Spiritual gifts are available for every Christian as essential tools for doing the work of their ministry. It is vital to have a Biblical understanding of what the gifts are and how they are to operate.

EXTENDED LIFE C.T.M.
Karen E. Connell
DEDICATION

This Manual is dedicated to all Christians who are serious about going through the life long process of sanctification. It is my prayer that the work of the Holy Spirit through this study becomes a living testimony of God’s great grace and mercy which is obtained through faith in Jesus Christ our redeemer and deliverer.
Acknowledgments

I am eternally grateful to my husband Garry for his constant support and encouragement when it has been most needed. I also want to acknowledge with great appreciation the faithfulness and diligence of our co-laborer in ministry, Martin Roos, for the tedious work of proof texting this work. To you I say — your rewards await you in heaven.
1 Cor 12:31
But covet earnestly the best gifts...
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INTRODUCTION

Many true believers are not satisfied with where they are spiritually; they want more of God’s wisdom, anointing and power, so they can fulfill all that God has ordained for them to do. They are not content to just know about God, they want to experience the reality of His presence and purpose in their lives. God is looking for those who are willing to commit their whole being, spirit, soul and body to Him …

2 Chron 16:9
The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. NLT

God wants to raise up committed saints who are properly trained and equipped to do the work of the ministry. Every Christian has a specific ministry function in the body of Christ…

Eph 4:12
…equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry…

Rom 12:4-5
Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do.

This course of study is designed to teach the student to recognize their gifts and understand more clearly how they are to function in the body of Christ. It is also for the purpose of causing faith to rise to a higher level so the student can receive the gifts they desire for the purpose of fulfilling their ministry function. Proper teaching allows faith to be activated so the student can receive and demonstrate spiritual gifts. The student must hear what the word teaches concerning spiritual gifts in order to produce the necessary faith to receive and operate in them. The Bible is clear that true faith requires a response to what we claim to believe and receive from God…

Rom 10:14, 17
...And how can they believe...if they have never heard... And how can they hear... unless someone tells them? ... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

James 2:20
...do you not know faith without works is dead?

This course will teach and use four key Scriptural principles for obtaining the spiritual gifts God wants to give the student. These four keys are...

- To Desire
- To Ask
- To Believe
- To Receive

Our prayer is that this course of study will be a valuable tool for teaching and equipping God’s saints for doing the work of their ministry.
LESSON ONE: SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND THEIR PURPOSE

Spiritual gifts are part of the arsenal of weapons in our fight against Satan and his host of demonic spirits and they are also the tools needed to build up the church known as the body of Christ, so it can function as God intends (2 Cor 10:4, Eph 4:8, 12). Operating in spiritual gifts is not a sign of spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is judged by the Spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22-23) in our lives, not by how spiritually gifted we are. We must remember gifts are GIVEN to us by God and fruit is GROWN by not allowing our fallen human nature to control us, but instead choosing to walk in close personal relationship with God through hearing and obeying His Holy Spirit...

Gal 5:22, 24-25

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce fruit in us…
Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there… If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. NLT

How spiritually gifted we are will not be what God will judge us by when we stand before Him at the judgment seat of Christ, where all believers will stand and give an account before God (2 Cor 5:10). He will be looking for how fruitful and faithful our lives were for Him. This course covers three specific categories of spiritual gifts.

Three Categories of Spiritual Gifts

- The seven MOTIVATIONAL gifts (Rom 12:6-8)
- The nine CHARISMATIC gifts (1 Cor 12:7-10)
- The five MINISTRY gifts (Eph 4:11-12)

Phil 2:13

...For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.
This verse tells us it is God who gives us the will (our motivation) through His works or His (charismatic power) to do His good pleasure (our ministry for Him). Our motivation, gifts and ministry are part of the foundation for our abilities, desires and destiny for fulfilling our God given ministry. When it comes to spiritual gifts we are told these six things...

- Stir up the gifts (2 Tim 1:6)
- Covet or desire gifts (1 Cor 12:31, 14:1)
- Exercise the gifts (Heb 5:14)
- Not be ignorant of the gifts (1 Cor 12:1)
- Don’t neglect the gifts (1 Tim 4:14)
- Don’t forbid or despise the operation or manifestation of the gifts (1 Thess 5:20, 1 Cor 14:39)

Before a person can receive the ministry gifts, motivational gifts or the charismatic gifts from the Holy Spirit, they must first receive His foundational gift …

- Of righteousness that results in eternal life …

Rom 5:17-18
…but all who receive God’s wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ…righteousness makes all people right in God’s sight and gives them (eternal) life. NLT  (parenthesis mine)

The Purpose for Spiritual Gifts

1. Gifts establish and confirm God’s kingdom in the lives of people … God has a purpose for giving His church spiritual gifts. They are to be used as weapons and tools for establishing God’s kingdom and accomplishing His kingdom purposes on the earth. Any supernatural ability given to a believer in Jesus Christ is for the purpose of establishing God’s kingdom in the lives of people upon the earth. God’s kingdom is defined as righteousness, peace and joy (Rom 14:17) given to us by His Spirit, and His kingdom is found within us (Lk 17:21). Jesus confirmed this when he taught that anytime supernatural power was used to cast out demons from people the kingdom of God had come upon their lives (Matt 12:28). One of the gifts needed for this type of deliverance ministry is a gift known as the discerning of spirits, one of the nine charismatic gifts we shall examine further in a future lesson. Christians and non-Christians alike need to be strengthened and encouraged to listen to and follow God in these troubled times. It takes the operation of spiritual gifts to establish people in God’s ways of righteousness peace and joy.
2. **Gifts are For EDIFYING the body of Christ** ... when you study this phrase in the Greek text you find it literally means to *build up or erect a something that is an impressive and powerful influence.*\(^1\) We as Christians represent who God is; therefore we should be demonstrating His character, power and authority upon the earth to those who don’t know Him. Christians can only become this type of representation by being established in the truth and by being fruitful …

Rom 1:11, 13

...For I long to see you, that I may **impart unto you some spiritual gift**, to the end ye may be **established**…that I might have some **fruit** among you… KJV

The word *established* in the above text is the Greek word *sterizo* (stay-rid'-zo)\(^2\) which means to *be strengthened or to confirmed*, and it also means to *be certain of one’s direction*. God uses His spiritual gifts to *confirm or establish* the direction He is leading us into and to also *confirm the truth* He gives us. When the Holy Spirit indwells us at the time our spirit is born again, we have the ability to *know all truth* (1 Jn 2:20). When the truth is confirmed to us by someone operating in gifts such as prophecy or a *word of knowledge* for instance, our faith is then *confirmed or strengthened*, causing us to be certain of the direction we are to go or not go. When we are strong and resolute in what we receive from God, we will not be unstable or double-minded Christians. We need the gifts to help us be fruitful and mature Christians. God gave specific gifts to *build up the body of Christ* so it could become the *glorious church* which is described in (Eh 5:27). I want us to look a little more closely at the following text that also gives some very important purposes for God’s spiritual gifts...

