



Apostolic Reform

**A Fresh Look at the
5-Fold Ministry**

David Johnson

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Foreword

They say a picture paints a thousand words; likewise, without using many words, this work by David details the 5-Fold ministry gifts of the church, and lays a foundation for a much needed discussion concerning Apostolic reform. Projecting a vision which honors the gifts God has placed in others, and activating them in the framework of a relational team, reinforces the supernatural origins of the 5-Fold.

History reveals that "small unknowns" have both challenged and defeated giants. While this mini-book may look small, it contains revelation of a topic which can topple non-relational, institutionalized religion, which has held *relational power infused Christianity* captive for centuries. As my dad, who being small in stature says, "I may look small in size, but I am a big man inside", likewise this book contains greatness.

My hope is that church leadership will catch the heart of this work, embrace its contents, and begin a much needed discussion towards change.

– Daryl Nicolet, Sr. Leader, Faith Worship Center Pepperell, Ma

Preface

The journey of every Christian is not only personal, but it is unique.

My walk with Christ began when I met the living God in July of 1978 and was later baptized in the Holy Spirit in the Fall of 1983. Over the years I have listened to thousands of speakers, preachers and teachers. I have read hundreds of books and web sites, as well as listening to Christian radio and other forms of Christian media. There is a lot of information out there about Christianity.

In 1998 I began to study the gift lists in the Bible that are found in Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-14 and Ephesians 4:11. It was about the same time I received a prophecy about writing, writing, and more writing. I simply began to study and take notes, look passages up in the Greek and Hebrew, and meditated on what the Lord was saying.

You might ask, “why does Christianity need another book?” It’s an excellent question. You also may be thinking that surely someone else must have written about this topic. The answer is yes, they have. None, however, are truly aimed at all Christians. Most are a call to change leadership models that may, or may not be working. Others are narrowly focused and isolate the average Christian from the “leadership,” unintentionally creating a mystical divide.

The topic of the 5-Fold ministry has been largely ignored in evangelical circles, subjected to the main stream of few denominations, or sadly, in some cases, abused.

The text is intended to get all Christians to begin to see the church as a living breathing organism that expresses the fullness of Christ, and gives personal significance to everyone in it.

- This book is not an exhaustive study on the 5-Fold gifts.
- You will not find detailed scholarship on the Greek or Hebrew, though; where it seemed appropriate, I have added a brief commentary on the original text.
- It is not a handbook for reorganizing conventional churches, or starting a movement to go back to the 1st century home church.
- Most of my thoughts are sourced, but many are not quoted. By this method, I am hoping that you will be inspired to read all of the Scripture passages in their biblical context.
- Its purpose is to be but a stepping stone to a deeper revelation of the roles of the apostle, the prophet, the teacher, the evangelist and the pastor.

It is my hope that you will be empowered to do greater things for God, while allowing those around you to support your weaknesses with complimentary giftings, as you work together for the cause of Christ.

And lastly, remember that without love, the Kingdom of God stands still.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the Lord and all his people who have loved and believed in me thus far in the journey - especially my wife; Mary Anne, and my children, without whom life would be far less enjoyable.

Introduction to the 5-Fold Ministry

"I'm tired of trying in church, I've be hurt too many times - I never seem to fit in."

"There is too much hypocrisy, and we don't seem to be getting any better."

"The programs just don't seem to grab me - it's the same old stuff."

"Church is boring, and we don't seem to be making any progress."

"No one seems to be getting saved any more - we should do something about it."

"I love the church, but I want to be used more!"

Maybe you've said something like that at some point in your walk with Jesus, I know I have.

The 5-Fold Church:

I believe the key to church growth is Ephesians chapter 4 - but not in some sort of corporate structure. At the very least, I believe that it means we are to have ministers that are co-equal and complimentary in their gifting.

Ephesians 4:11 (New International Version) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.



First we must settle the fact that this passage uses nouns, while the church often uses a mixture of nouns and adjectives. For example, so-and-so is a teacher, while someone else is prophetic. Why aren't they a prophet? In this passage there are 5 plural nouns with adjectives attached. They are apostles/apostolic, prophets/prophetic, evangelists/evangelical, pastors/pastoral and teachers/instructive.

It seems that we are not 100% certain if the actual nouns exist, therefore; we tend to soften our theology by saying that a person is apostolic or prophetic and not call them an apostle or prophet. It is a misleading interpretation of the passage.

This church model has been around since the time of Paul, and seems to be somewhat misunderstood. The fullness of Christ (the church), as well as the unity of the true church, is hidden in the Ascension Gifts; 5 ministers acting as one. The Ascension gifts are those particular people whom God has called to fill specific roles (gifts) in the church. These gifts should work in unison, complimenting each other's weaknesses with their own strengths - and equipping the church in preparation for the return of Jesus.

The Ascension gifts are grouped together specifically because they are the training or equipping gifts that God has poured out on his church. They are the corporate manifestation of God's government, revelation, redemption, love and wisdom. There are many gifts given to believers for use in loving others; not just in the natural, but in the supernatural as well. The 5-Fold ministry gifts provide structure and wisdom to the local and regional churches allowing them to meet the needs of their communities.

What would it be like for you to not just attend the church, but to BE the church? Without the Ascension gifts and a body mentality, we will not easily be equipped to be effective Christians.

How different might your walk with the Lord be if you had solid teaching, mature discipleship training, all with an increase in love, power and revelation thrown in? What would it mean for you to be recognized for gifting you already have, or receive the impartation of a new spiritual gift, be encouraged and then released in an accountable relationship so that you could be what God has destined you for?

5 Pillars: A Stable and Growing Church - Part 1

When your car is making a funny noise, or not performing as expected, you take it to someone who can repair it. When you are not feeling well, you go to a doctor to see if there is something they can do to heal your body. When you are in emotional pain, you might see a therapist or counselor. When your house has termites, you call the exterminator. Barring supernatural intervention, most folks in church are smart enough to know when something is wrong.



The question, what do you do when your church has no passion, every new vision seems to be the same old thing, every sermon is one that you've already heard, and you are lacking meaningful relationships? If you are like most Christians, you go to another church, meet a few hopeful friends and start the cycle of disappointment all over again.

Have you sat down to think about why this may be happening over and over again? Do you blame yourself for not pressing in, the pastor for not caring, or some other excuse as to why there is little in the way of power, love, invigorating teaching, or intimacy with Jesus? May I suggest that many churches subscribe to traditional church structures that are more corporate (business) like, than biblical? Trust me, if all was well in Church Land, I'd suggest not changing anything. I am firm believer in, "if it works, don't fix it. And if it's broke, shoot it twice!"

Don't you believe that God has more for you, more for your church? For just over ten years, I have been pondering this passage:

Ephesians 4:11 "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

My church background is varied, but it includes 30+ years in Baptist, Anglican, Charismatic, and Pentecostal churches. I have also attended services in the Church of God, Word of Faith, Congregational, Roman Catholic, Full Gospel and a host of independent denominations (which I would group in either Charismatic- or Pentecostal-like experiences).

