

**The Gifts of the Holy Spirit pt.6**  
Welcome to Harvest Community Church  
Series: The Holy Spirit  
**Text: Ephesians 4:11-16**

Ministry / Office Gifts

Ephesians 4:11-16 contains the job description of those who serve in one of the five-fold office gifts given to the church.

- To equip the saints for the work of the ministry. This involves teaching, training, preparing, techniques, mentoring, demonstrating, facilitating and sending.
- To edify or build up the body of Christ. This is strengthening and encouraging.
- To help bring unity and faith to the body of Christ
- To help people grow in their knowledge of Christ and in full stature or maturity of the fullness of Christ.
- To help believers no longer be children in regard to false teaching and doctrine.
- To help see the deceitful, selfish plotting of trickery of false teachers.
- To help people learn to speak the truth in love.
- Helping each member to know their place, part and function in the body and help all to work together.
- To help the body of Christ learn to build and strengthen itself.

Apostle – The divine ability to start and oversee the development of new churches. To lead, influence and shepherd other ministers and influence ministries. Apostles serve as a mentor and covering for younger ministers who willingly and voluntarily seek out their council, leadership and wisdom. They are problem solvers and overseers. They also have a primary responsibility of refuting heresy and upholding doctrinal integrity.

Of course, there are the original Twelve Apostles who followed Jesus. Today many of our denominational officials function as Apostles but not all of them. Many simply have the gift of administration and leadership but really do not influence, raise up and send out into ministry.

In many ways what we call a missionary is actually an Apostle. This is someone who goes to a foreign land or a distant state and plants a church and raises up leaders for that church and then moves on to a different place and starts over again. The word Apostle means to send away or to send forth.

Prophet – Those who speak under the direct impulse of the Holy Spirit. Their main concern is the spiritual life and purity of the church and nation. They expose sin, seek truth and call for repentance. They challenge those in authority who are out of line with God's will and Word. There are times that they may disclose what God intends in the future regarding judgment for sin. In this regard they are known as a seer.

This is the divine enablement to reveal truth and to proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance or edification (building up and encouraging).

The Work of prophecy is not always in a negative manner. Many times, a prophet is called alongside to **encourage** and affirm and help strengthen and stiffen the spines of those called to do God's will. People with this gift expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation and for the safety of those being deceived.

Not everyone is a prophet – not even some who claim to be.

The two main functions of a prophet are:

- **Forth – telling** - or anointed, inspired preaching and teaching
- **Fore telling** - to tell about an event before it takes place or predicting future events. Every time a prophet foretells an event, they are placed on the reviewing stand for all to see if what they say comes to pass. In the Old Testament those who claimed prediction abilities and were proved wrong were stoned to death. (If that standard were upheld today, stones would be flying in a lot of places.)

The life of a prophet is often a lonely and underappreciated call.

Evangelist – Those who are uniquely gifted and commissioned by God to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation to the **unsaved**. Billy Graham is a perfect example. They leave the spiritual development of the newly saved in the hands of a local pastor. An evangelist is not a pastor who **travels**.

Pastor / Shepherd – A Pastor is really an **under**-Shepherd of a local congregation, Christ is the Good and Chief Shepherd. This is the divine enablement to assume responsibility and leadership concerning the local church. The main responsibility is to care for, nurture, protect and guide people toward ongoing spiritual maturity. One of the marks of a true shepherd is that they spend time with the sheep and develop relationships over a long period of time.

#### **1 Peter 5:2-4**

~ Dan Betzer – said if he were to write a book for pastors it would be simple only having three chapters. Each chapter would only have one page:

Ch.1- **Love** the people. Ch.2 **Feed** the people. Ch.3 Don't do **Stupid** things.

Pastors are to **feed** the flock. Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep and lambs. **John 21:15-16**

There is to be proper care and nourishment that is **age** appropriate.

#### **1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:13, 1 Corinthians 3:1-2, 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Timothy 4:11**

Pastors are to **protect** the flock. **John 10:11-12, Acts 20:28-29**

There are many “wolves” around in our day and it can be overwhelming. Many of them come dressed in sheep's clothing. Some are out to make money, some are out to make a name for themselves, and others want to expound some false doctrine. Other times people come into harm or cause discord in a local church or to use and take advantage of people. A faithful pastor will protect their people from them. This is not always appreciated, especially by those who do not know the Word of God very well or by some who do not like confrontation.

A shepherd also is interested in the sheep producing more sheep. A shepherd is not only a caretaker but a soul-winner.

Teacher – Some combine the office gifts of Pastor and Teacher, however while all Pastors must have a teaching gift in order to be effective not all teachers are called to lead a local church.

A teacher has the ability to understand, communicate, educate and clearly explain and apply the word of God so that people understand, causing greater Christlikeness in the lives of the hearers. They challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of scripture. They present the whole or entire counsel of God. They give attention to detail and accuracy in the teaching of the Word.

### Our Call to Ministry

All of us have a ministry. **2 Corinthians 3:5-9, 2 Timothy 4:5, 1 Timothy 4:14**

You may not be the most talented or the most gifted person, what God uses the most is your availability. He is more interested in our availability than our ability.

**Matthew 25:15, Acts 11:29, 2 Corinthians 8:1-4, 1 Peter 4:11**

If we will supply the availability God will provide the ability. He is more than able.

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

It is possible to serve God and have a balanced life. The issue will always be priorities.

### 10 Reasons I Should Be Interested in Ministry

1. I have been created for ministry. **Ephesians 2:10**
2. I have been saved for ministry. **2 Timothy 1:9**
3. I have been called into ministry. **Galatians 1:15, 1 Peter 2:9-10**
4. I have been gifted for ministry. **1 Peter 4:10**
5. I have been authorized for ministry. **Matthew 28:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:20**
6. I am commanded to minister. **Matthew 20:28**
7. I am prepared for ministry. **Ephesians 4:11-12**
8. The Body of Christ needs my ministry. **1 Corinthians 12:26-27**
9. I am accountable for my ministry. **Romans 14:12, Matthew 25:14-30**
10. I will be rewarded for my ministry. **Colossians 3:23-24, Matthew 25:23, Matthew 6:3-4,6, Matthew 16:27, Luke 6:23-35, Hebrews 10:35-36, Hebrews 11:6**