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THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY GIFTS

I grew up in a church where there was a Pastor, and a board of elders. I had never heard of Apostles and Prophets except for what I read in the bible. We did not have evangelists come to the church, although we had Sunday School Teachers. The Pastor was the leader. As for Prophets, my bible said that a prophet was one that preached, but not one that moved in the gift of prophesying. My bible was wrong.

As I studied the Bible, I realized that this church lacked the foundation that most churches lack. In Ephesians 4:11 Paul writes that Jesus gave gifts to the church. These gifts were (are) as quoted in verse 11, ***“And he gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers.”*** These five “offices of the church” were given as gifts. I might add that the apostles of the lamb (Jesus’ 12 disciples) are not the same as apostles that are given to the church.

These gifts were given for one reason and that is found in verse 12 of Ephesians 4:12, ***“For the perfecting (equipping or complete furnishing) of believers for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ.”***

Without these gifts in operation there can be no perfecting or maturing or completing of the saints. Verse 13 goes on to say, ***“Till we will 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 fulness of Christ.”***

Every Christian is a member (part) of the body of Christ. We are joined together by God. But we cannot ever mature without being trained by these five gifts.

Sorry to say many have taken the title but do not have the gifting that goes with it. They are puffed up and it is about themselves and money. The five-fold ministry should never be about money. It is all about growing and maturing the body of Christ.

If your church does not have these five gifts in place, then you are seriously going to be lacking. It is no wonder that the body of Christ is weak, powerless, and in discord with one another. We cannot deny one gift is valid for today without denying all of them. Just because we have not been taught about them does not mean that they are not valid. We need to get back to the bible and pray that these gifts operate properly in the church once again.