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In my limited experience, what I have not yet seen is a fully functioning leadership team that includes the 5-Fold ministry gifts (Ascension gifts). Unfortunately, I have belonged to local churches that were, at times, contentiously divided over the gifts of the Spirit, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, whether the deacon board should vote or not, whether women can teach or be elders, and my favorite: that lobsters are the cockroach of the sea (see Jewish dietary laws for an explanation. (Leviticus 11:9 and Deuteronomy 14:9))

I have studied church history and revival quite extensively, and in a nutshell, here is what I think happened. In the first century church, there was great power from On High--so great, that Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for lying about their contributions to the offering plate. Just think about that for one minute. You lie about something you did or didn't do in church, and you're smote right there in the restroom.

The early church was uniquely empowered by the Holy Spirit. In virtually every chapter of Acts, the power of the Holy Spirit can be seen at work through the first Christians. From Peter's first sermon, to the appearance of an angel of the Lord to Paul before the shipwreck, God's power is poured out through his church.

The 5-Fold gifts were in action, but until Paul wrote about them, they were not really defined (understood). Believers were trained to hear the voice of God and act upon it in faith. The gifts to the church were poured out, but there were no Scriptures like 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 or Ephesians 4 to describe what God was doing in the church under the new covenant.

Most early believers were Jews, and eventually, the Gentiles got in on salvation through the efforts of the early apostles. New converts brought all kinds pagan and current religious ideas to "church." That is why Paul wrote them letters, known as the Epistles. He was instructing them on the way that the Holy Spirit would change them, while challenging them in their own ideas.

Men being men tried to gain power and position. And the result? Even by the end of the first century, the intensity of the New Testament church waned. Instead of rekindling the fire through prayer and repentance, they just got more religious - like the Pharisees had been in the time of Jesus.

The early Christians suffered tremendous persecution under the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). By the fourth century, Constantine, a friend of the Christians, slated for construction, the first church building (327 AD).

After the *Council of Nicaea* (325 AD) the equipping structure (Ascension gifts) of the church was nearly nonexistent. It was the end of the early apostolic church we see in the book of Acts. The beloved bride of Jesus gave way to nation-building, followed by the Crusades and the selling of indulgences. Prophets virtually ceased to exist and the occult flourished (i.e., Nostradamus). The role of the evangelist was taken over by "being born into faith," not "born again by faith." It truly was the Dark Ages.

Finally, all that was left was the Pope, the cardinals (elders) and the local pastor who submitted to Rome. His role was more of an administrator of the local church than a caregiver for the flock. All teaching came from Rome, and no one really questioned it until Martin Luther because the Scriptures were not available (One of the great things that Martin Luther did, was to publish the word of God in German.) People were split over all of this, but many found a true salvation. Since the time of Luther (1517), we've had many revivals around the world, including the Great Awakening, the Welsh Revival, the Indonesian Revival, the Toronto Blessing, and the Brownsville Revival.

I often think of Paul as somewhat of a music theorist, except that he was a student of the wonders of the New Covenant (Kingdom). Bach didn't know music theory per se, what he did was write music that sounded good to him. Sometime later, after his gift was well recognized, folks sat down to analyze what it was that he was doing in his amazing music. Paul did something similar. He saw what God was doing, heard His voice, saw His wonders, and prayed and brooded over the things of the Spirit. He then wrote them down, challenging the worldviews of the day, while chronicling for all ages the will, the heart, and the wisdom of God Almighty.

So what's wrong with the church? Except for some remote areas, the power of God is more talk than action. All around the world many church-goers are religious, denying the power of God, snipping out chunks of the Bible to suit their own ideas and personal logic.

There are many reasons for dead religion. The most common is the notion that obeying a set of *moral* rules apart from knowing God has some sort of eternal value. Another common form of dead religion is denying God's power. There are theologies that disallow God from doing miracles, empowering prophetic utterances, and many that ignore the possibilities of New Testament prophets and apostles.

One has to ask, if the Bible is true, where are the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers?

If we look at the mission of the church, "to go into all the world and making disciples," (Mark 16:15) then we need to divide that mandate up into the five segments, or the Ascension gifts.

- Someone needs to bring in the harvest. This is the **evangelist**.
- Someone needs to care for them once they are there. This is the **pastor**.
- Someone needs to teach them about Jesus. This is the **teacher**.
- Someone needs to provide revelation and direction to the church, the local body and the individual. This is the **prophet**.
- Someone needs to have **vision** for the church (how it all fits together), and the ability to communicate God's specific plan for the many aspects of church life including: fellowship, healing, casting out demons and the like. This is the **apostle**.

Together, these "someones" work as a team to equip all the church for the purpose of unity and the work of the Gospel. If we take a look at the current number of denominations, we can quickly see that we have failed. Unity is not everyone agreeing on every single aspect of church life, but working together to gather the harvest under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Paul said that the prophets and the apostles were foundational to the church (Ephesians 2:20), with only Christ, the Cornerstone, more important. Paul repeated a portion of the 5-fold order in 1 Corinthians 12:28. Although the purpose of the 5-fold (Ephesians 4) is to equip the church, his intent is to establish some priorities for usage, not create a hierarchy.

When we look at the myriad of problems in the church over the centuries, you've got to agree something is wrong – or at least something is missing!

The 5-Fold Ministry: Prerequisites - Part 2

There are 3 main gift lists in the Bible. These are often referred to in gift assessment questionnaires. They include:

Romans 12:6-8 *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11,28 *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines...²⁸ And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.*

Ephesians 4: 11-13 *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

As we've already discussed, the 5-fold list in Ephesians 4 are the Ascension gifts (or offices), given to train and equip the church.

There are others gifts, some of which are included in my Power/Government/Gift-Grid below. Keep in mind the following generalities as you read on:

- These gifts are available to all believers. (1 Corinthians 12:1-7)
- No believer that I have ever met has all of them. Why? We are meant to be a body. (Romans 12:3-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 4:12)
- I don't believe that God takes a gift away for bad behavior. (Romans 11:29) Christians have dry times, and others may fall into sin.
- Some gifts seem to come with salvation and/or the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2) Others are imparted by the laying on of hands. (Romans 1:11)

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- Gifts do not have a one-to-one correlation with character. God is sovereign, merciful, and full of grace, and you're not. So, get over yourself. (Romans 11:9)
- In the healthy church, the Kingdom flows from Jesus, through His leadership, and church structure, to all His people... and then hopefully to those outside the church.
- The gift "pool," as I like to call it, is available to every one that is saved, and I dare say, to those that are baptized in the Holy Spirit, at an even greater level of impartation.
- There is a distinction between spiritual gifts and service gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). One functions naturally, and the other supernaturally. Both are inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are equally important!
- The 5-fold ministers are equippers, which includes teaching, and a demonstration of God's power. One must not only learn from them, but be a witness to the anointing. (Ephesians 4)
- I also subscribe to the Biblical principle that one can receive a one time "power shot" from Heaven which uses you as a vessel for healing, a word from the Lord, or other supernatural manifestation. These too, are gifts. The point is that some will get these manifestations of the Spirit just a few times in their entire life, and for others, they can perform in their gifting like water flowing from a faucet.

