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TRAINING WHEELS

Often when a child that has never ridden a bike receives a new bicycle, training wheels are put on it so it will not tip over easily. Those wheels help the child to balance as they learn to ride. Once they have learned to ride the bike and can balance in their ride then the training wheels come off. They have accomplished how to ride without them.

In our walk with God, we are gifted by the Lord with an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher. These five individual gifts are like training wheels. They help us to stay upright and keep balance on our life's path. These individuals must know the scripture well enough that they can guide the "new" children in faith until they are well balanced and stable enough to "ride" on their own.

Most churches do not function in these gifts. We see the Pastor, and sometimes an Evangelist, but rarely do we see the Apostle, Prophet, and Teacher [not a Sunday school teacher] being used as God designed. It is no wonder that so many Christians "fall" on their path because they have not been trained and are off balance. When you do not know how to "ride" through life, you may go down a path that leads to deception. This in turn brings chaos to one's walk.

Why aren't these gifts being used by the church [the body of Christ which includes every believer]? I would say the simplest answer is Satan has deceived people into believing that these gifts ended when the apostles of the lamb died. If that were the case, then Ephesians 4:13 would be in error. What does it say? Verse 12 says the five-fold ministry gifts were given to equip the saints, then verse 13 tells us how long those gifts are for, ***"till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."*** Since there is very little unity in the body of Christ, these gifts are still needed.

Without the correct training as a child to ride a bicycle, a child may give up after they hit a bump and fall. This also happens to many Christians when they hit life's bumps that cause them to be out of balance and fall.

I believe it is imperative we get back to Ephesians 4:11-16 and become trained. Then, and only then will the believer be strong enough to avert the fiery darts that will come and would cause them to stumble and fall.

Let us be the ones to believe that spiritual training wheels are absolutely necessary for a Christian to learn and grow without a fall. Let us bring balance back to the body of Christ!