**Eph 4:** 8, 11-16

8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, **And gave gifts to men.**"

11 And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors and teachers**,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ,

13 till **we all come to the unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up** in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, **causes growth** of the body for the **edifying** of itself in love. NKJV

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\(^1\) *Edifying* in the Strong’s NT3619, the compound Greek word *oikodome* (oy-kod-om-ay) from “oikos” meaning “family” and “doma” meaning “ edifice” which refers large in size and imposing appearance. The word *imposing* means powerful authority and appearance. American Heritage ®Dictionary, fourth Edition Copyright © 2000, Published by Houghton Mifflin Co. All rights reserved.

The ministry gifts mentioned in the above text (which we will study in detail in another lesson) has been given to us for two specific reasons:

- **GROWTH in the body of Christ** … Spiritual gifts are imparted in order to confirm and strengthen Christians through growth. Growth means good quality as well as large in amount or in size. God does not want a large number of weak, underdeveloped children any more than any natural parent does. Edification that results in growth can only happen if the body of Christ universal becomes willing to…

- **Come into the unity of the faith** … This means all professing Christians must all believe the same thing. Having the same Biblical doctrines and beliefs is only possible if we use the Bible as our only standard for truth. Understanding the Bible requires, for example, the ministry gifts of pastors and teachers, as well as the charismatic gifts such as the word of wisdom. True unity can never be achieved through compromising God’s truth. Unity means agreement, and our agreement must be on what the Bible has to say on any given subject, including that of spiritual gifts. When this is the case we will be fitly joined together because every joint is supplying what is needed for unity and growth.

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**Necessary Aspects for Obtaining Spiritual Gifts**

God wants his people to have the necessary means (or equipment) to accomplish the ministry He has given to all of His people. The means we are given includes not only the ability to proclaim and preach the gospel but it also includes demonstrating supernatural spiritual gifts...

*Mark 16:15-18, 20*

15 "Go into all the world and **preach** the gospel to every creature.
16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will **speak with new tongues**;
18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will **lay hands on the sick, and they will recover**."
19 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word** with signs following. NKJV

Please notice in the above text that two of the charismatic gifts, that of speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, are mentioned among the signs and wonders that believers are to demonstrate. As we mentioned gifts are for the purpose of confirming, or establishing God’s word or truth to people. Spiritual gifts therefore are essential to our life and ministry for God.

*Heb 2:4*

God verified the message by signs and wonders and various miracles and by **giving gifts** of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose to do so. NLT
There are certain requirements for obtaining spiritual gifts from God. These include…

- **Our Desire** …It is God who decides what spiritual gifts will be given to what people; however we are told to *desire spiritual gifts*. Having the desire for God’s gifts is something that influences the Holy Spirit to impart His gifts to us. If we do not desire to operate in spiritual gifts, it is more than likely we will not obtain His gifts. We must desire or want all that God has for us as His children. Only one time in the Bible are we told to “covet” something, and that is in reference to spiritual gifts. **How much do you desire and even covet spiritual gifts?**

  1 Cor 12:31, 14:1
  
  *But covet earnestly the best gifts…*
  
  *Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts…*NIV

- **The Need** …One thing that determines the desire for spiritual gifts is to see the need for them in our life and ministry. This means we must understand the purpose for spiritual gifts. We have already mentioned several important purposes for spiritual gifts. Therefore we must see the need to operate in them. When people are sick, they need the gift of healing, when they need godly counsel they need the gift of the word of wisdom, if they need to know the mind and will if God about something, they need the gift of prophecy and so on. Every gift is given to fulfill a necessary need.

  **What needs do you see spiritual gifts helping you meet in the lives of others?**

  Phil 4:19
  
  *And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
  
  NKJV

- **Our Motive** …Our motive for wanting to operate in spiritual gifts is very important to God. Gifts are not given to call attention to the one who is operating in them. Many have fallen into the sins of pride and deception through operating in spiritual gifts. God’s gifts are always perverted by pride. He never takes away our gifts or callings so we must safeguard them (Rom 11:29). Anytime we desire to minister through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we must have a *holy motive*. Fallen human nature is subject to being bewitched by the supernatural. Simon is a good example of a professing Christian who had a wrong motive for wanting spiritual gifts (*Act 8:13-24*). We as humans tend to focus our attention on the supernatural *gift* or the *person* operating in the gift. When this is the case, man and not God is seeking or receiving the glory that is only due to God Himself. **Has the Holy Spirit been allowed to show you your motives for wanting to operate in spiritual gifts?**

  Isa 48:11
  
  *…and I will not give my glory unto another.*
  
  KJV
• **Our FAITH** …In order to have a desire for spiritual gifts, we must believe that they are available to us today as believers. Faith for receiving comes by *hearing what the word has to say* (Rom 10:14, 17) about spiritual gifts. Once we are convinced that God wants to give us His gifts, our faith requires actions in order for our faith to be activated. If we believe what God has said in His word concerning spiritual gifts we must then respond by *asking* Him for his gifts. Faith without actions is not faith (Js 2:20). If we don’t receive spiritual gifts it may be because we are simply not asking God for them, or if we do ask and don’t receive, it may be as we have already mentioned that our motives may not be entirely right…

*James 4:2-3*

*You want something but don’t get it…You do not have, because you do not ask God…When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,*

*NIV*

When we do ask because we are convinced and have faith God wants us have spiritual gifts, we must then be *expecting to receive* what we have asked Him for. None of this “if it by thy will” stuff! The word is clear that God wants to give us His spiritual gifts—but we must DESIRE them and ASK for them! *Expecting to receive* is another element of faith that must be operational if we are to receive what we are *convinced* God has promised to give us. **Are you fully convinced and expecting the Holy Spirit and His gifts to be given to you when you ask your Heavenly Father for them?**

*Luke 11:11-13*

"You fathers — if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? …Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! …If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit (and all He has) to those who ask him."