In the same way the gifts of the Holy Spirit, both the supernatural and service gifts, are essential to the working of the church, the 5-Fold ministry gifts are important in giving the body of Christ a *living* structure.

The Distribution of Spiritual Gifts

I want to caution you that any study of the gifts tends to make vertical statements in order to clarify the character and usage of a specific gift. In practice, however, the gifts which God bestows on any one believer may come in various combinations, and be overlapped with other gifts as believers mature and work out their salvation.

The Ascension Gifts seem to have a *training period* which may involve other types of Christian service as stepping stones to maturity in that office.

This first diagram (Diagram 1, below) simply shows the power flowing from Jesus through the church to all the believers in the church global. This power is not all meant for use within the church walls, but to empower all believers (the church) flowing through the gift "pool" to use in/for ministry to all mankind.

I believe the 5-Fold gifts are structural gifts (callings), and they are for the global church. I further believe the pastor is the central figure in the leadership of the local church. However, I don't see him as the only authority in "the church." The authority of God rests in the corporate functioning of the 5-Fold, working in unison, not one over the other - no one calling standing taller than another. For this reason you will see them on the same line in no particular order. Paul did state that the apostle and prophet were foundational to the



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other three callings, and that the apostle and prophet were important (1 Corinthians 12:28) – essential to the church. He ordered their importance, but he did not make one with authority over another. He did not set up an American Corporate hierarchy!

The point is that the pastor needs an apostle and a prophet, as does the evangelist and teacher. In the end, they truly need each other; they are the skeleton of the church.

Even more important than understanding how each member of the body is gifted to work together with others to advance the Kingdom of God, Paul said that the use of our gifts was not the goal of having them.

1 Corinthians 13:1 *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.*

The point of having ministry and service gifts is so that we have spiritual tools in which we can love others as Christ loves the church.

I've put the local church on the second line because the local church does not require a resident apostle and prophet. These particular callings are more often "sent," while having a bit of an itinerant definition. What is important is that the local church invites apostles and prophets to minister to their congregations to bring revelation and impartation.

The "Gift Pool" is a well anyone can dip into, serving first the local body, and then the community. Each gift has the specific purpose of revealing the loving character of Jesus and addressing the spiritual and physical needs of His beloved creation.

The flow of power and authority come from Jesus, and many times, it is subject to the obedience of man.

As the Spirit of God is poured out, it should penetrate the leadership, and come to rest on every human within their sphere of influence.

Those who function in the 5-fold giftings may also have other gifts from the list. Apostles prophesy, pastors have words of knowledge and wisdom, and many evangelists have a healing gift. There is a myriad of "gift" combinations.

The anointing and the gifts are not for the pleasure of those to whom it is poured out on, but for those they serve in love.

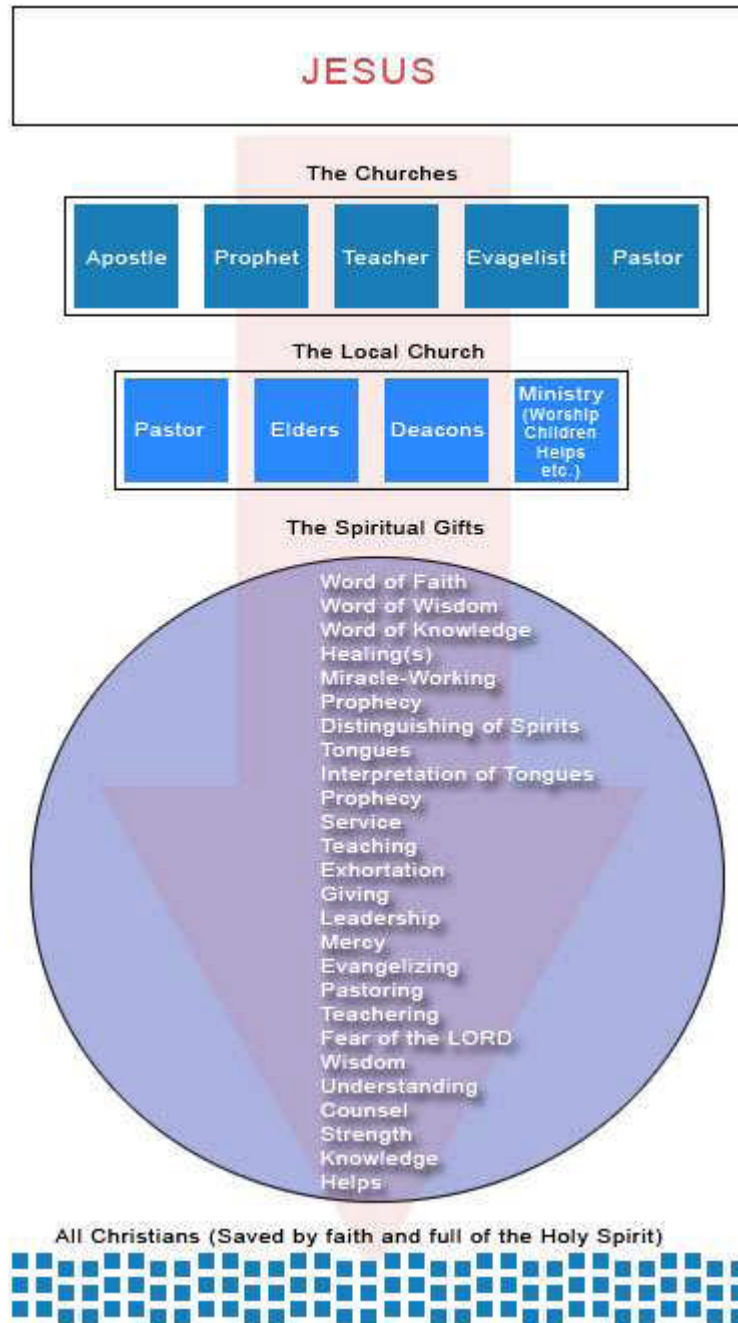


Diagram 1
Kingdom Flow of the Spiritual Gifts through the 5-Fold Ministries

The second diagram (below) is depicting the outflow of gifts to all men and woman of the church who are under the rule and reign of King Jesus. As you can see, the structure remains constant. While someone with the calling, or the gifting of an apostle, could also prophesy or perform miracles.

Paul prophesied on the ship before it broke apart (Acts 27:10). Just because one prophesies, does not make him a prophet. I have seen a number of evangelists who also have a healing gift. A teacher certainly has a teaching gift, but he may also have the gift of discernment. The point is that those with “structural callings” may also have ministry

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gifts. The purpose of the gifts is to minister. The purpose of the structural gifts is to equip the ministers - and that's YOU!

The church is a vessel for the Kingdom of God to be "at hand" here on earth. The structural gifts (offices or callings) are the essential channel for distributing the power of God--through equipping, to advance His kingdom. These are the governmental or structural gifts because Paul said that the foundation of the church was built on the prophet and apostle. It is important to distinguish the roles from the gifts.

