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EQUIPPED TO BE A SERVANT

In the book of Ephesians chapter 4 we are told that God has given gifts to the Church. Among those are what are better known as the fivefold ministry. These gifts include the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher. They are not gifts given for the purpose of being elevated and worshipped. They are gifts given to do what Ephesians 4:12-13 says, ***“For the perfecting (equipping) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (building up) the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man (mature) unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”***

Notice in verse 12, it says “for the work of the ministry.” The word ministry comes from the Greek word “*diakonia*” which means service or servant as to help someone. The word deacon comes from this word. It does not mean Pastor although many call Pastors “ministers.” It is the job of these gifts to train the “sheep” to do service.

Everyone of us plays a part in the body of Christ. Some may be called to be givers of money while others are called to clean toilets. Some may be mothers and fathers that learn how to share Christ with their children and friends. Some may be called to be Christian businessmen. Whatever the call, we each need training to do the job right and whatever we are called to do, we are to do it with a servant’s heart. No true job is rewarded that does not come from a heart of service or a servant’s heart.

The church has neglected these five gifts. There are Pastors and some teachers in the church, but in this day, there are very few true Evangelists, and it is rare to see true prophets and apostles. An apostle is not a ruler. An apostle is a church planter. He starts churches, raises them up then puts them into the hands that he has “equipped.” So many are after the title (five-fold ministry gift) instead of after being a “servant”.

Consider these gifts as a hand. Thumb and four fingers. The arm functions with the hand, but the hand must have the five parts to truly function correctly. Ask someone that has lost a finger, a thumb, or a hand and you will find that they are limited in what they can do. So it is, with the church. We need these gifts to function properly to make us the servants that we need to be for Jesus!

We need to pray that God puts these five gifts back into the church in their correct state so that the people can be equipped the way God intended them to be. Then the church will take back the enemy’s territory and there will be a true move of God.