD**

PROPHETS have **FORESIGHT**; **TEACHERS** have **INSIGHT**

PROPHETS have the **NEED to RELEASE** the Word of the Lord; **TEACHERS** have the **NEED** to move more **SLOWLY** by **UNDERSTANDING** and **PLANNING**

4. In **CHURCHES** that are **MORE ATTUNED** to simply **FLOW** in the **SPIRIT**, **TEACHERS** are essential to keep the **FOUNDATION** solidified with the **WORD**

We are very **FORTUNATE** to have **OFFICE GIFT TEACHERS** at Kingdom Life

NOTE: ALL the FIVEFOLD OFFIE GIFTS can TEACH the TRUTH of the WORD, but the OFFICE TEACHER GIFT is the MOST PRECISE of all the FIVEFOLD

III. Conclusion - *Acts 11 and 13* the Church in Antioch

Birthed by those who fled Jerusalem after Stephen stoned – **EVANGELIZED** them and a great number received Jesus

When the Jerusalem church heard of this they sent Barnabas to **PASTOR** them

Barnabas goes out to find Paul and bring him to Antioch to **APOSTLE** them

These leaders also **TEACH** them for bout a year and then the **PROPHETS** came to edify, comfort, encourage through prophetic gifts

Acts 11:26 And the disciples were called CHRISTIANS FIRST at Antioch

ANTIOCH IS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF A FIVEFOLD LED CHURCH FAMILY

A TRUE TEAM LED CHURCH that IMPACTED the WORLD