Jesus Himself is the premier expression of each of these offices.

- "Jesus, the apostle...whom we confess" (Hebrews 3:1)
- "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth" (Matthew 21:11).
- Jesus was certainly the Great Evangelist, constantly preaching repentance and faith.
- Jesus is "the Shepherd [Greek word for "pastor"] and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25).
- "Rabbi, we know you [Jesus] are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:2).

The fullness or personality of the Bridegroom is manifest in the 5-Fold and fulfilled by the corporate church.

Bible scholars often feel that the more something is mentioned in the Bible, the more important it is to God. Words such as salvation (120) and love (697) are mentioned over and over and over.

- The word "apostle(s)" occurs 85+ times in the New Testament.
- The word "prophet(s)" occurs over 150 times in the New Testament, about 20 of those occurrences referring distinctly to prophets of the Church Age.
- The word "teacher(s)" occurs 125 times in the New Testament.
- The word "evangelist(s)" occurs only 3 times in the New Testament.
- The English word "pastor(s)" occurs precisely one (1) time in the entire New Testament (Ephesians 4:11). The Greek word, however, is elsewhere always translated "shepherd" and appears 17 times, 8 times in reference to Jesus, the Chief Shepherd! Additionally, the verb form of "pastor" (to shepherd) appears 2 times in the New Testament with regard to this role/office in the body of Christ.

The Bible speaks of New Testament apostles, prophets, or teachers a combined total of at least 200 times. Pastors and evangelists are mentioned a combined total of about 20 times! The point is this: throughout the centuries the apostle and prophet, to a large extent, have been excluded or ignored in various church models.

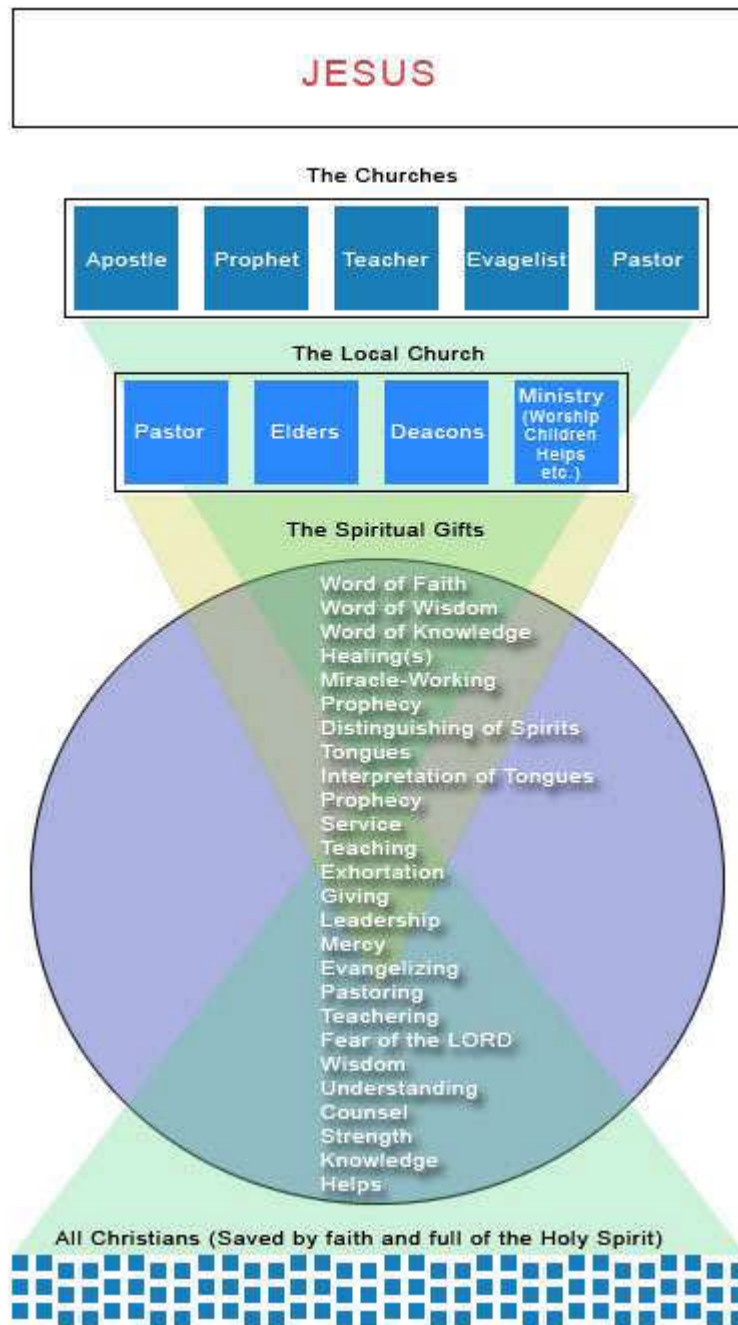


Diagram 2

As a believer of any kind, you should jump in the gift pool, and begin to walk in the power of God to affect your church, your community and your neighborhood.

Using your gifts to love others is the only purpose of having them.

The Bible says that we need to desire the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12 (1 Corinthians 14:1). Without a position in the church, we should be able to minister to one another, as well as the lost around us. Everyone we come into contact is an opportunity for us to use our gift. In that sense, we are no different than those in leadership as illustrated above.

A word about positions and titles - forget them!

That is man's box for the ways of God.

I once worked at a photography store. A man came in to have some film developed. He had these very expensive pearl business cards. It had his name, and the title "Professional Photographer" printed underneath his name. It said "specializing in weddings." When he handed over a dozen roles of 35mm film, honestly, I was surprised. Wedding photographers of that era; well the really excellent ones, did not use 35mm cameras like he did. They used medium format cameras such as Hasselblad, Bronica or Mamiya.

The second give-away was the department store film. No one would have trusted a wedding to something less than one of the major brand name films. And finally, the pictures were awful! That poor bride!

The very same week, another man came in; he was dressed in jeans and had long unkempt hair. He said, "I am looking for a job. Here is some of my work." He pulled out six 4"x5" slides and laid them on the light table near the register. They were astounding. One, a landscape and another a shot of Stuben Glass, the third was of a still-life of pots and pans, and the others were portraits. Each one was beautifully lit, perfectly composed, and had an indescribable sense that I can't explain. Not to mention the photography of reflective and shiny objects is a nightmare! I wasn't able to offer him a job, but I was able to refer him for some other work. He was the true professional--no card, no title, nothing about his looks, or speech said what he did, or who he was - it was simply the fruit of his craft. That is what the kingdom of God is like, quietly, but powerfully bearing extraordinary fruit.

Our focus is to be on the King of Kings, not the anointing, not an experience, and not the words we say. You see, the fruit of the Spirit in us, is love, joy, peace, and longsuffering (Galatians 5:22). The fruit of our ministry is healing, compassion, love and encouragement in the lives of others. This fruit causes others to feel significant in the Kingdom.

Everything that we do should make others feel significant to Jesus.