*NLT (Parenthesis mine)*

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**The False Doctrine of Cessationism**

Many teach a false doctrine that states spiritual gifts are no longer for believers today and that they ceased with the death of the original twelve Apostles. It is true that many things taught and experienced by the early church gradually became less and less practiced and taught among those following Christianity for many generations in the church. I believe this is part of the *falling away*, which took place during the dark ages during the years 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D. which Jesus predicted would happen before His return to earth…

*2 Thess 2:3*

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first…KJV*
During this time the church experienced great darkness, because of the mixture brought in by the Emperor Constantine of Rome. After He converted to Christianity he tried to make Christianity a national or state religion. Christianity became known as the Catholic, meaning universal religion during this time. In order to do make it the universal religion he allowed many pagan ways of worship and pagan philosophies to become part of Christian worship and beliefs. Constantine did not patronize Christianity alone, however. After gaining victory in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, a triumphal arch—the Arch of Constantine—was built to celebrate; the arch is decorated with images of Victoria and sacrifices to gods like Apollo, Diana, or Hercules, but contains no Christian symbolism. In 321 A.D. Constantine also instructed that Christians and non-Christians should be united in observing the "venerable day of the sun", referencing the esoteric eastern sun-worship. Therefore this mixture of paganism and Christianity turned the church away from following the Scriptures and the teachings of the Apostles as the only standard for truth and worship. As a result many from the “Scholastic Intellectual Movement” (1050-1350 A.D.) introduced doctrines of men leading Christians further away from the teachings of the Apostles and Jesus.

One such medieval Catholic scholar was Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274 A.D.) who incorporated the Greek philosophy of Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates into Christian theology. He promoted a theology which believes the spiritual world has no effect upon the material world. He separated the spiritual and physical worlds and said the two had no way of affecting one another. This left no room for believing the spiritual realm could manifest or influence the natural realm. Therefore the idea of spiritual revelation is a problem for those tainted by this philosophy. Skeptical theologians in many modern day denominational seminaries teach Biblical supernatural occurrences as legends & myths created by the early church. Because during the medieval church period there seemed to be no supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the church, due to the false teaching and worship, the doctrine of Cessationism was created by demons and came through the teaching of man. Satan does not want his works destroyed by Christians who are operating in God given spiritual gifts, so he does all he can to do away with them or cause us to misuse or abuse them. False doctrines of human logic became the way to hinder people’s faith in the truth concerning supernatural gifts; which by the way, did operate to some degree during that dark time. Many who did operate in the supernatural, during the dark ages, were declared to be of Satan, and were martyred for their faith in the truth concerning spiritual gifts. Many today in various churches still teach that certain gifts are of the devil. Those who say the gifts are not for today must remember what the word of God says concerning the gifts given to men at the beginning of the church. God says once His gifts are given, as in the early church, they were never intended to be withdrawn by Him...

Rom 11:29
For God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.
NLT

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3 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I#Religious_policy

4 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas#Modern_influence
Hindrances for Receiving Spiritual Gifts

Many do not desire spiritual gifts or have a hard time receiving them from the Holy Spirit. Let us look at two common hindrances that occur when it comes to the expectation to receive spiritual gifts...

1. **Fear of the Supernatural** ...When Christians fear the supernatural or unexplainable works of God, it is because they lack knowledge from God’s word regarding the supernatural realm and the supernatural works and gifts of God. Satan is the spirit of fear, and when fear is operational, doubt will be the result rather than faith. Satan can then stop or hinder the work of God in a person or in a body of believers. God will not be present when fear is allowed to rule our lives...

   *Luke 8:36-37*
   
   Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. And all the people in that region begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them. So Jesus... left... NLT

Fear will quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19). When this is the case people will become insensitive to God’s Holy Spirit and end up relying on their “natural man” or human reasoning for understanding...

   *1 Cor 2:14*
   
   The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. NIV

When fear is allowed to quench the Holy Spirit, people fall prey to deception by accepting false ideas and doctrines to teach them what they cannot spiritually discern...

   *1 Tim 4:1-2*
   
   The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. NIV

One of the most important spiritual gifts needed by every Christian in these last days is the discerning of spirits. Keep in mind there are three spiritual dimensions that need to be discerned...

   *God’s Spirit   *Demonic Spirits   *Human Spirits
1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. NKJV

Fear will steal our faith and it tell us we are *not worthy* to receive God’s gifts so we won’t expect God will give us what we desire and ask Him for. We have nothing to fear if we have received our *foundational gift of righteousness* from God. 5 Being cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ for all sin comes only through confession and repentance …

Rom 4:7-8

"Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight… Yes, what joy for those whose sin is no longer counted against them by the Lord." NLT

The second greatest hindrance to receiving spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit is the…

2. **Lack of impartation** …Many Christians have not been properly mentored under leadership who operates in spiritual gifts, and as a result have not been able to experience the *impartation of gifts* from them. The Bible teaches us we can receive an impartation from the Holy Spirit through another person who has been given a certain gift or specific mantle *(or anointing)* for ministry. For instance Elijah had been given gifts and anointing from God to do supernatural works, which he passed on to Elisha who had been mentored by him *(2 Ki 2:13-14)*. We need leaders that not only have the *indwelling of the Holy* Spirit through being born again, but leaders who have also experienced the Holy Spirit *coming upon them*, through the baptism of the Holy Spirit and who have received gifts from the Holy Spirit. These leaders can then, like the Apostle Paul, impart their gifts to those they minister to…

Rom 1:11

For I long to see you, **that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift**, to the end ye may be established. KJV

Acts 19:6

And when **Paul had laid hands on them**, the Holy Spirit **came upon them**, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. NKJV

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then **they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit**. NKJV

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5 For more information on this subject request a copy of our booklet entitled *Get A Life*, by Karen Connell, to read this on line or to order your copy go to: www.extendedlifeCTM.org
The gifts of the Holy Spirit are our weapons against *fear—*doubt—*unbelief. Without these gifts we will not be able to *contend* for the faith (*Jude 1:3*), which literally means *fervently labor, struggle and battle* for the true faith. When we contend for the faith this means we are to maintain and hold on to what the Apostles and Prophets through Jesus Christ established as the foundation for our Christian beliefs and doctrines. We cannot go beyond what was given to them for our Christian beliefs. We are told that Jesus Christ is the head cornerstone through which the original apostles and prophets laid the foundation for all Christian beliefs and doctrine (*Eph 2:20*). Part of those teachings includes insight concerning the gift of the Holy Spirit and His gifts. Those who do not possess the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and His gifts tend to *theologize—*compromise—*rationalize* away the true Christian faith; which includes the supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit. We are called to be *demonstrators* and not just spectators of God’s kingdom on this earth.

### Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

There might be those taking this course that may not have a clear understanding on the subject and the importance of being *baptized* with the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the foundation for receiving and demonstrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Therefore I want to spend a little time laying a Biblical basis for this teaching.

Once the foundational gift of *eternal life* has been imparted to us by God, through our repentance from sin and confession of faith in Jesus Christ, we then become eligible for being *baptized with God’s Holy Spirit*. Being *baptized* with the Holy Spirit is a separate experience, apart from being *filled with the Holy Spirit* when we receive eternal life. Many Christians confuse these two experiences.  

When we receive eternal life from God through repentance from sin the Holy Spirit indwells us or comes to reside *within us* (*1 Cor 3:16, Jn 14:17, Rom 8:11, 1 Jn 4:15-16*). In other words God’s kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy are established within our human spirit. God’s word says the human spirit is like a candle. Until this candle is lit by God our human spirit lies in darkness, unable to know God and we are separated from Him...

*Prov 20:27*

*The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD… KJV*

*Ps 18:28*

*For you wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.* KJV

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6 For further study on this subject request a copy of our booklet, *Being Saved Through Eternal Life* by Pastor Karen Connell, to order go to [www.extendedlifeCTM.org](http://www.extendedlifeCTM.org)
Jesus said He was the light of the world (Jn 9:5), therefore when we put our faith in Him, His Holy Spirit comes to live within us, and our spirit or candle receives light or life. As long as that light is burning on our candle, we continue to have His life, which the Bible calls eternal life, or continual life from Him. Sin that is not repented of, or is continually practiced, is the only thing that quenches the light of God’s Holy Spirit from our candle even though it once was given light by God…

Prov 24:20
For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.  
KJV

1 Thess 5:19
Quench not the Spirit.  KJV

Water baptism is a covenant we make with God. It is an outward sign of our promise to Him that we will die to our old life of sinful disobedience to God and be raised up into a new of life of faithful obedience to Him (Matt 28:19-20, Rom 6:3-4).

Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is much the same as when we are baptized with water. In water baptism the water comes upon us (not in us), we don’t drink the water in; we allow it to cover us, or come upon us. It is the same when the Holy Spirit baptizes us, with His power. The Holy Spirit covers us or mantles us with His power, just as Elisha put on Elijah’s mantle and received God’s power to operate in the supernatural gifts of prophecy, healing and miracles. This is what happens when the Holy Spirit comes upon us…

Acts 1:8
But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."  
NKJV

This text is telling us that when the Holy Spirit comes upon us He places a mantle of power upon us. The word power is the Gr. word (Strong’s NT: #1411) dunamis (doo’-nam-is). It means supernatural, dynamic ability, and is also translated “can do” in (Phil 4:13). When we are mantled with the power of the Holy Spirit, this means we have His can do power. We can do all that the Holy Spirit wants us to do with His dunamis power. The above verse also states we will be dynamic witnesses. A witness is someone who gives evidence or one who confirms or proves something. As we already mentioned one of the purposes of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for confirming or proving the truth of God. Many texts of Scripture give examples of the Holy Spirit baptizing or coming upon those who confessed faith in Jesus Christ (see Supplemental Scripture Text sheet at the end of this lesson for more verses on being baptized with the Holy Spirit). It isn’t until the Holy Spirit baptizes us or comes upon us that we can be given His supernatural gifts.

Acts 2:4
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.  NKJV
**NOTE: This word “filled” is the Greek word pletho (play'-tho) and is better translated “furnished or supplied with” the Holy Spirit. Filled implies more of an “inward” impartation of the Holy Spirit rather than being furnished with His power by having it come “upon us”. If you have repented and made your covenant with Jesus Christ by water baptism, then there is no reason you cannot receive the Holy Spirit’s baptism. If you are not sure that you have received the Holy Spirit’s baptism (or have His mantle of power upon you), so you can demonstrate God’s power and gifts, all you must do is ASK! Please remember that God doesn’t give us His gifts because we are worthy or good enough to receive them. He gives them to us because we are cleansed from our sin and our faith is in Jesus Christ. We need the Holy Spirit’s power so we can live like we are commanded to live and accomplish what God has commissioned us to do. In order to have your faith rise up so you can expect and receive this gift from God, study closely the Scripture verses at the end of this lesson. Remember faith is the result of hearing or understanding from the Holy Spirit concerning God’s word on this subject…

Rom 10:14, 17
...And how can they believe...if they have never heard... And how can they hear... unless someone tells them? ... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

After you study these verses and any others that you are given by the Holy Spirit on this subject, you must then be convinced of what God is saying. When you study the verses on this subject you will notice that the people who received the Holy Spirit were given a speaking gift (Acts 19:6, Acts 10:46). They either prophesied, spoke in tongues, or praised God. This will happen to you at the time you pray and ask God to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. There will be some kind of evidence that the Holy Spirit has come upon you. This evidence will come out of your mouth…

Acts 10:45-46
45 The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles, too.
46 And there could be no doubt about it, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

NLT

Keep in mind these things...

- **When those in the Bible that were baptized or filled (furnished) with the Holy Spirit THEY DID THE SPEAKING** (Luke 1:67, Acts 2:4)... Therefore, you must open your mouth and you must do the speaking! The Biblical pattern for speaking is one or all of these …

  * SPEAKING IN TONGUES (Acts 2:4, 11, 10:46)
  * PRAISING GOD (Acts 10:46)
  * PROPHESYING (Acts 19:6)

Whatever words you get from God when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, YOU MUST DO THE SPEAKING…

Acts 4:31
And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled (furnished) with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of (from) God with boldness. KJV
Don’t allow your mind to get in the way… The Bible says the speaking gift of other tongues can be that of men (a human language) or a language of angels (a language not known to humans)...

1 Cor 13:11
I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...

Therefore, unless you understand every language of man, and angels, you will not understand what you are speaking. It is your spirit man that is speaking through the power of the Holy Spirit upon you. Your natural mind has nothing to do with speaking a language given by the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 14:14
For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful

Demonic spirits speak to our soul or our conscious mind...so they may try to distract you by giving you thoughts to keep you from SPEAKING out any kind of sound or foreign sounding words, by telling you “Oh that’s just you speaking that!” Remember faith requires a response to what you believe. Faith requires actions. If you believe God is giving you a speaking gift, you must do the speaking! The Apostle Paul said:

2 Cor 4:13
And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, NKJV

Sometimes the gifts of prophecy and speaking in other tongues (languages) came through the gift being imparted by the laying on of hands as in (Acts 19:6). There were times when those who had spiritual gifts, as demonstrated by the Apostle Paul, imparted gifts to others by the laying on of hands while praying for them. However, there were instances when people had the Holy Spirit come upon them without the laying on of hands (Act 10:45-46). So you don’t need to have anyone present to lay hands upon you in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. I have known many who have received this gift in their bedroom or some other place while praying and asking God for it.

