

WHAT IS THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY?

Corinthians 2:4,5 *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of Power; Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the Power of God.*

The fivefold ministry in this study is compared to a hand and to a building's structure. We live in an age when the fivefold ministry is not well accepted in today's church. This is mainly because the offices have been abused by self-seekers trying to operate in the gifts and have not fully matured in how the gifts work.

Those who receive recognition from men will be in witchcraft (literally). Galatians 5:20 names witchcraft as one of the works of the flesh. Whatever is gained through self-ambition must be upheld by the self. Their faith will be tested by those the Lord calls to help build his kingdom.

If the church is going to accomplish her last-day ministry that will usher in the return of our Lord, she must have the prophetic ministry in place, consisting of indeed called warriors of God who are accurate and trustworthy.

People in foreign lands are disappointed in men and women who lack integrity. They will follow the God in you, but you better not waver, for they do not trust man's ways.

As we near the end of this age, we will need spiritual guidance, especially amid the havoc in the world, including wars, unrest, and natural disasters.

I have noticed that faithful prophetic ministries and gifts of the Spirit, which fulfill the prophecy of Joel and were preached by the Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost, are being restored to the church today. **Acts 2:17-18.**

This prophecy clearly states how, in the last days, the Living God will visit and pour out of his Spirit upon all flesh, and our sons and daughters will prophesy. God's word is truth, but without the Spirit, it is only the logos word, or, as the word says, the letter killeth, but the Spirit gives life.

When the Spirit quickens the word to you, it becomes Rhema, a living thing that produces faith. Listen, dear reader, I am talking about hearing a word behind the word.

Paul recognized that his message must be demonstrated by supernatural power rather than just words alone. Hence, God will always show up and verify the truth, and sometimes he would do so by performing miracles through the ministries of Jesus and Paul to confirm his message.

To make the statement, as some do today, that the prophetic ministry no longer exists and was done away with after the resurrection of Jesus is to say that the church has

reached complete fullness and achieved a perfect state of maturity. This is having a form of godliness but denying the power.

To say that God gave it for that day and it is not for today is almost blasphemy because, unknowingly, they are saying that God, who is immutable, changes not and cannot lie, gave an imperfect gift.

The church has not yet reached complete maturity and has not attained the measure of the stature corresponding to the fullness of Christ. Let's again see what the scriptures say before we go any further to gain insight into what I am saying.

Ephesians 4: 10-14

10 He that descended is the same as ascending far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some evangelists; and some pastors, and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all 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 fullness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind and doctrine, by the sleight of men, and craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

The fivefold ministry was given until the church matures to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ that the body may be edified and equipped for the work of ministry, as stated in ***Ephesians 4:12***. Therefore, the fivefold ministry is essential for effective ministry.

The Lord has given us every provision necessary to accomplish His purposes and prevail over the enemy. I will list the offices and functions of the fivefold ministry so that the reader may gain insight into the importance of recognizing the need for the prophetic in this day and hour of confusion.

The Holy Scriptures indicate that this will be one of the most critical avenues of ministry at the end of the dispensation of grace. Yes, in the days ahead, we will need spiritual wisdom, knowledge, and revelation to accomplish

the Lord's work, especially when the Love of many has waxed cold.

Therefore, we must return to true worship and grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a vast difference between revelation and divination; we must be prayed up to know the difference.

Saints, to be effective, we must come to understand that the Lord has called us to walk by faith, not sight. He did not call us to be led by our five senses.

The Lord wants us to depend on him; He cares for us because we are his children. The Lord wants to change our hearts, not our view of our surroundings, because He looks at the heart. The Holy Word states that from the heart flow the issues of life.

The heart is our innermost being, and this is where the lord will speak to us and unlock hidden secrets and ideas that will set us free to accomplish his will for our lives.

Many individuals raised in the prophetic realm often have profound visions and dreams that hold significant meaning. However, they often struggle to interpret these experiences accurately.

This difficulty often stems from a lack of understanding regarding God's timing and the appropriate context in which these revelations should be understood. Without this insight, the deep messages contained within

their visions can remain obscured, leading to confusion and uncertainty about their spiritual journeys.

In this section of our study, we will examine the distinct roles and functions of the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher within the Christian community. Each role plays a vital part in the growth and development of the body of Christ, much like various components of a building contribute to its overall structure and stability.

To enhance our understanding, we will draw parallels between these spiritual roles and the parts of a hand. Just as each finger and the palm work together to enable a hand to function effectively, the roles of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher collaborate to fulfill God's purpose and mission in the world.

We will explore how each role contributes uniquely to the spiritual edification of the church, the sharing of the Gospel, the nurturing of believers, and the guidance of the community in faith. This comprehensive comparison aims to clarify the significance of each office and how they interact within the broader framework of Christian ministry.

We begin this illustration by delving into the critical importance of the *Apostle's office*, which serves as a foundational pillar in providing both structure and stability to the ministry. This role not only ensures continuity in

leadership but also fosters a cohesive environment that allows for spiritual growth and effective outreach.

Apostles + Visionary usually have one Kingdom message.

The Apostles are the **Foundation** of a ministry and are sent from the body to the Nations to break ground for the Prophet and then the Evangelist. They, like the Evangelists, operate in the power gifts. They preach repentance and deliverance.