The Pastor - Part 3

Those who have attended either Protestant or Catholic churches are probably **used** to a priest or pastor at the helm. That is the way it should be – the pastor is one of the local leaders; however, as we've seen in Ephesians 4:11, there is much more to it than that. He must have input from others, thus breaking the religious paradigm of the common CEO-Pastor.

For our Catholic friends, their priest has the support of deacons (whom he is over), bishops, cardinals and the Pope. For the most part, the Catholic Church has pretty much become a corporate structure, and has been that way for nearly 1,500 years. I am not sure how hierarchy specifically works, but there is one over the other with the Pope in the highest position.

Protestants, in most cases, are accustomed to a senior pastor, a deacon board, elders and occasionally some sort of self-titled apostle (church planter). Outside of the church they may have itinerant evangelists and possibly prophets. The latter are almost exclusively Para-church organizations, with no real connection to a local church. In the end, the pastor most often turns out to be CEO of the local church, and rarely reports to someone above him. Denominations generally have some sort of oversight. In some cases, the elder board is co-equal with the pastor, but rarely have I seen it this way. It is most often the pastor over the elders, over the deacons, over the other ministries, over the congregants.

The corporate types say, "someone must be in charge." Someone should have the final decision in a disagreement. I don't see it in the 5-Fold model per se. I believe that the elders are the authority in the local church. This is where gifting comes in. A God-designed leadership that compliments each other makes for the most effective local church ministry. The New Testament addresses the appointment of elders (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5) who were chosen by the Apostles.

The apostles instructed the *congregants* to "choose" deacons, men full of the Holy Spirit to serve in the distribution of food (Acts 6:3-4). This was a service ministry. If deacons are servants, then why do they vote? I can't find voting in the Bible-- just the casting of lots.

As you can see, there are some problems with a corporate church structure. Add to that, the exegesis of Ephesians chapter 4 where some scholars believe that in the Greek, it says pastor/teacher, really making it a 4-fold collaboration. These are just some of the root issues with pastor-controlled churches.

The 5-Fold giftings are to be co-equal as equippers, then all must do some sort of training and teaching. Each facet of the church ministry needs to be taught, and demonstrated. Remember, roles are not gifts, and gifts are not roles. Anyone can have a gift; only those who are called have a role.

Many pastors are expected to fill the visionary roll, the administrative role and the teaching role, not to mention being the paid holy-man, counselor, toilet cleaner and resident evangelist. It is sad. Many good men and woman are burned out doing things that are required of them, while they spend little time working out the details of their call.

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Most Christians can't really tell you what a biblical pastor does. When we look at the 5-Fold model of "church," there are some things that he doesn't need to do, and other things that could be done by others around him. A pastor is often required to be a visionary, but isn't that really the job of the apostle? The details of the vision are often given by the prophet. Administration? Why does the pastor have to be good at organizing people and programs? Again, this is a role probably better suited to an apostle – or someone with the specific gift of "administration."

So, what does a 5-Fold pastor do? He's always responsible for **relationships**, helping people become whole through counsel and prayer, and he is available for confession. In short, he is the one that facilitates making others feel significant to Jesus. He is the salt and oil - the gentle Jesus in the flesh - there to heal the soul. A good pastor is relational, perceptive to the needs of his flock, understands brokenness and people in general. He should be able to teach others to do the same. Folks with the helps gift will often be by his side. The pastor is the one that leaves the 99 - not boasting about how many sheep came to the service - going after the one that didn't (Matthew 18:12). He is the one who finds out why people are not involved in their local church, and does something about it.

How awesome would it be for a pastor to go out and find those who have stopped going to church because they have been hurt, offended, unloved and rejected by the body?

Our New Testament pastor lives to meet needs, and he is dedicated to seeing folks healed and become productive as disciples of Christ--not just jamming them full of teaching and releasing the ones he likes best.

A gifted pastor prays, makes sure the sheep are fed, knowing that he doesn't have to do all the feeding. He is an overseer (along with the elders who share in healing and teaching) watching out for the sheep, and keeping the wolves (destructive influences) at bay. (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 2:25, 5:2) He is the role model of forgiveness, mercy and grace. He knows that a real shepherd leads from the back of the flock, not from the front. As I diagrammed in the previous chapter, a pastor may have other spiritual gifts, such as a word of knowledge, or healing. Whatever gifts that he has, they will augment his basic role as pastor: healing, reconciliation, wholeness and relationship.

It is possible to end up having 5-Fold teachers, prophets and evangelists pastoring churches. Although it is not unusual for an *apostolically* called person to start or be part of a church, that is not their main function. Apostles are visionary, structural, gathering folks by nature – they are "sent" to the church.

Churches pastored by a **teacher** are, by nature, not very relational and can be a bit legalistic. Teachers tend to be black and white, with little room for the grace that some need to get going in their walk with Christ. Their life is about the transfer of knowledge, not the care and feeding of the sheep.

Churches led by evangelists will have a high turnover of shallow converts. Without real pastoring, seeds are planted in thin soil, often snatched by the Devil. Evangelists often lack the nurturing side of a New Testament pastor. These converts don't grow relationally, or work through their spiritual and soulish issues. The nature of an evangelist can be very intense and powerful, but ultimately, they have a hard time when there are no new souls to be had for Christ.

Prophet-led churches are full of vision and revelation, but the nature of the prophet is the least forgiving of the lot. They are the plumb-line of the 5-Fold and grace is rarely on tap.

Christians in these churches will be the poster children of "iron sharpening iron." Prophetic folks, hearing from God, tend to be stubbornly "right," often bringing on conflicts as they try to straighten the path for others. This is why the pastoral, relational person is required for long term, and deepening personal relationships in any church.

As with many things that God intends to teach us, some of it is a bit general and very personal at the same time. Therefore, there is no perfect job description for our New Testament pastors. Each one will hopefully fulfill that basic calling to make sure that his flock is safe, cared for, nurtured and fed as God supplies their needs.



The Teacher - Part 4

As we make our way through the 5-Fold ministry callings, I have chosen to describe the teacher second because they, like the pastor, *seem* familiar to those from old church traditions. If you have previously subscribed to the pastor/teacher model, hopefully, you'll see the problem with the pastor's focus being split between information transfer and relationship building-- a tall order that many cannot achieve.

Romans 12:7 "If it [gift] is teaching, let him teach." In the Biblical language this meant to communicate the truths of the scriptures so that those who heard it put it into practice. Teaching makes difficult truths understandable over time. It is not logic, for the ways of God are higher than ours. It is instruction with the goal of reaching Christians with the "rhema" understanding of Biblical passages.

True teaching brings God's insight to prophetic, allegorical, symbolic, historical and instructive passages of the Bible. The true teaching gift sees the layers of understanding in a single passage. For example, we have all heard the story of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding of Cana. For many, this is simply a historical passage. And while it is historical, to the teacher, it is seen as a prophetic parallel to the story of salvation. Jesus turns the water (Holy Spirit) into wine (salvation) while in the earthen vessels (you and me). Then it is taken by those who know Him to the master of the feast (those without the Holy Spirit), and so forth.