If you desire to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’s power and believe God wants you to have it, just pray a simple prayer asking God for this gift and be confident that what comes out of your mouth is a speaking gift from His Holy Spirit. If you ask you will receive...

Luke 11:13
... how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy to those who ask him."

How do you know that what you are speaking has been given to you by God? Anything we ask God in faith will be given to us (Matt 21:22; Mk 11:24; 1 Tim 2:8; Heb 11:6). Remember faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Therefore if God has spoken to your heart from His written word and convinced you that He wants to mantle you with the power of His Holy Spirit, you must be willing to accept the gift being offered to you. If you ask God Your Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit, then you must open
your mouth and begin speaking and believe that He has given you what you asked for. He will not give you anything false, when you desire what is true...

Luke 11:11-13
11 "You fathers — if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." NLT

Speaking Gift Activation Prayer

Are you ready... to receive an impartation from the Holy Spirit and be activated in your speaking gift?

If you are ready... to believe and receive simply pray something like this...

Dear Heavenly Father... I have by faith received your gift of eternal life, and now I deeply desire the gift of being baptized with your Holy Spirit. I need His power in my life, and I desire to demonstrate through His power your gifts, so I can confirm your word with signs and wonders to those who need to hear Your gospel. I am convinced the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for me, and that you want to give it to me. I fully expect that the Holy Spirit will come upon me and impart whatever speaking gift He desires to give me. I thank you now that you are imparting this gift to me... and I receive it now by faith in Your word. I ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Amen

Now open your mouth and start speaking in an unknown language or singing out your prophetic praises to God!

1 Cor 14:14-15
For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit... I will sing with the spirit, NKJV
**Supplemental Scripture Texts & Notes...**

**To Meditate Upon**

**Acts 1:8**
8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." NKJV

**NOTE: The word “power” is the Greek word “dunamis”, which denotes supernatural ability that is dynamic...or effective, energizing, and forceful.**

**Acts 2:4**
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. NKJV

**NOTE: This word “filled” is the Greek word pletho (play'-tho) and is better translated “furnished or supplied with” the Holy Spirit. Filled implies an “inward” impartation of the Holy Spirit rather than being furnished with His power which comes “upon us”.

**Luke 1:67**
And his father Zacharias was filled ("pletho” furnished with) with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied KJV

**NOTE: He prophesied as a manifestation of being furnished with the Holy Spirits dunamis power.**

**Acts 2:38**
Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. NKJV

**NOTE: Dealing with sin issues is mentioned as something that precedes receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. (see also Acts 8:20-24).**

**Acts 8:16-17**
16...They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. NKJV

**NOTE: The Holy Spirit can be imparted by believers to other believers by the laying on of hands.**

**Acts 10:45-46**
45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. NKJV
**NOTE: In this instance speaking in tongues was the manifestation of receiving the Holy Spirit, whereas Zacharias prophesied when he received the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:67).**

Acts 11:15-17
15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.
16 Then I thought of the Lord's words when he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
17 And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to argue?" NLT

**NOTE: In this instance the Holy Spirit was imparted as a result of believing the anointed preaching or teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Acts 19:4-6
4 Paul said, "John's baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin and turn to God. John himself told the people to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later."
5 As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. NLT

**NOTE: Here we see the Holy Spirit coming “upon” those who believed in Jesus and were baptized in water. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was manifested by speaking in tongues and prophesying.**

John 10:27
27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: KJV

**NOTE: If we are a follower (sheep) of Jesus Christ, we are supposed to “hear” His voice. This means all believers are to hear the voice of God.**

1 Peter 4:10-11
10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability (dunamis ower) which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. NKJV
**NOTE: The word “received” is the Gr. word (Strong’s NT: #2983) “lambano” (lam-ban'-o) which means to accept or take hold of. Spiritual gifts are not forced upon us…they must be accepted and taken hold of by us. They are for the purpose of “ministering” which is the Gr. word (Strong’s NT:1247 “diakoneo” (dee-ak-on-eh'-o) it means to serve. Gifts are always with the purpose of “serving” others—as “good stewards” of God’s grace (gifts) so God may be glorified by our life of serving others as followers of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 12:7
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. NKJV

John 10:16
16 I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice; and there will be one flock with one shepherd. NLT

**NOTE: There are people from every culture who will listen to the “voice” of God when it comes through those who speak through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Col 1:27-28
27 ...this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. NIV

**NOTE: Words of wisdom is one of the speaking gifts of the Holy Spirit, which is used to bring perfection (wholeness) through Christ (the one anointed). We are God’s anointed ones (Christ) when we operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The word “Christ” means “anointed one” (see Rev 11:15). We reign with the Lord as His “Christ” (the anointed ones)
My Lesson Notes
LESSON TWO: THE SEVEN MOTIVATIONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Rom 12:6-8
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or serving, let us wait on our serving; or he that teaches, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorts, on exhortation; he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness. KJV

In the above text there are seven spiritual gifts which are listed. These gifts represent the unction to function in a specific way to help or benefit others. This unction comes from the Holy Spirit...

1 John 2:20
But ye have an unction from the Holy One…KJV (emphasis mine)

The word unction is the Gr. word (Strong’s NT: #5545) chrisma (khris'-mah), which can also be translated anointing or endowment (gift). God alone is the one who imparts all gifts. When the unction of the Holy Spirit is upon us we will be motivated to function according to these motivational gifts...

The Seven Motivational Gifts

- Prophetic anointing
- Serving anointing
- Teaching anointing
- Exhorting (encouragement) anointing
- Giving anointing
- Ruling (leadership) anointing
- Mercy anointing

Remember:
It is the “dunamis” or “can do” power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to function in His unction!
God is love (1 Jn 4:8) and it is through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit that we are motivated to demonstrate His love through His unction (anointing) to function in spiritual gifts. We Serve the Lord through functioning in spiritual gifts. True worship (which literally means service) must be done through the Spirit and not the flesh.

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship (serve) him must worship him in spirit and in truth. KJV

The Text in (Rom 12) that speaks of the seven motivational gifts, goes on to emphasize the importance of love for others as the basis of serving God...

Rom 12:9-11

9 Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good.

