



2.07 - He Gave Gifts Unto Men

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1. God Creates Heavens and The Earth.

(Scriptures from KJV)

Eph. 4:7-12

⁷ But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, **and gave gifts unto men.** ⁹ (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) (KJV)

Introduction

It is important for every believer to understand bible “Church government” and the “Fivefold positions of ministry”, how they function, how and why they work together as a team, by whom and why they were set into the “Body of Christ – The Church” and to clear up and misunderstandings, misconceptions or wrong ideas.

Example of the Human hand.

The human hand has 5 fingers of one which is called the thumb. Notice that when God created the human hand it contained 5 fingers and not 4, or 3, or 2, or just 1, but 5 fingers. The human hand functions best when all 5 fingers work together. The human hand also was created and designed by God to serve the whole human body with all 5 fingers working together, the thumb alone can not nor can any 1 finger alone achieve this.

- So it is with the fivefold ministry positions of the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. They have also been created and designed by God, just like the human hand, to work together with their combined gifts as one team to serve the Body of Christ, this is their main function and calling.
- The thumb has the ability to touch the other 4 fingers and so it is with the Apostle who has the ability and anointing to operate in all of the fivefold positions and anointing’s when and where necessary, as led by the Holy Spirit. This does not make the thumb more important or superior than the other 4 fingers for no one position of the fivefold ministries is more important than the other – all serve the “Body of Christ” as Jesus did and do not control, dominate or reign over the “Body of Christ”.

2. Church Government in the Bible.

(Scriptures from NKJV)

1Cor.12:28

²⁸ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that **miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.** (KJV)

- **Miracles, then gifts of healings** - refers to the Evangelist’s office



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- **Governments** – refers to the Pastoral office.

The fivefold offices are **not being listed in the order of their importance**, they are being listed **as they were developed in the early church**. Elders (older men in age) were appointed by the apostle to oversee a new work that they started until such time as the elder developed in spiritual maturity and gifts to become a pastor to govern the church. The office of the Pastor is also an office of an elder but the Pastor is the “**Government**” of the local church.

Definition:

Church government - refers to who is in authority in the local church and who is responsible for leadership of the local body – it is not talking about the complete “Body of Christ” on the worldwide.

- Nowhere in the in the New Testament do we find apostles governing the local body. In fact, the office of the apostle couldn't be part of the church government because the apostolic office is typically not a stationary ministry located just in the local body. The apostle is a “sent one” who is sent out with a message to pioneer a new work and churches.
- The Pastor is the “government” of the local church and is put in position by God.
- The government of the local church does not scripturally need all the full fivefold positions to be in the local church leadership to constitute a church government.
- The elders in a church are not the government in the local church and do not govern over the pastor. The elders may be put in position for a period of time until a pastor is found and takes this position to oversee the local church.

3. Spiritual Gifts

Eph.4:7-8

⁷ *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.* ⁸ *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (KJV)*

- These ministry gifts came (and come) from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself when he ascended and sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High.

Eph. 4:12

¹² For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**: (KJV)

¹² for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**, (NKJV)

- The purpose for which the ministry gifts are given is the perfecting of the saints, will they ever reach maturity without them? No.
- The ministry gifts are Christ's provision to the church to build up, edify, and mature the saints.
- We **need all** five ministry gifts **working together** to bring the Body of Christ unto full stature in Christ.
- Spiritual children are easily disturbed and swept about by false teachings.
- The ministry gifts Christ placed in the Church help us grow up into His image.



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- The **ultimate aim** of all ministry is not for self-glory or to magnify the human in any way. It is entirely **to edify and mature** the Body of Christ.
- God hath set some in the Church. There is a divine call. God sets ministry gifts in the Church - not man!
- You do not enter the ministry just because you feel it is a holy calling.
- You cannot make yourself a ministry gift.
- You do not enter the ministry because someone tells you that you are suited for it.
- How can you tell a divine call? You will have the conviction in your own spirit and you will have the witness in your own heart. You will have the spiritual equipment- gifts of the spirit - that go along with the office or offices to which you are called.
- The methods by which men are called are unimportant. But obedience to the call is important.
- **Ministry gifts are not set in the Church by prophecy.** However, a confirmation to the ministry may come through prophecy.

4. God does the Calling into Ministry.

Barnabas and Saul Appointed

ACTS 13:2-3

² *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.* ³ *And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. (KJV)*

- If a so-called prophecy does not confirm what you have in your own spirit, forget it.
- Seeing need is not a call to the ministry, **an anointing evidences** a divine call.
- The ministry gifts - people who are called of God to the full-time ministry.
- These ministries are not based on natural gifts, but on spiritual gifts.
- With the new birth, one is equipped with certain spiritual talents to equip him to stand wherever he is set in the Body of Christ.
- The ministry gifts consist not in name, but in power. (2 Tim. 3:5)
- All the work of the ministry comes under the leadership of Jesus Christ.

Mk.16:20

²⁰ *And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. (KJV)*

- The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church.