On another level, we could see this as a passage that needs to be applied to our life - a place where we need Jesus to miraculously transform us. We may identify with the struggle Jesus has with His timing and release, the natural response of His mother, versus the supernatural response of Jesus.

There is a distinction in the Bible between preaching, and teaching. Teaching helps us "put on the mind of Christ" (Philippians 2:5) and understand the Scripture, where preaching focuses on changing our heart and the application or reception of the word – but preaching is the realm of the Evangelist that we'll discuss in Part 5.

When teachers equip the saints, building up the body of Christ, the saints are taught to do their part in the building process; it is not just the job of the teachers. This is why scripture says that ALL believers should be able to teach the fundamentals of the faith; not just the teachers. In fact, teachers should be called to a much deeper level of

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teaching than merely explaining the fundamentals. Hopefully, with the help of the pastoral staff, the believer goes from being a “hearer of the Word” to a “doer of the Word.”

The New Testament teacher's sole purpose is to cause Christians to understand the written Word of God - to put on the mind of Christ. The true teaching gift brings out nuances of the Word, which equip the saints for the work of ministry. These are not "how to get through your crappy week" sermons. They are life and instruction for living as heirs of the Kingdom, and children of the living God!

This is the kind of teaching that prepares you for the work of ministry. I don't believe a great teacher needs to be strapped to a local congregation week after week. Because the teacher is an equipper, he trains teachers for Bible studies, home-groups, kid's church, youth teachers, and even pastors. He may even be a professor in a Bible school setting. If the teacher is able to participate in the process described in the following verse, he has done his job.

Proverbs 2

1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,
2 listening closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding;
3 furthermore, if you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding,
4 if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure,
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.

The Evangelist - Part 5

The third role in the 5-Fold church model is the Evangelist. In the modern Protestant church an evangelist is often an individual in a para-church organization who does not always have a Bible degree, whereas a pastor does. The difference between a pastor and an evangelist is a degree?! That just seems silly to me.



The person with the role of evangelist is to bring others to Christ! He is also an equipper, so he needs to equip others to bring folks to Christ. I have found that evangelists focus on souls, and not too much else. They ask, "Are you right with God?" "Do you know where you'll go when you die?" And they are quick to turn any Bible passage into the Gospel message. They are most often preachers and not teachers. Sure, we are all to preach the Gospel to the lost, but teaching is for believers so that they may "put on the mind of Christ." (Philippians 2:5)

Preaching is to the heart, as Peter's first sermon cut to the "heart," and 3,000 were added to their number. (Acts 2) *Teaching* targets the mind to renew our thoughts (Romans 12:2) and increase of knowledge of God. Psalm 26:1-3 makes a distinction between the heart (spirit) and the mind. Each one receives the word of God differently.

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The preacher focuses on the heart issues, and the teacher on the knowledge of God. Both are edifying to the heart and mind.

As we are body, mind and spirit, each one requires a different type of nourishment. These definitions of delivering the Word of God are certainly in the Bible, but often overlooked. I mean, why would we continue to preach the Gospel to a group of saved sinners? Wouldn't it be better to teach them to be disciples and get them past the elementary teachings?

On April 24th, 1999, I met a Brazilian fellow in the hallway at the Salvation Army, after attending an evening service with a couple of friends and my family. I felt impressed by the Lord to pray for him as I was making my way to the parking lot. So, I asked Carlos for permission to do so. As I was praying, I felt the Lord say to me, "he's an evangelist." I said that as I was praying over him. He said, "Oh no brother, I am not an evangelist, I am a pastor."

The prophetic gift in me pressed on. "How many people got saved the last time you preached?"

"57... that was on a street corner in Belo Horizonte." he said in a very humble voice.

"57! Are you kidding me? I exclaimed. "I don't know a church within 400 miles of here where more than a dozen got saved in the last year!!!! You, you're an evangelist, says the Lord"

"Brother I am a pastor." He replied, "I have been to Bible school."

"I don't care where you've been, my friend, you are an evangelist - the kind that preaches the gospel with power!"

We later talked about Philip in Acts 8 and some other instances where the gift of evangelism was in use.

In the 10-plus years that we've been friends, Carlos has brought 44 people to Jesus on a tour bus of 60 as it negotiated the mountains in central Brazil. On the streets of Brazil and the restaurants of Cape Cod, I have watched him lead many to the Lord. In one church meeting with about 100 people, 14 more received the gospel. These were people who thought they were already saved, but when the anointing of the evangelist came, they were convicted and repented. I have rarely seen such a gift in operation. From Jerusalem to Bogota, New York to Boston, Carlos has brought the message of salvation in four languages.

I once attended a church of about a 120 where the pastor was an evangelist. People got saved just about every week. One week, we were praying over the chairs in the cafeteria of the school where we met. I stopped at one specific row, and proclaimed, "This is the row of salvation." He sort of rebuked me and said, "All these rows are rows of salvation." As he finished his fifth or sixth closing, that particular row had a couple that was living together, sitting on the right of the main aisle, and a lone woman on the left. As he gave the call for those who wanted to give their heart to Jesus, all three persons' hands went up. The couple went on to get married and became the youth pastors of the church.

The problem with that type of church is the pastor is so focused on souls, the ministry has little depth in terms of pastoring or teaching. When believers become hungry for more of the Lord, they either get pressed into the mold of soul-gatherers—becoming like

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the pastor--or burned out on getting saved each Sunday and so move on to greener pastures.

The evangelist primarily belongs outside the walls of the church except when they are teaching to equip the church. There are many expressions of the Gospel. From friendship and servant evangelism, to tent meetings, altar calls and street evangelism, all should end with an opportunity to receive Christ, and the evangelist is perfectly equipped for the job.

The Blood of Jesus and the ministry of reconciliation are the tools of the trade for the New Testament evangelist. He or she may have other gifts, but their appetite for the lost is insatiable.

Evangelists seem to work well with prophets and apostles. Many, but not all of the ones who I know, are strong personalities. I find they generally accuse the pastoral types of being too "soft" from the pulpit and having too much grace for sin. That is the best reason to get them out where they have the greatest opportunity for reaching those who don't know Jesus.

The evangelist teamed with the prophet and his revelation of who is *ready* to join the kingdom, are the most effective harvest workers that I have seen. Given the opportunity from leadership, they go to work diligently reaching the lost.

The Prophet - Part 6

The current state of the prophetic ministry and role within the church is probably the closest to biblical intentions as any of the 5-Fold gifts. The New Testament prophet and prophetic gift have substantial depth and teaching in both Charismatic and Pentecostal circles.

If you have time, John Paul Jackson, Dennis Cramer, Graham Cook, Bob Jones and Rick Joyner all have materials on the prophetic available.



The New Testament prophet is essential to that which the church is doing on a day-to-day basis all around the world.

Ephesians 2:19-20 ...God's people...[are] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers...