10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

11 Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. NLT

Receiving the Spiritual Gifts of Other Body Members

In order for the body of Christ to become what God intends for it to be, we must appreciate and receive the spiritual gifts that each member of the body has been given...

Eph 4:16

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. NKJV

The phrase joined and knit together is the Gr. word (Strong’s NT: #4883) sunarmologeo (soon-arm-lo-mo-ge-o), which literally denotes unity, through adjustment and movement from words of teaching, advise, direction and exhortation. The “whole body” is brought into unity and is adjusted and moves according to the teaching, advice and direction it is encouraged with. Every joint must be allowed to supply what is needed in order for this to happen. The word joint in its Gr. root form is the word (Strong’s NT: #681) hapto (hap'-to) which means to be attached or touched by fire or light. Fire represents purity and light represents life and revelation from God. Truth and holiness is the foundation then for true unity among body members of Christ. That which is pure and true must be supplied to the body, this is the foundation for growth. Through purity and holiness there is clarity. Jesus Christ will be clearly seen and made known through His body as it is edifying itself in love. The word edifying refers to being built into an edifice which is an imposing structure. Something that is imposing makes an impression upon those who see it. Just as the massive medieval cathedrals are imposing structures and proof of the existence of where Christians once worshiped; we too are called to be witnesses who are living proof of those in whom God lives. For “through Him we live and move and have our being” (Act 17:28). We like the imposing ancient cathedrals of old, should leave an impression upon the minds of all who see God in us...
Eph 2:21-22
In whom all the building fitly framed together and grows into an holy temple in the Lord:
In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. KJV

It is important to receive the spiritual gifts of one another so that love and truth will knit us together into God’s glorious church. When we are motivated (inspired to action) by the gifts given to us by God, the result is the strengthening, comfort and growth of other body members.

Motivational Gift #1: PROPHETIC ANOINTING

Rom 12:6-8
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
KJV

The word grace (Strong’s NT: #5485 charis (khar'-ece) and gifts (Strong’s NT: #5486 charisma (khar'-is-mah) are different forms of the same Greek word. They refer to how God’s divine influence manifests in our life. One of these manifestations is prophecy. This is the Gr. word (Strong’s NT: #4394) propheteia (prof-ay-ti'-ah), which literally means to get in front of someone and speak or make known thoughts that are divinely inspired. According to the above verse prophecy, as well as all spiritual gifts, is to operate according to the proportion of faith. The Bible tells us faith comes by hearing God speak to us (Rom 10:17). Therefore, the thoughts which are divinely inspired are going to be God’s thoughts, which He makes known to us and not our thoughts or opinions or those coming from another spirit (which is witchcraft) …

Isa 55:8
"My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the LORD.
...and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts. NLT

Hearing God

1 Cor 14:10
There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. KJV

Every “voice” we hear, whether it be the voices of people, demonic spirits or God’s voice, all have the ability to influence our thoughts. What we think determines the direction our lives will take (Pr 23:7). Those wanting to follow God must be able to hear God’s voice clearly. Learning to hear the voice of God comes through spending time in fellowship with Him. How do we fellowship with God? Our personal communion and relationship with God are established in two basic ways…

- Pray …Too often prayer is thought of as a one way conversation with God. We pour out our complaints and requests to God and let it go at that. To have a conversation is defined
as...A spoken exchange of thoughts, opinions, and feelings. In order to have an exchange more than one person must be involved in the conversation. Prayer is therefore a two-way street. We make known our thoughts, and God makes known His thoughts. How does God make known His thoughts to us? The only way to receive the sure word of God is to hear or receive a personal revelation (called the rhema word) from the Scriptures known as the logos word. This rhema and logos word is the two edged sword called the word of God (Heb 4:12). Many times I have gone to God and voiced my questions, concerns, and requests to Him in prayer, and I heard my answer when the Scriptures spoke to my heart. Many times when I am before the Lord with my questions and petitions, the Holy Spirit speaks a portion of a verse of Scripture to me and when I take the time to look up the verse I am hearing, I begin to receive more inspired revelation from what I am reading concerning my problems, concerns or petitions I have brought before God. God takes seriously our prayers to Him and desires to speak to us during this time of fellowship with Him...

Zech 13:9
I will bring that group (true seekers) through the fire and make them pure, just as gold and silver are refined and purified by fire. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.' NLT

Those who hear from God will be pure, because what He speaks is the truth and it will free us of any error aligning our thoughts with the truth.

Ps 50:7
"O my people, listen as I speak… I am God, your God!  NLT

- **Bible Study** …We hear God’s voice clearly when His word is revealed to us through study of the Scriptures. The Scriptures cannot be understood unless they are revealed to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise we will come up with our private or personal interpretation of what we read...

2 Tim 3:16
All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. NLT

Prayer and Bible study go hand in hand. It is through studying the word of God that the mind and heart of God are revealed to us...

2 Tim 2:15
Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. KJV

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7 Microsoft Bookshelf ®2000 PC Dictionary
Hindrances to Hearing God

We must desire fellowship with God. Fellowship with God causes us to exercise our senses and makes us sensitive to His voice. When we are dull of hearing we lack teaching and are unskilled in the word of God and cannot exercise our senses to discern good and evil...

Heb 5:11-14

11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.
12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word (not using the logos word) of righteousness: for he is a babe.
14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. KJV

There are things that hinder our fellowship with God and dull our sensitivity to His voice such as...

- **Other priorities**...We must not allow the affairs of this life to take precedence. (Matt 6:33-34)… and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. NLT

- **Sin issues**...Wrong mindsets, actions, attitudes... (Isa 59:1-2) Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear... But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. KJV

- **Selfish desires**...When it’s all about what I want, my desires above God’s desires… (Ps 37:4-5) Delight thyself also (lit: become pliable and soft… not hard and resistant) in the LORD; and He shall give thee (place within you) the desires of thine heart… Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. KJV

When we do not allow God to bring correction to areas that are hindering our fellowship and communion with Him, it is because we are not being honest, teachable or dependent upon Him. This means pride has closed our eyes and ears to God. He will only speak to those who are willing to be teachable and honest...

Acts 28:27

27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
28 Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. KJV
When we can’t hear God He will use the prophetic anointing. God still wants the revelation of His will to be made known to us, when we cannot clearly hear His voice. He has established the prophetic ministry as a voice of revelation and illumination which will reveal the mind of Christ to people. The purpose for the prophetic anointing is to bring edification, exhortation, and comfort to the church…

1 Cor 14:3
But he that prophesies speaks to men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. NKJV

Characteristics of the PROPHETIC ANOINTING

- **Exposing what is hidden or not known** …The prophetic anointing will be motivated to bring awareness of the hidden things of darkness. Many times the enemy has deceptions and schemes that God’s people are not aware of. The prophetic anointing will expose and reveal the deceits and strategies of the enemy, and will also make known the thoughts and intents of the people’s hearts which are not known to them. The prophetic anointing will also reveal the thoughts and intents of God’s heart to people.

