

## Term 2 – Equipped by God for the Journey

### Lesson 8

## Five Ministries of the Spirit: Part 2

In Lesson 7, we studied the purpose of the five ministries. Their purpose gives us understanding of the nature or characteristics of each ministry and their role in building the Church. The five ministries of the Spirit are seen in **Ephesians 4:11** *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;”*.

There are very important foundations in Ephesians 4:11. The first is “He gave”. The ministries are from the Spirit and not from man. We can study the ministries and gain some understanding of them but God alone gives the ministries to individuals. The power to operate these ministries is also from God alone. The second important point is “some”. God does not give these ministries to everyone in His Church. The Lord may send a specific ministry to a church from outside the local church as He did with the apostles in the Word. God chooses to whom He gives ministries. His selection criteria, for the most part, remains a great mystery to man. Through the Bible, we see God select men and woman that we might think would not have been a good or obvious choice. It remains God’s choice alone. Of this we are certain; God does not make mistakes.

Third, God may also give more than one ministry to an individual. It is quite common to see a person who is a pastor that has also been given the ministry of a teacher. Finally, while all the ministries have different roles, they are founded on and operate according to the Word of God. When these foundations are in place, the believer can be sure that the operation of a specific ministry is true and of God. **1 John 4:1** *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”* **1 John 5:6-8** *“This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”* The words, direction, and actions of the five ministries always agree completely with the Word of God.

### Apostle

The ministry of an apostle is to establish the church and it is the first work of the Spirit in any place. The apostle may operate in all the other ministries because there is a need for other ministries to be in place in a new church. The apostle does not remain with a newly established work. Instead, the Lord provides the necessary ministries for the new work to grow and flourish in the Lord. Then, the apostle moves on to establish more new works. We see that one of Jesus’ first actions of His ministry was to call apostles who were to establish the church. **Matthew 4:18-22** *“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.”*

**Luke 6:12-16** *“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.”* These scriptures show us key characteristics of the apostle. The first is the simple call of the Lord and responsibility of the apostle (*“Follow me”*). Next, we see that they leave their natural things and families behind to fulfil the calling of the Lord (*“And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him”*). Third, we see their key ministry trait (*“I will make you fishers of men.”*)

Jesus’ final words to His apostles were in **Matthew 28:19-20** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen”*. To fulfil this scripture, the apostles operated in all five ministries: quickening of the Word (evangelist); teaching the Word (teacher); leading the people into the ways of the Lord with baptism; and true following of the Word (pastor and prophet). Throughout the Word, we see the apostles return to established works to provide further direction and correction to keep the church true to the Word of God. This is still required in our day as both the will of man and the wiles of Satan constantly try to hinder and destroy the true church.

### **Prophet**

In the Word, the Lord speaks specifically about prophecy in the church. **Acts 2:17-18** *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:”* **1 Corinthians 14:1-5** *“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”* We also learn that there is a gift of prophecy in **1 Corinthians 12:10** *“to another the gift of prophecy”*.

The scriptures show that the Lord ordained prophecy in His church in multiple ways. Prophecy is for all believers, both to receive prophecy and to prophesy. How does the ministry of a prophet fit in with all this? Prophecy in the preceding scriptures refers to emphasizing God’s Word. It quickens the whole body to the Word and it is to edify, to exhort, for understanding and for comfort. The prophet with a ministry of the Spirit does all this but the prophet ministry has been given a greater calling. This is so he or she may discern the heart and will of the Lord in specific situations. The prophet provides direction and speaks to the body concerning the plan of the Lord. This may be to correct the church with respect to its current state.

The prophet may reveal a specific plan of the Lord for a body or individual for future events. In all cases, true prophecy is always confirmed in the Word. This is very important because prophecy is very powerful in the church. It quickens the body and sets the church on the true ways of the Lord. It fills the church with power and authority of the Spirit causing miraculous things to happen. **Ezekiel 37:1-10** *“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.”*

The prophets of the Old Testament spoke prophecies that were fulfilled in their day and spoke others that would be fulfilled in the future. The prophets of today speak in the same manner, reminding the church of prophecies of old that are already fulfilled. This increases our faith and confidence in the Word. They also speak prophecies for today and for the future so that we might have great excitement and expectation in the prophecies yet to be fulfilled. **2 Peter 1:19-21** *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* **2 Corinthians 1:20-22** *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”*

### Evangelist

The evangelist is singularly focused on proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. While all in His church are to be His witnesses, the evangelist is given a super-charged quickening of the gospel and message of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ. **Luke 4:18-19** *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”* **Romans 10:12-15** *“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”*

**John 3:16-17** *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”* **Revelation 3:20** *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*

The evangelist is the preacher that brings the gospel of peace and glad tidings of good things. The evangelist proclaims God’s love to the world through His Son Jesus Christ. The evangelist is the Spirit of the Lord that stands at the door and knocks. The evangelist quickens the Word of the Lord to the hearer and can prick the hearts of man and bring to life the measure of faith that is in all men.