Like all the Ascension gifts/roles mentioned in Ephesians 4:11, there is also the same gifting available to folks in non-leadership roles--people like you and me. After all, you can all prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:31) —that is, if you want to. But that doesn't mean that you will be at the level of a seasoned prophet. Like any calling, there is a blending of

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character, experience, shaping, anointing, release, timing and always God's sovereign hand.

In the church, especially with the prophetic, there are three levels of functioning that seem readily apparent. I find there is usually a believer's level (all 1 Corinthians 14:31), a ministry level (set apart 1 Corinthians 12:10) and leadership/equipping level (5-Fold Ephesians 4:11).

The Believer's Level - If you can all prophesy, then everyone can play. This should be encouraging and generally edifying revelation that is helpful to the group(s) that you are a part of.

The Prophetic Gift - This is a person who has a high degree of prophetic ability. They are able to have success in not only bringing encouragement and direction, but will often function in words of knowledge and possibly dreams and visions along with dream interpretation.

The Prophet – This is a person with a very specific calling to be part of the leadership circle of the church at large. They may not be in a specific local church.

Most of the prophets I know have an itinerant portion of their ministry. Our New Testament prophets often function in all of the revelatory gifts: prophecy, word of knowledge, wisdom, and faith, as well as dream interpretation, visions, and dreams (1 Corinthians 12).

According to Scripture, the prophet is foundational and will need to work with an apostle to get the foundation of the church in place. I often envision this relationship as a project manager and construction supervisor working together (not one over the other), to build the structural portion of the living, breathing church - which is people. The prophet and apostle are to set in place the framework for the pastor, evangelist, and teacher to launch their local expression, gathering souls and discipling believers.

When we look at the Old Testament prophets, they were constantly after the character of Israel. If Israel is a type for the church in Scripture--and sometimes it is--then our New Testament prophets will also need to be concerned about the character of the church. Just as Nathan went to King David, exposing his sin with Bathsheba, the prophet's role will be one of character building. As other kings, even Saul, used prophets to guide Israel in times of battle, and Joseph was used to save Egypt from destruction by famine, the prophet's role today is to help the church navigate her course to achieve her destiny, both locally and globally.

In the Old Testament, prophets came in many different packages. There were the whiners (Jonah and Elijah), the criers, and those with bad attitudes. In the New Testament, we find the likes of John the Baptist eating locusts and honey. Prophets have always seemed to have strong and distinctive character traits, and that hasn't changed today. The purpose of the New Testament prophet is to provide direction to the church, bring correction and warnings, foretell events in the world and in the church, equip the saints for the work of ministry, and encourage and edify the body. This direction often includes carrying out the visionary blueprint of the apostle. Both roles require revelation, but one is more visionary (the apostle) while the other (prophet) is more directive and focused.

In the end, the prophet is essential for keeping the church on track, and working with the apostle to build a foundation on which the local expressions of the church can exist to win souls and disciple its saints.

The Apostle - Part 7

The Apostle is a controversial role/gift in most of the church today. I honestly don't know why. If we read carefully Ephesians 4:11 and some of Paul's other letters, in particular 1 Corinthians, we can plainly see that the apostle has a place in the contemporary church. If we reject the notion that the pastor is the quintessential calling, and look at the 5-Fold as a necessary entity--a sound church model, where all are on equal footing--we've made some real progress. Like our beloved triune God who is three-in-one, the church structure is five-in-one. Each facet of the 5-Fold is necessary, and presents a different but equally important face of the Bride of Christ to the world.



I'd like to take a moment and say what I *don't* think an apostle is:

- He is not specifically a missionary, or church planter, yet the actual word in Greek means "sent."
- He is not a pastor; although he may take that title for a period of time, even years, to help establish the church in a region.
- He is not a person with all 12 spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12!
- He is not "over a region," such as a Cardinal in the Catholic Church.
- He will not be offering us any new "governmental" revelation; but, hopefully, he will set sound church government in place.
- One person is not a 5-Fold minister--pastoring, prophesying, evangelizing, teaching and apostling. This is simply contrary to the idea of being a body with many parts.

To understand the apostle, first we need to see him (or her) in light of the other four roles in the 5-Fold ministry. Second, we need to see the apostle as foundational, just as Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians. Third, we should see the apostle as the "sent one," just as the title implies; not sitting in a local church for years and years. And lastly, we need to see today's apostle in light of things that apostles did in Scripture.

When the apostle is surrounded by evangelists, pastors, prophets and teachers, what needed role is left in the church? Fitting the pieces together! The gifted apostle identifies what is needed, and who fits the ministry role. He intuitively identifies others gifts, and sees them working together. He sees teams, anointing, and gifting as the building blocks of the church – each stone fit together for the good of the Kingdom. The Apostle Paul wrote every gift list in the Bible (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4). He understood the importance of all the gifts (1 Corinthians 12), and identified their significance, and laid out guidelines for their orderly use (1 Corinthians 14). He identified the character of successful minister (Galatians 5) and he cautioned us to love above all. (1 Corinthians 13)

Foundationally, the apostle is the one that oversees that the teachings of Christ are not compromised. He is responsible for doctrinal integrity. Apostles are the ones that warn when the church is adding something to the Scriptures.

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In business, most large companies have a brand that's identified by a logo, a specific font, and other elements of perception to create "the brand." There is usually someone in the organization that is prescribed as the "brand police." It is their job to make sure all advertising and marketing efforts adhere to the brand objectives. That is what today's apostle is like in the church. Christianity has elements that set it apart from any other religion (i.e., a living God, communion, spiritual gifts and sacred text, to name a few). One of the tasks of the apostle is to make sure that what we do and teach in church adheres to biblical principles and the law of the covenant.

The apostle is not a legalist, but sort of an attorney for God. He is the authority on doctrinal errors and corrects them. (You could think of this booklet as that sort of correction.)

A New Testament apostle is "sent" by some sort of local church expression. I believe that he or she is sent, most often with a prophet, so that the apostle can establish a work (existing or not), which will become a local expression in a new location. The church at Antioch (Acts 11:22-24) is a great example of the interplay of the 5-Fold working together. An apostle gets a work established, for which the prophet provides direction, so that a pastor can take over and care for the sheep with the help of the teacher, while the evangelist brings in new converts to be disciplined.

Church is not intended to be a one-man show, and never will be. Since the church is always looking for new terms to provide insight into basic principles, this is probably best known today as an "apostolic team."

By looking at the Acts of the Apostles, we can get an idea of the fruit of this particular role in the church. I like to look at what Paul did because he was not with Jesus from the start of His ministry, nor was he there at the crucifixion. And yet, he was an apostle; called by God, and having a tremendous impact on the New Testament church.