- **Revealing truth from God’s word** …Those with a prophetic anointing will have great insight and revelation from God’s word. They will be taught by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and have many truths revealed to them. Those with a prophetic anointing will use Scripture to validate the authority of God’s truth. Any prophetic revelation will never contradict the Scriptures.

- **Bringing an awareness of the reality of God** …The prophetic anointing gives those who operate in it great concern for validating God’s reputation. Patience and endurance are characteristics of this anointing. Those with a prophetic anointing know they have received the word of the Lord and will not let go of it. They know what they hear and are willing to endure great trials and testing in order to allow God to accomplish what He has spoken. The greater the level of trials and testing the greater level of prophetic anointing one will operate in. The Apostle Paul is a genuine example of one who endured with great patience the testing and trials of the prophetic anointing.

- **Creating conviction, repentance, humility and accountability** …True prophetic people have experienced much breaking and reshaping in their own lives in order that they may impart God’s will and ways into the lives of others. This anointing will cause those who operate in it to be broken and very sensitive to the sin they see and will cause others to respond in the same way. Those under a prophetic anointing have great clarity and their sensitivity demands great honesty about their own blind spots, so they can help others see theirs. Love must be the motivating force for the true prophetic anointing; otherwise it will cause much damage in the lives of people.
Pitfalls and Hindrances of the PROPHETIC ANOINTING

• **Prophetic people can perceive and give what they hear in a harsh way** ...If unhealed, those operating in this anointing can allow rejection, bitterness or pride issues to hinder this gift. A genuine prophetic word may be delivered with a self-serving or wrong motivation. Unhealed issues will prevent the truth from being spoken or received in love, especially if words of correction or warning are being brought forth. If this is the case, the prophetic anointing will be heard by those it is spoken to in a distorted way or tainted by personal feelings by those giving a word from God.

• **Prophetic people can become intolerant if the good is clouded by the bad** ...Those with this anointing if unhealed may tend to focus on the problem rather than God’s answer concerning the problem. The prophetic anointing will expose problems, but it will also provide the solution. Otherwise those being given the word of the Lord will not be encouraged and find comfort in what God is saying. The prophetic word is to bring edification, exhortation, and comfort to those it is given to (1 Cor 14:3). God wants to edify (build up), but sometimes this will require a tearing down of something that must be seen and removed. Those with a prophetic anointing must not camp on the negative or their prophetic word will not be clear and pure. Those who allow God to bring greater dimensions of healing into their lives and also allow God to develop this anointing will be used greatly to give God’s counsel, correction and guidance to others.

• **The Prophetic anointing requires boldness and confidence which may be perceived as being prideful or controlling** ... People who are unhealed and insecure may feel threatened by this anointing because they fear being controlled. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) is essential in bringing balance to this anointing, both in those receiving ministry from this gift and for those operating in this anointing; otherwise spiritual abuse or the operation of a counterfeit prophetic anointing can be a problem. The faith that is required for operating in this gift causes the word of the Lord to be spoken with confidence and boldness to those given the prophetic anointing. This is often seen as arrogance or pride by those who lack understanding concerning the authority of God that the prophetic anointing operates in. God gives His authority to those who speak on His behalf. People who struggle with authority issues will often not respond correctly to the prophetic voice that is speaking into their lives.

Heb 13:17
Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls...
KJV
Motivational Gift #2: SERVING ANOINTING

Rom 12:7
Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them... in proportion to our faith... serving, let us wait on our serving...

The serving anointing is for the purpose of meeting unmet needs in the work of the Lord. The word serving (or ministering in the KJV) is the Gr. word (Strong’s NT #1248) diakonia (dia-kho-nee-ah) which is also translated: servant – minister – deacon – pastor it literally means one that serves and waits on others to bring aid or relief as a bondservant. The Greek word for bondservant\(^8\) is defined as one who disregards his own interests to execute the commands of one he is under authority to. A person with the serving anointing will be motivated to make use of available resources to meet the practical needs of others in order to accomplish the work of the Lord.

Matt 20:26-28
26...but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.  
27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave –  
28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." NKJV

Those with a serving anointing have a heart to help people and are task oriented people. They see a need and have an immediate desire to find a way to fill the need. They often have a wide range of abilities and talents and can be counted on to help. They work well with others and prefer to do the job themselves but may find security in having tasks delegated to them...

Acts 6:2-3
2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. "We apostles should spend our time preaching and teaching the word of God, not administering a food program," they said.  
3 "Now look around among yourselves, brothers, and select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this business. NLT

\(^8\) #1401 doulos (doo'-los) Strong's Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.
People with a serving anointing can become overwhelmed with all the details that are needed to be attended to in order to accomplish their task. The enemy can use the never ending unmet needs or a myriad of detail as distractions to pull them away from their personal communion with the Lord. Those with a heart to serve others must be careful about not allowing their good intentions or good works to take precedence over their personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The old adage “The devil is in the details” can certainly hold true for those with a serving anointing…


39 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught.
40 But Martha was worrying over the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."
41 But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are so upset over all these details!
42 There is really only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it — and I won't take it away from her." NLT

Martha loved the Lord, but allowed her servant’s heart to pull her away from spending time in the presence of the Lord, hearing what He desired to teach her. It is crucial for those who spend their time and energy serving and meeting the needs of others have as their priority personal time before the Lord. By this they will be making sure that what they are doing is really what He is calling them to do and that they are not just getting their worth from their good works.

Characteristics of the SERVING ANOINTING

1. Those with this anointing are quick to detect practical needs and how to meet them. They are the hands of the body.
2. They have great recall of the likes and dislikes of others, such as what others like to eat or drink and other details that are important to those they serve.
3. Those with a serving anointing like to meet needs quickly. The faster the job is accomplished the better. They are task oriented people who may not be prone to long range goals, as it may require delegating to others what they desire to accomplish themselves and resent having to ask for help if they get overwhelmed with the task.
4. Servants have great stamina and determination. They are willing to work long hours regardless of weariness because they are determined to see the job finished. Being able to help others motivates their ambition.
5. Those with a serving anointing are sensitive to how others respond to their efforts to serve. They easily detect sincerity and insincerity in others. Appreciation may tell them their efforts are acceptable and they are therefore acceptable. Lack of appreciation may tell them their service was not good enough, right enough or insufficient in some way and thus undermine their worth, if they are trying to receive their worth or feelings of acceptability from serving others.
6. If those with a serving anointing have unhealed rejection issues, they may find it hard to say “no” to the attempt to fulfill an unmet need in others. This is where those with a serving anointing must determine when, where and who the Lord is calling them to serve.
They must be sure they are not being motivated by something or someone else when there is the desire to serve others. A false sense of responsibility can attach itself to those motivated to serve.

