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## THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY GIFTS

Those of you that grew up in Pentecostal churches have probably heard of the “fivefold ministry giftings.” Those that grew up in denominational churches probably never heard of this. The fivefold gifts are mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 where Jesus gave gifts to the church. It says, ***“And he (Jesus) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”***

First of all, these are not jobs that someone qualifies for with natural giftings. They are giftings that God gives. You can’t earn these five gifts. They come directly from God. No one can put you in one of these “offices” but God. The church can acknowledge that you are gifted, but they cannot put you into the gifting. These five gifts are offices of the church. They are equal in value and work together.

The purpose of the fivefold gifts is found in Ephesians 4:12-14 where it says, ***“<sup>12</sup> For the perfecting (equipping) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect (mature) man (woman), unto the measure of the statute of the fulness of Christ: <sup>14</sup> that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight (tricks) of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ...”***

If one is called by God to one of the fivefold gifts, it is not about them. They are subject to God to build the saints up and equip them. It is not about building their ministry, and it isn’t about a title. The fivefold callings are not easy. Those that are called are to continuously be teaching the body of Christ the basic foundational principles found in Hebrews 6:1-2 so they can grow up. Walking in these giftings is not about how many follow you. The giftings are given to equip the saints and instruct them so they can do what God has called them to do (their part of the work of the ministry).

Anyone that focuses on themselves is prideful and probably not called by God. The focus of these giftings should always be a “servant’s heart” ready to teach. These giftings are absolutely necessary to bring the body of Christ into unity (vs. 13). Without these giftings operating the way God intended them to, many become puffed up in pride with the title, but have no anointing. Many deceive those that follow them because of the title.

A healthy “church” will actively pursue these gifts to be used in their services and ministry. They strive to bring these five gifts together like a hand, so the arm and the rest of the body can function properly. They are not any better than any other part of the body, but absolutely necessary for the body of Christ to function.

It is my prayer that if you are called to one of these gifts that you will be mentored by those that have already paid the price and are truly walking in the fivefold giftings. We learn by example. Paul disciplined Timothy and taught him the ways of being a pastor and evangelist.

Do not discount the importance of these gifts when they function properly. If you want to know more about them, visit our website ministry school notes. You will find them by [clicking here](#). Scroll down until you find the topic and read the teachings on each office in more depth.