Here are some bullet points regarding the apostolic office:

- Apostles are responsible for doctrine. Paul wrote most of the NT addressing errors, and giving us knowledge of the purpose of the Old Testament and its relationship to Christianity. He addressed critical issues in the church in terms of practice, law, and grace. Paul helped us identify the works of the Holy Spirit, pointed out false teachings, false prophets, and false apostles. This is a governmental role of sorts, and has a very specific type of authority. (1 Corinthians 6:5)
- The fruit of the apostle's ministry is supernatural (2 Corinthians 12:12). The many apostles named in the NT who performed healings, miracles, and supernatural power backed up the things they taught and the life they lived. (Acts 2:43)
- The apostle brings impartation (Romans 1:11), which are gifts which individuals and ministries have not previously had. The apostle is meant to leave a "spiritual deposit" when sent to another place.
- Apostles are generally strategic, and seem to have revelation about things, not only knows how the pieces fit together, but in what order things need to be done. They are often the folks who identify the gifts and leaders (appointing elders) in a local church setting. If an apostle is prophetic, it is usually in terms of an apostolic

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- strategy or to set individuals or ministries in place. (1 Corinthians 12:28, 1 Corinthians 3:10)
- The apostle is a “big picture” person, using his or her view of the kingdom to set foundational elements in order. (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40; Titus 1:5) Generally, the prophet will provide the insight and detail for the placing of these elements. The apostle’s vision is for unity, intimacy, fellowship and maturity. (Acts 28:23, Ephesians 3:5, 10)
 - Because apostles are sent, they often travel; these are more than missions. Each trip has a purpose and an impartation to leave. A true apostle called of God will have lasting fruit, not the biggest church. (Acts 16:6, 18:28, 19:29, 28:15)
 - Apostles are taught by God through revelation, rooted in a commanding grasp of the Scriptures. It is their job to see that the Gospel is preached, and that the church refrains from activities that bring in worldly influences that will compromise its mission. They are the sound doctrine police. (2 Corinthians 12:1, Galatians 1:11)
 - Apostles are fathers. They invest in the ministries of their spiritual children. (Philippians 2:22, 1 Corinthians 4:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12)
 - The nature of the apostle is a servant. (Acts 16:17, Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Titus 1:1)
 - Apostles provide an example of leadership. (1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, 2:1-12)
 - Apostles serve without asking for anything. (1 Corinthians 9:12)
 - They provide oversight and accountability (Hebrews 13:17)



Putting it all Together – Part 8

The essence of the 5-fold ministry is TEAM.

Working together to expand the Kingdom of God, apostles and prophets preserve the foundation of the church, whose head is Christ, the chief Cornerstone. Their vision, warfare, prayer, revelation

and declarations put in place the ability for local and “city” churches to complete the work of the Gospel. The apostle will be concerned about what is being built, while he sets in place a sound biblical foundation for the future work of the local church.

The prophet will provide encouragement, focused direction; declaring and proclaiming the workings of an unseen Kingdom, and providing revelation for avoiding pitfalls and other demonic obstacles.

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The pastors, teachers, and evangelists not only invest in bringing others to Christ, but disciple them too. The three pour out healing, wholeness, provide accountability, love, training, counsel, as well as encouraging believers in their gifts.

Each of the Ascension Gifts provides an important facet of Christian life and ministry to the body. Together they replicate the very DNA of Jesus Christ, providing a balance of fathering and empowerment to the holy priesthood we call **the church**.

The following excerpt from *The Fruit of Apostolic Ministry* is a fitting review of the 5-fold ministry.

1. Apostles govern; task-focused. Gifted by God, and graced according to the measure of Christ's gift, apostles are master builders who lay the foundation of Christ, the anointed One, in the lives of people. Their objective is to see a church come forth in every city/region that is a many-membered functional body that is doing the work of Christ in that area, to the end that God's government and glory are established.

2. Prophets guide; word-focused. Standing alongside the apostles in the foundation of the church (Jesus Christ being the chief Cornerstone), prophets keep the church moving in a manner that is consistent with the revealed word of God. When properly linked with governing apostles, there is a powerful grace to guide the church toward her destiny.

3. Evangelists gather; soul-focused. Passionate for the conversion of people to Christ, evangelists (1) preach the gospel of the kingdom (often with signs and wonders confirming the word), (2) heal the sick, (3) cast out demons, and (4) equip the saints to do the work of the evangelist.

4. Pastors guard; people-focused. A more functionally understood word for this gift is "shepherds." Shepherds are not always able to hang onto the vision because of their burden for people and heart for their well-being and safety. Contemporary religious tradition has confused this biblical role with that of CEO's. But, today's reformation process will align true shepherds within the fivefold equipping ministry where they will be freed from trying to do what God gave others to do. Then, they will be able to focus upon the flock.

5. Teachers ground; detail-focused. Appointed third in order by God, teachers are intended to put the meat on the bones that are provided through the revelation ministries of apostles and prophets. They are not to build denominations around their pet doctrines. Rather, they are to function under authority on apostolic teams, grounding the body of Christ with the details of apostolic doctrine and guided by prophets.

The Fruit of Apostolic Ministry
by Don Atkin
www.lifemessenger.org
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In the final analysis, our 5-Fold ministers are not to sit down musing over what title they should put on their business card, but to fulfill their role, supporting the work of the church and advancement of the Kingdom of God.

For those who are leaders, or perform any job within the church for that matter, the spirit of the 5-fold ministry is to encourage everyone with a job or ministry to raise up another through fathering, training, and mentoring. When believers are training someone to do their job cleaning toilets, leading a home-group, pastoring, helping, administrating,

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prophesying, leading worship, or evangelizing, the church begins to fulfill its mandate to make disciples.

For those who are selfless enough to embrace the idea of fathering (mothering), one of two things will happen: They will get promoted to a different ministry, or become the leader or equipper of the ministry that they are currently in. I know of no set path or formula to achieve destiny, but pouring life into others is certainly the vehicle. We are to use the little we are given so that it can be increased. We will reap what we sow, and in the process, God will reveal the call on our lives and the destiny that we have in Him. Our only priority is to be obedient.

In nearly every epistle, the Apostle Paul likened the gifts to the members of the human body. This body was created in the image of God. There was not one part that was more important than another. Each one was created for a significant purpose, and without it, the body would suffer—and, in some cases, be lame.

Each one of us has been destined to be a part of this great spiritual body, each one of us contributing as we have been gifted by God. That is why Paul penned the following.

Ephesians 1: 11-14 *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

Appendix 1

Assignments:

1. Word Study on "[Antioch](#)":
If we look at the church in Antioch as a model for the church, what can we glean from that?
2. Word search "apostle", "prophet", "teacher", "evangelist", "pastor", and "shepherd".
3. Research The Doctrine of the [Laying on of Hands](#):
What is it, and what are 5 reasons we should know it?
4. Read: [5-Part Ministry Model](#): Created to be simple, and meet the needs of the average believer to simply pray for another, the 5-Part Model is simple and direct method of proceeding.
5. Word study on "heart mind" and "knowledge of God".
6. Read: [Receiving Prophecy](#)
Revelations is a major part of the Christian life. Without words of encouragement, comfort, direction and correction, there are parts of God's will for us that are not revealed. But how do we know that difference between "good intentions" and God's direction?
7. Find a biblical example of each of the [Spiritual Gifts](#) Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

Credits:

The original series on the 5-Fold appeared on David Johndrow's blog: Fire & Grace www.fireandgrace.com - david@fireandgrace.com

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