5. Preparation is Never Lost Time.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

- Along with the call goes a submission to the will of God.



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- People who have the call of God on their lives and who are also people of integrity -- honest and sincere - will stay hooked up with God.
- Do not despise the day of small things (Zech. 4:10).
- God will not violate His own rules. His Word says not to put a novice in the office of Deacon (1 Tim. 3:6).
- The thing that hinders people in the ministry more than anything else is trying to stand in the wrong office.
- Intruding into the wrong office can cost you your life .

1 TIMOTHY 3:6-7

⁶ *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. (KJV)*

6. THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRIES.

Eph. 4:13

¹³ *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 fullness of Christ: (KJV)*

- Ephesians 4:13 reads, "Till we all come in the unity," and not, "Till we are all divided into splinter groups."
- The ultimate goal of all ministry is to unite -- not divide.
- These ministry gifts have been given to the Church to bring a balance in the Church.

A basic Description of the Main offices:

- **The apostle**, above all, is to inspire and lead the way for gaining ground by establishing new works for God.
- **The prophet's** ministry is inspirational. He speaks by direct, divine inspiration and revelation.
- **The evangelist** has a direct endowment from the Lord to preach the word for the salvation of souls.
- **The Pastor** is the shepherds or overseers of God's sheep.
- **The teacher** teaches the Word, not by natural ability, but by the divine ability of the Holy Spirit.

7. THE APOSTLE.

- The Greek word APOSTOLOS translated apostle means one sent forward, a sent one.
- Jesus Christ is the greatest example of a sent one.
- A true apostle is always one with a commission -- not one who merely goes, but one who is sent by the Holy Spirit and not by man.

1 Cor. 12:12

¹² *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. (KJV)*



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1 Cor. 9:1-2

¹ *Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not you my work in the Lord?* ² *If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are you in the Lord.* (KJV)

- The fruit of Paul's apostolic ministry were people who were solidly established in the word.

1 Thes.2:11

¹¹ *As you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father does his children,* ¹² *That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.* (KJV)

- As apostle is first and foremost a preacher or a teacher of the Word.
- An apostle's ministry seems to embrace all other ministry gifts.
- The distinguishing result is the ability to establish churches.
- After churches are established, apostles may exercise oversight over those churches they have established themselves (1 Cor.9: 1-2) until those churches are adequately established with spiritual authority of their own – by a Pastor.
- A missionary who is really called of God and sent by the Holy Spirit is an apostle.
- Jesus Himself is the Chief Apostle and stands in a class by Himself.
- Apostles of the Lamb: These were the twelve apostles who were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection. (Acts 1:21, 22)

Eph. 2:20

²⁰ *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;* (KJV)

What marks do we look for in an apostle today?

- First and foremost a preacher or a teacher of the Word.
- Outstanding spiritual gifts.
- Deep personal experience in and with God.
- Power and ability to establish churches.
- Able to provide adequate spiritual guidance.

Note

- God rewards faithfulness. He doesn't reward offices.
- Higher offices do not receive any more reward; there is just a greater responsibility.

8. THE PROPHET.

- A prophet speaks by direct divine inspiration, an immediate revelation - not something he thought of, but something given at the spur of the moment by sudden inspiration.
- To stand in the office of prophet, one must have a more consistent manifestation of at least two of the revelation gifts (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, or discerning of spirits) plus prophecy.
- **Word of wisdom:** Supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine purpose in the mind and will of God. Always speaks of the future.



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- **Word of knowledge:** Supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God of facts in the mind of God concerning people, places, or things. Always present or past tense.
- **Discerning of spirits:** Supernatural insight into the realm of the spirit. Seeing and hearing in the spirit realm.
- A prophet is one who has visions and revelations.
- The prophets of the Old Testament were called seers. They would see and know things supernaturally.
- It is scriptural for others to judge prophecy (1 Cor.14:29).
- Under the New Covenant it is unscriptural to seek guidance through the ministry of the prophet.
- For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Rom. 8:14).
- Put the Word first. Even though there are supernatural manifestations in your life, don’t build your ministry on supernatural manifestations.
- It is dangerous to feel obligated to perform.
- Discern the difference between the Spirit of God and familiar spirits.
- When it is the Holy Spirit in manifestation, He says Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit doesn’t attract attention unto man and make man Lord.
- The laying on of hands goes with the prophet’s ministry.
- Jesus ministered healing through laying on of hands also.
- On other occasions, Jesus ministered healing by the transfer of power.
- The Lord only tells a prophet what He wants him to know. He does not tell a prophet everything.
- God will not violate the principles set forth in His own Word. The Spirit of God said through Paul not to put a novice in office, “lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil” (1 Tim. 3:6).
- Don’t be taken up with names and titles.
- God rewards faithfulness. He doesn’t reward offices.
- Higher offices do not receive any more reward; there is just a greater responsibility.

