

JESUS & the Five- fold gifts

After He ascended Jesus gave gifts:
“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men” Ephesians 4:8.

The ‘gift’ was five-fold: ***“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers”*** Ephesians 4:11

These gifts are gifts of grace: ***“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift”*** Ephesians 4:7.
The gift is ‘of Christ’.

Jesus Himself, functioned in each of the gifts!

JESUS THE APOSTLE

Jesus was sent by the Father - ***“As You sent Me into the world ...”*** (John 17:18). This word ‘sent’ is the Greek word ‘*apostello*’ meaning: *to commission; set apart for a special service; sent out with a mission to fulfill*. It is the basis of the Greek word for ‘*apostle*’.

Jesus was sent as an Apostle – ***“consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus”*** (Hebrews 3:1). Sent to represent God in the earth.

Jesus did the work of the Apostle - **Matt 16:18** – Jesus said ***“I will build My church”*** (the task of the Apostle).

As the Apostle, Jesus is the foundation on which the church is built. ***“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”*** 1Corinthians 3:11

When you receive an apostle, you receive Jesus the Apostle (Matt 10:40)

JESUS THE PROPHET

Moses prophesied the coming of a Prophet: ***“Yahweh your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me ... Him you shall hear”*** Deut. 18:15.

“I will raise up for them a Prophet like you ... and will put My words in His mouth” Deut.18:18

Jesus was recognised as the Prophet: ***“This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world”*** John 6:14 - Jesus is the Prophet.

The woman of Samaria recognised Jesus as a prophet: ***“Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet”*** John 4:19.

In **Matthew 24** Jesus prophesies the destruction of the temple, His coming and the end of the age.

The two on the road to Emmaus, told Jesus, as He appeared to them on the road, ***“The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people”*** Luke 24:19.

Then Jesus ***“beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself”*** Luke 24:27. Prophetic ministry is to expound the Scriptures

JESUS THE EVANGELIST

An ‘evangelist’ is a preacher of the gospel, means: to announce good news.

Jesus said of Himself in **Luke 4:18** that the Spirit of the LORD was upon Him ***“to preach the gospel to the poor”***.

Luke also declares in **Luke 19:10** ***“the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost”***.

Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom: ***“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”*** Matthew 4:23. This is the ministry of the evangelist.

In **Mark 1:37-39** Jesus said: ***“let us go into the next towns so that I might preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.”*** As the Evangelist He must go to other towns, not remaining in one place, all need to hear the message of the gospel.

Jesus went about preaching, casting out demons, and healing all who were sick (**Matt.8:16**). This is the heart of the evangelist – to preach the gospel, with signs and wonders.

JESUS THE PASTOR

Jesus, Himself, said ***“I am the Good Shepherd”*** and ***“The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep”*** John 10:11.

‘pastor’ = ‘shepherd’

The shepherd looks after the sheep, and the sheep know the voice of the shepherd. Jesus said, ***“I know My sheep, and am known by My own”*** John 10:14.

Psalm 23 *“YAHWEH is my shepherd”*

As the Shepherd, YAHWEH provides good feed for His sheep. He leads and restores them – nurturing and restoring souls. The Shepherd also protects and comforts the sheep.

In **Luke 15:3-7**, Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep, illustrating that the shepherd rejoices over every lost sheep that is found. Jesus’ desire was to have one flock and one shepherd: ***“Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd”*** (John 10:16).

JESUS THE TEACHER

Jesus was identified as a teacher by Nicodemus: ***“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”*** John 3:2.

Jesus identifies Himself as a teacher in **Matthew 23:8**, ***“For One is your teacher, the Christ”***.

Much of Jesus’ ministry involved teaching. ***“And again, He began to teach by the sea ...”*** Mark 4:1.

His disciples asked Him to teach them: ***“one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray’”*** Luke 11:1b.

There was authority in Jesus’ doctrine, ***“And they were astonished at His teaching for He taught them as one having authority”*** Mark 1:22.

Jesus, out of His compassion, taught the multitudes, ***“because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things”*** Mark 6:34.

JESUS IS THE SOURCE & EXPRESSION OF THESE FIVE GIFTS!

The Commissioning of the Apostles

- The Apostolic Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 – given authority by Jesus to go to all nations, making disciples, baptising them in the ‘name’, and teaching them to ‘observe’ all that Jesus commanded.

The commission to teach is also fundamental to the apostolic commission.

- The Prophetic Commission

Luke 24:44-47 – to bring prophetic revelation of the Scriptures. Showing the fulfillment of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Being empowered by the Holy Spirit (**v.49**).

- The Evangelistic Commission

Mark 16:15-18 – going into all the world, preaching the gospel to every creature with signs and wonders. The Lord working with them and confirming His word (**v.20**).

- The Pastoral/Teaching Commission

John 23:15-17 – to ‘feed the sheep’; ‘tend the sheep’; ‘feed the sheep’. This is the ministry of nurturing and discipling the people of God; watching over the flock; feeding with the milk and the meat of the word (**Heb.5:13-14**).

After Jesus ascended, He gave the five-fold gift. In the Book of Acts, we see the five ministry gifts emerging:

APOSTLES – Paul and Barnabas were among the leadership team in the church in Antioch. They were set apart for a new ministry by the

Holy Spirit (**Acts 13:1-3**). By **Acts 14:14a** they are now called ‘apostles’. Many more apostles are named in book of Acts and the Epistles, including the brothers of the Lord (**1 Cor.9:5**).

PROPHETS – Prophets were part of the leadership team in the church in Antioch (**Acts 13:1**). There was a prophet named Agabus (**Acts 11:28 & 21:10**).

Judas & Silas mentioned as prophets (**Acts 15:32**). The role of the prophet was to exhort and strengthen the brethren.

EVANGELIST – Philip is called an ‘evangelist’ in **Acts 21:8**. He was doing the work of the evangelist in Samaria, preaching Christ, with accompanying signs (**Acts 8:5-7**), and baptising those who believed (**v.12**).

PASTORS/ELDERS – no one is specifically named as a ‘pastor’ in the New Testament, but the apostles appointed ‘elders’ in the churches. Paul exhorts the elders from the church in Ephesus to ***“shepherd the church of God”*** (**Acts 20:28**). Likewise, Peter in **1 Peter 5:2** exhorts the elders to ***“shepherd the flock of God”***. This is the pastoral ministry.

TEACHERS – Teachers were part of the leadership team in the church in Antioch (**Acts 13:1**). Paul also refers to himself as a teacher in (**1 Timothy 2:7**).

All these five gifts given by Jesus are necessary for the body to come to maturity (**Eph.4:12-16**).