**Acts 2:37-41** *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”* The ministry of the Evangelist also quickens the body of Christ unto works of evangelism that the light given to them by the Lord may shine. **Matthew 5:14-16** *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

### **Pastor**

The ministry of the pastor is focused on caring for all those brought into the church. The pastor is likened to a shepherd in the Word. Of the five ministries, the pastor is the one that constantly labours amongst the body appointed to him or her. The pastor ensures the well-being of the sheep by guiding them in the ways of the Lord. **Matthew 9:35-38** *“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* The pastor enjoys a special place in the hearts of the believers that the Lord has given him or her to tend. The pastor has a particular closeness or intimacy with those believers. A true pastor knows each of the believers and they know their pastor. **John 10:11-14** *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”* The pastor feeds the sheep, helps them to walk in the Word, and tends to their needs and challenges. This is so they may grow in the Lord to be mature men and women of God, able to take up their designated place in the church’s many membered body.

The specific duties of a pastor are many but are best described in **Psalm 23:1-6** *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”*

The pastor carries out these actions in the church. The pastor does not replace the Lord; nor become the gatekeeper to the things of the Lord for the body. Rather, the pastor “leadeth” the body closer to the Lord so that the benefits of the Lord in Psalm 23 may be fulfilled in their lives. The pastor uses the rod of authority and the staff of love to bring comfort to the body. The pastor uses the Word to reveal and encourage the members of the body to their rightful place in the kingdom of God. The pastor endears the members of the body to the Lord and His church, which is our brothers and sister in Christ. **Jeremiah 32:38** *“And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:”*

### Teacher

The ministry of the teacher is to make the fulness of God’s Word known to all believers. The Word is the foundation of our relationship with the Lord. Jesus is Spirit and He was the Word made flesh. The Word is to be written on our hearts. It is the plan of the Father that the Word is made flesh in us as part of His church and as temples of the Holy Ghost. It is by His Word that we know the Father, Son and Holy Ghost and God’s plan for our life. Teaching His Word is mentioned often in the scriptures. **Matthew 28:19-20** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* **Acts 5:42** *“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”* **2 Timothy 2:2** *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”* **John 14:26** *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* **Mark 6:2** *“And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?”*

The ministry of the teacher is not the same as that of a teacher in the natural. The ministry of the teacher teaches the deeper meaning of the Word that is only revealed by the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 2:9-13** *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*

**2 Corinthians 3:6** *“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”*

The teaching ministry brings the revelation of God’s Word in its fullness to the body so that the church may walk in the full power of the Word. **Hebrews 4:12** *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* For indeed, the Word is how we live. **Matthew 4:4** *“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

### **Responsibility of the Church with Respect to the Ministries**

The ministries of the Spirit are given by the Lord to the church so that the church may go on to perfection. The many-membered body of the church has been given instruction in the Word about receiving these ministries in **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** *“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”*

The scriptures call us to esteem those with ministries highly for “their works sake” rather than for the person. The works of the five ministries are to glorify the Lord in the midst of the church and the world. This is so that all may come unto the revelation and fulfilling of God’s plan for our lives through Jesus Christ. Esteeming and receiving God’s ministries brings peace unto the church. That peace is the comfort and security for the body to be led in the righteousness and truth of God’s Word. **Ephesians 2:19-22** *“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*

**DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p><b>Ephesians 4:15-24</b>  <i>(15) “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:                      (16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.                      (17) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,                      (18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:                      (19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.                      (20) But ye have not so learned Christ;                      (21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:                      (22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;                      (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;                      (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is the body of Christ built and what does it look like?</li>   <li>2. How do other Gentiles walk?</li>   <li>3. How are we to walk?</li>   <li>4. What is the key to walking this way?</li> </ol>

<p><b>Ephesians 2:19-22</b> <i>(19) “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”</i></p>	<p>5. Who are we?</p> <p>6. What are we built upon?</p> <p>7. Why are we “builded together”?</p>
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