

GIFTS FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION

Ephesians 4:11; Matthew 28:19-20

Introduction: Jesus left specific instructions to His followers that they were to go out into the world and tell about Him, baptizing those who believed and then teaching them God's ways. God has given five (5) gifts to His Church basic to evangelizing the world and ministering and teaching of God's ways. To carry out the great commission these gifts are essential and without them, the Church is helpless.

I. THE GIFT OF APOSTLESHIP

1. "apostolos" - Means a "messenger." *Hebrews 3:1*
- "missio" is Latin, meaning in English "missionary."
2. The "office" - *Matthew 10:2; Luke 6:13* - the 12 apostles.
- *Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:1* - Matthias was chosen to replace the betrayer, Judas.
- God chose Saul of Tarsus instead - *Acts 9*
- The apostles will in God's time judge the 12 tribes - *Matthew 19:28*
- They laid the foundation of the Church - *Ephesians 2:20; Acts 1:15; 2:9-11*
- There were no successors - trained by Jesus, Himself and were eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection.
- They are not mentioned much after *Acts 15*
3. The "person" - The "missionary preaches Jesus Christ and organizes Churches - *Romans 15:20-21; 16:7; 2 Corinthians 8:23*
- They are a continued blessing today as "foreign" missionaries.

II. THE GIFT OF A PROPHET

1. "prophetew" - To forthtell divine things.
- One who speaks out for God.
2. The "office" - Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Paul, Silas, Agabus were prophets.
- There is a difference in "office" and the gift of prophecy.
- *Acts 21:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28;14:1*
- Before the Church age, prophets instructed God's people in what to do.
- *1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:20*
- Upon the completion of the "New Testament" the written "Word of God" took over.
3. The "person" - Was one who witnessed, spoke, more than exercising other gifts.
- *1 Corinthians 14:1, 39; 14:3, 24, 25, 31*
- As a preacher gives the message of God in the Holy Spirit, he is given the gift of prophecy.

III. THE GIFT OF AN EVANGELIST

1. "evangelizo" - Is to bring good tidings.
 - *Acts 6:5; 21:8; 2 Timothy 4:5*
 - Phillip and Paul were evangelists.
2. The message of an evangelist was that of the good news of Salvation through Jesus Christ.
3. The place an evangelist tells the good news is everywhere (itinerate).
 - There have been several evangelists who became famous through the years and were needed.

IV. THE GIFT OF A PASTOR

1. "poimen" - A shepherd, thus a relationship to a "flock."
 - "episkopos" - An overseer - (bishop), one who does the work of a pastor.
 - "presbuteros" - An elder - the work of dignity and rank.
 - *Acts 20:17-18*
2. The qualifications are found in *1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4*.
3. The pastor is to be obeyed and to be held in high honor. *Hebrews 13:17*.

V. THE GIFT OF A TEACHER

1. *Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28*
2. It is a God-given ability to explain the Word of God.
3. *Matthew 28:19-20* - There are two channels God uses: "preaching" directed to the will of God and "teaching, directed to the understanding of God's will and word.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Church has one or more of these positions, but sadly, not all of them are filled with God-called people. Most are "church-elected" and God has not had a "say" in their being in their elected positions.
2. God does have Church leaders in mind for every single Church and thankfully some are in their God-assigned places. When this is so, there will be blessings and God will be honored.
3. If you are serving in one of these positions, and you know that it is what God wants of you, then do your job with all your heart and stay in touch with God as to what He wants of you in your position.
4. If you are serving only because you were "elected" or nobody else would take the position, you need to get with God and find out exactly what He wants you to be doing.