9. THE EVANGELIST.

- The meaning of the word evangelist is - One who brings the evangel (the good news), a messenger of good tidings.
- The evangelist’s favourite theme is salvation in its simplest form.
- The only New Testament example we have of an evangelist is Philip.
- The supernatural equipment accompanying the evangelist’s ministry includes “Miracles” and “Gifts of healings”.
- There was something to see and hear in Philip’s ministry: “And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, Hearing and MIRACLES which he did” (Acts 8:6).
- In the ministry of the evangelist, the preaching of the Word of God is essential.
- Only the preaching of the Word affects the will of the sinner.



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- Conversion is an individual matter. It is something personal between the human spirit and God.
- The evangelist's ministry is more of a roving (Travelling) ministry, ministering to the unsaved.

10. THE PASTOR.

The Greek word translated "pastor" literally means "shepherd".

John 10:11 (Jesus speaking)

¹¹ *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (KJV)*

1 Peter 5:4

⁴ *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away. (KJV)*

- Jesus had compassion upon people "scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd (Maw 9:36).
- It is unscriptural to appoint elders to oversee a flock and to run a church when there is a pastor to oversee it.
- It is the duty of the flock to support the pastor. But the pastor is not to serve for filthy lucre. His motive must be to serve god and to put the people first.

1 Tim. 3:6-7

⁶ *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (KJV)*

- It is the Holy Spirit who makes men overseers, not man.
- The most outstanding characteristic of a pastor is a shepherd's heart.
- It takes the shepherd's heart to see after baby Christians – to love and nourish them, with the word, and to bear with them when they first start trying to walk spiritually.
- The greatest example of a shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Remember what he said: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep (John 10:11).

11. THE TEACHER.

- The teaching gift a divine gift.
- God is talking about an office when He talks about the teacher (Rom 12 4).
- A teacher is not a teacher merely by natural ability or a natural inclination to teach.
- Paul described the teaching ministry as watering.



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- Divisions can be caused by unbelief and hardness of heart, even when teaching is in the power of the Spirit based on the Word of God.
- In Hebrews 6:1-2 we have the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ. These things are fundamental and cannot be compromised.
 1. Repentance from dead works.
 2. Faith toward God.
 3. The doctrine of Baptisms.
 4. Laying on of hands.
 5. Resurrection of the dead.
 6. Eternal judgement.
- Christ gave teachers for the edifying and building up of the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12).
- Teachers should be always ready and open to receive fresh glimpses of truth from the Word of God.
- Revelation marks a teacher's ministry.
- The teacher is more important to the church to those who are already saved.

12. A MINISTRY POSITION.

Rom.12:4

⁴ *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: (KJV)*

Rom.12:5

⁵ *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. (KJV)*

- A ministry office is a spiritual endowment from God.
- Some of these gifts - particularly those listed in Romans 12 - may appear to be lacking in the supernatural element. Yet all come from a supernatural source, given by the same Spirit and given by grace.

13. THE MINISTRY OF HELPS.

- Probably the best explanation of the helps ministry is found in the related list in Romans 12:8: "those who show mercy."
- The Amplified Bible translates Romans 12:8: "he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness and joyful eagerness."
- The one who helps must have the real equipment of divine grace and power.
- Acts 6: 1-6 describes the appointing of seven men to serve as deacons in the ministry of helps.



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- The ministry of music functions as a helps ministry, supportive to the fivefold ministry.
- The ministry of music is not a distinctive; it is the ministry of helps in operation.
- God can use talent if people will consecrate their talents to Him.

14. THE MINISTRY OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION.

- What the Word of God is talking about in First Corinthians 12:28 and 30 is ministering to others through tongues and interpretation, as a ministry.
- The ministry of diversity of tongues is not a ministry for one's own private benefit.
- The ministry of tongues and interpretation is to be ministered in the public assembly in order to bless and help others.
- Speaking in tongues in a person's personal prayer life is primarily a devotional gift.
- Paul said to the church at Corinth, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all," (1 Cor. 14:18), showing it was primarily a devotional gift to be used in the believer's prayer life in the worship of God.

15. THE MINISTRY OF THE EXHORTER.

- The primary motivation of the exhorter is to bring encouragement either by way of comfort or by stirring up believers.
- The exhorter stirs up the lost to be saved.

16. THE MINISTRY OF GIVING.

Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

Rom.12:8

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. (KJV)

- Giving was as much a recognized ministry as teaching or healing in the early Church. This is a ministry.



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17. THE MINISTRY OF JESUS.

The Fivefold ministry all in one person – Jesus Christ

1. The Apostle:

Heb. 3:1

¹ Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (KJV)

2. The Prophet:

Matt.13:57

⁵⁷ And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. (KJV)

3. The Evangelist:

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (KJV)

4. The Pastor:

John 10:11-16

¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. ¹² But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees: and the wolf catches them, and scatters the sheep. ¹³ The hireling flees, because he is an hireling, and cares not for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. ¹⁵ As the Father knows me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. (KJV)

5. The Teacher:

Matt. 4:23

²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (KJV)

Matt. 9:35

³⁵ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (KJV)

JESUS IS LORD!