

Gifting of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers (Part 3 of 16)

Ephesians 4:8-13

- Sometimes referred to as:
 - The “five-fold ministry”
 - The five offices of the church
 - The cornerstones of Christianity
- Gifting or offices of the church?
 - Both

8 Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

- Davidic victory song (Psalm 68)

Psalm 68:18-19

18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive;
You have received gifts among men, Even *from* the rebellious,
That the LORD God might dwell *there*.

19 Blessed *be* the Lord, **Who daily loads us with benefits,**
The God of our salvation!

- Paul changes the wording to express a N.T. marvel:
- Jesus has returned from battle and instead of receiving gifts He is giving gifts to men.
- Jesus conquered:
 - Sin
 - Death
 - Hades
 - Devil
- And then He brought gifts to His own celebration – Pentecost

9 (Now this, (Paul’s commentary on David’s Psalm 68) “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors and teachers**,

- **Office of Apostle – 3 requirements:**

- Personally breathed on by Christ Himself. (John 20:19-21)
- Personally saw the risen Christ in the flesh
- Personally commissioned or sent by the risen Christ in the flesh.
- Only 14 such men mentioned in the N.T. with the Office of Apostleship!

- **Gifting of Apostle:**

- There were several referred to as “apostles” in the N.T. that clearly did not have the “Apostolic” qualifications the 12 and Paul had.
- **These men were then those with the apostolic gift, not the Apostolic Office.**
 - **James** (1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19),
 - **Barnabas** (Acts 14:4, 14; 1 Cor. 9:6),
 - **Andronicus and Junias** (Rom. 16:7),
 - **possibly Silas and Timothy** (1 Thes. 1:1; 2:7),
 - **and Apollos** (1 Cor. 4:6, 9).¹
- **Apostles** (*apostolos*), then, were those who carried the gospel message with God’s authority.
- “Apostle” means “one sent as an authoritative delegate.”²
- **Apostolic office no longer possible today**
- “apostolic” gift is very important and necessary for our church.
 - “divinely appointed representatives.”
 - “one sent”
 - **Many missionaries clearly have the apostolic gift.**

Prophets – to proclaim the word of God

- **Issue of Office of the Prophet and the gifting of prophecy.**
1 Corinthians 14:1-5 Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, **but especially that you may prophesy.** 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 **But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.** 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-21 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 **Do not despise prophecies.** 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.
- Many prophets and prophetesses mentioned in the Bible
 - **Prophetesses:**
 - Miriam, sister of Aaron (Ex. 15:20)
 - Deborah – a judge and prophetess of Israel (Judges 4:4)
 - Anna – at Jesus birth (Luke 2:36)
- **Gift of Prophecy** – to men and women

¹Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

²Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

- Philip the Evangelist's four virgin daughters who prophesied (Acts 21)
- End times to be marked by false prophets

Matthew 24:11 “Then many **false prophets** will rise up and deceive many.

Matthew 24:24-25 “For false christs and **false prophets** will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 “See, I have told you beforehand.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.

A prophet is one who knows his times and what God is trying to say to the people of his times.

A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Scholars can interpret the past; it takes prophets to interpret the present.

A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Evangelists – Bearers of Good news.

Acts 21:8 On the next *day* we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of **Philip the evangelist**, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

2 Timothy 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist**, fulfill your ministry.

Pastors/Teachers – shepherds that feed and lead

- **Pastors and teachers** are listed together because they are governed by one article (“the” occurs before “pastors” but not before “teachers”) and because the word “and” (*kai*) differs from the other “and’s” (*de*) in the verse. 3
- This implies that these two offices/gifts should be treated as one.
 - **Not a point to be dogmatic over**
- Clearly there are gifted Pastor/teachers and gifted teachers.

Romans 12:7 or ministry, *let us use it in our ministering*; **he who teaches, in teaching**;

Jeremiah 3:15 “And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will **feed you** with knowledge and understanding.

John 21:15-17 – Jesus speaking to Peter:

- “feed my lambs”
- “tend my sheep”
- “feed my sheep”

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

- Tools, not toys
- Ministry is work – it is not for those that don't like to work.
- For edifying – “to build up others, not yourselves”

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

- More literally, this purpose is “for the perfecting or equipping (*katartismos*; cf. the verb *katartizō* in Matt. 4:21, ‘mending’ or ‘preparing’ nets; in Gal. 6:1, ‘restore’ for proper use of the saints unto the work of the ministry”]; cf. 2 Cor. 13:11; Heb. 13:21⁴

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;

- “come” – used in the book of Acts describing travelers arriving at their destinations.⁵
- One day the offices and gifts will no longer be needed – until then “desire spiritual gifts”

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part.¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1 Timothy 4:14 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.

⁴Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

⁵Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.