Prophets are usually gifted in music or singing.

The Prophets are the **Windows** of a ministry + usually gifted in music or singing. They receive and give messages directly from God and are also intercessors. They do not make good pastors. They typically are like someone wearing two pairs of socks, but they have their place in the body for improvement.

Pastors + Are responsible for their sheep.

Pastors are the **Walls** of a ministry who look after the needs of the sheep and are solely responsible for their conditions and that they are adequately fed. They have a shepherd's heart, which requires a lot of love and patience.

Evangelists + Ones sent to preach the salvation message

The Evangelists are the **Doors** of a ministry. They are sent to preach salvation but can also operate in prophetic and spiritual discernment. They are like a troubleshooter in

the body, equipped by God to find the short that is holding back the power. The Lord can also use them to operate in the power gifts like the Apostle, whose primary message is salvation, repentance, and deliverance.

Teachers + Help the sheep grow in knowledge and grace.

The Teachers are the **Roofs** or **coverings** of a ministry that are in place for protection, guidance, and balance. They are there to help the sheep grow in knowledge and grace through their gifted teaching.

This requires those sent to preach the salvation message to be up late and spend time in God's word and prayer to show themselves approved and rightly dividing the word of truth.

I recall a unique service where I was given late notice that a well-known church ministry wanted me to do a presentation on the role of teachers in the five-fold ministry. The catch was that they were only allotting me five minutes to present my presentation.

All the other speakers were given 15 to 20 minutes. What can you do in the five allotted minutes to address a church body on the teacher's role and position in the five-fold ministry?

The Holy Spirit came through to save me and gave the youth a clear illustration of this critical office, which also stirred the elders of the church ministry. On the way to the

church, I stopped and purchased a pair of black plastic gloves, which made them easy to see.

As I stepped up to utilize my five minutes, I laid one of the gloves and a pencil on the table before the altar. I asked one of the youths present at the meeting if I could use him to illustrate the teacher's role in the five-fold ministry to the church body.

The young boy came forward, excited to be part of my little project. I asked the young boy to ask the empty glove to pick up the pencil, which he did. After several failed attempts to ask the glove to pick up the pencil, I asked the young lad why the glove would not pick it up, and he looked at me and shrugged.

I then asked the young boy to shout, demanding that the glove pick up the pencil, but nothing happened. Now, it seemed as if everyone in the building had their eyes fixed on the little boy and the glove on the table. It was during this time that I asked the boy to place his hand in the glove and pick up the pencil.

While the boy had his hand in the glove and was holding the pencil, I concluded my five-minute illustration by informing the church body that the glove needed a solid

substance with the strength of that substance within it to pick up the pencil.

I finished my presentation by informing the church body that this little illustration gives us a picture of the critical role and function teachers have in the five-fold ministry.

People, including teenagers, left that meeting with the understanding that teachers are to pour out good, solid teaching that will produce growth in the body of Christ, especially our youth.

This study has revealed the importance of the five-fold ministry in the body of Christ as we face the coming attack from the Kingdom of darkness, which is now upon us.

I believe that after this study, you will be inclined to agree with me concerning the need, operation, and function of the Spiritual Gifts and the Five-Fold Ministry in the body of Christ. If we are honest with ourselves, we will understand that the fivefold ministry is essential in the coming attack from the Kingdom of darkness that is now upon us.

Now, let's compare the fivefold ministry to a hand.

The **Apostle** would be the **Thumb** that gives power to the rest of the hand.

The **Prophet** would be the **Index Finger** that points or directs the hand.

The **Evangelist** would be the **Middle Finger, longer than the others, stretching out.**

The **Pastor** would be the **Ring Finger** because he is married to the church.

The **Teacher** would be the **Little Finger** that keeps the hand in check and balances the hand.

Saying that the word replaced the gifts implies that Ephesians 4:11-13 has been fulfilled and that the church has achieved a perfect state of maturity, which is far from the truth.

Today, everyone wants to be recognized as wearing hats and titles; some have never been through the trials and training to be a leader.

Have you not heard the stories of how heroes and Generals are made by going through the war?

Not many professing Christians in this closing dispensation have developed a sincere hunger for God so that he may develop them and place them under leadership, so that they might grow into maturity. This is

sad, because God set no boundaries on how far we can go in the Spirit.

Do I hear the deep calling unto the deep?

The call is deep within you and will help steer you to the goals God has set for your life. Beloved, it is the idea that is constantly flashing in your mind. It is the dream that doesn't seem to go away. (Are you hungry?)

A passion drives you and keeps you thinking about what you want to accomplish in the Kingdom of God. God placed these desires in you, and you will never get away from what God has placed in your heart to do.

God does not work on our timetable, and he has a season and appointed times for different portions of your vision to be accomplished. Hence, those operating in the prophetic will be the Spiritual guards upon the walls, ensuring that the enemy does not ambush and blindside the leadership of a church or ministry.

If we are trusted with a true gift of the Spirit and manifest the fruit of that gift, the word of God says that our gift will make room for us. Hence, God is looking for people who are sincere in their Christian walk and have a burning desire to be used by him to influence their culture.