**Pitfalls and hindrances of the SERVING ANOINTING**

1. They may appear pushy to those they work with because they desire to accomplish their tasks and may prefer to work alone and others may feel left out. Those with a serving anointing feel responsible for personally filling a need.
2. They may see others as lazy or selfish because others don’t seem to have the motivation to serve as they do.
3. They may struggle with a sense of guilt if others try to serve them because it is their motivation to serve and not be served.
4. They may struggle with feelings of inadequacy if perceived needs are not able to be met by them. They may also become frustrated when a task is unable to be completed.
5. If they are not discerning as to how God is directing them, they may have the tendency to “rescue” others and enable them with their problems. Those with a serving anointing feel obligated to bring aid and relief.
6. They run the danger of being overcome with the cares and affairs of this life and end up not giving the proper time and place for the study of God’s word.

**Motivational Gift #3: TEACHING ANOINTING**

*Rom 12:6-7*

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them... in proportion to our faith... he who teaches, in teaching...NKJV*
The Gr. word for *teach* is defined as the *impartation of instruction, to explain or expound.*⁹ The teaching anointing gives one the motivation and ability from God to accurately communicate the mind and heart of God by imparting understandable, practical information and insightful revelation from His word. The teaching anointing makes clear the truth from Scripture exposing any error or misconceptions coming from strange or false doctrines. Love is the motivation for what the teacher communicates to their listeners. Teaching the truth in love will bring unity to the body of Christ when the truth is embraced...

**Eph 4:13-15**

13 Until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth.

15 Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. NLT

Intelligence and wisdom can be imparted to those who sit under anointed teaching...

**Deut 4:6-7:1**

"And now, Israel, listen carefully to these laws and regulations that I am about to teach you…. If you obey them carefully, you will display your wisdom and intelligence to the surrounding nations… they will exclaim, 'What other nation is as wise and prudent as this!'" NLT

The teaching anointing makes the word of God come alive because it is more than just imparting mere information and facts. It is the impartation of inspired revelation to the teacher’s listeners of that which has been revealed by the Holy Spirit to the teacher. Without the teaching anointing those trying to teach the Scriptures will teach their private interpretation of the Bible to their students. This results in *strange doctrines* of man and demons...

**Heb 13:9**

*Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace… NKJV*

When people do not have their hearts established by the grace of the teaching anointing, doctrines of man prevail. Then personal agendas and opinions take precedence over what God has to reveal through the Scriptures...

**Mark 7:7-9**

7 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away. Their worship is a farce, for they replace God’s commands (word) with their own man-made teachings.'

8 For you ignore God’s specific laws (word) and substitute your own traditions."

9 Then he said, "You reject God’s laws (word) in order to hold on to your own traditions."

NLT

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⁹ *didasko* (did-os-ko) Strong’s Concordance NT #1321
When people cannot hear God revealed insights from His word, they come up with man-made doctrines, rules and laws which reduce the word of God to external formalism. When there is no teaching anointing private interpretations are taught and often become a burden for people to live under...

Luke 11:52
"How terrible it will be for you experts in religious law! For you hide the key to knowledge from the people. You don't enter the Kingdom yourselves, and you prevent others from entering." NLT

Pride in one’s knowledge, religion and legalism easily become the motivation for teaching others rather than love for people and the desire to see them set free by the truth from God’s word. True anointed teaching from God will lead people to God and away from those things that hinder their relationship with God. True servants or ministers of God are people who have the ability to teach others God’s word...

2 Tim 2:24-26

24 The Lord’s servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people.
25 They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will believe the truth.
26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. NLT

It is so important that we have genuine Holy Spirit anointed teachers among us in the days in which we live. There is much false teaching and deception among the churches and the people need anointed teachers to bring the true word of the Scriptures. A true anointed teacher will have a strong foundation in the Scriptures. Far too often we hear teachers teach things that will bring them financial gain. They will use the Scriptures to manipulate people into financially supporting them, by teaching what tickles the ears of their listeners. We must beware of false teachers...

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach their destructive heresies about God and even turn against their Master who bought them. Theirs will be a swift and terrible end.
2 Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of them, Christ and his true way will be slandered.
3 In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction is on the way. NLT

Those anointed to teach God’s people must never be motivated by personal gain of any kind. This will only lead people away from God and His truth...

Titus 1:7-11

God’s minister. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or greedy for money...he will be able to encourage others with right teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

For there are many who rebel against right teaching; they engage in useless talk and deceive people...They must be silenced. By their wrong teaching, they have already turned whole families away from the truth. Such teachers only want your money. NLT
Those with the teaching anointing will be motivated to study hard so they can rightly understand and handle the word of God...

2 Tim 2:15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. KJV

Characteristics of the TEACHING ANOINTING

1. Those with the teaching anointing stress the accuracy of words. This person is strongly motivated to study and work with words.
2. They like to test the knowledge of other teachers. It is important to them to validate all facts and be able to verify all sources against the Scriptures.
3. They have great patience when it comes to studying and researching. Often there is more pleasure in researching than there is in presenting the material.
4. Being systematic and orderly when presenting information is important to those with a teaching anointing.
5. They are good at using practical illustrations to demonstrate a truth so it can be used by those they are teaching. Jesus and the Apostle Paul used many natural illustrations to teach a spiritual application of a truth (i.e. farmers, athletes, soldiers, parables).
6. Those with a teaching anointing are very patient with those they teach. They are capable of going over the same ground many times before they see the fruit of their labor.
7. Those with a teaching anointing have very analytical minds and look at the problems of others as an opportunity to give objective instructions or directions.

Pitfalls and Hindrances of the TEACHING ANOINTING

1. There may be a tendency for those with a teaching anointing to become so absorbed in details that the practical application may be lost and end up weighing down or confusing those they are trying to teach.
2. Intellect or human reasoning may stand in the way of hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. It is easy for those with a teaching anointing and their love for study to depend upon human intellect or reasoning rather than the leading of the Holy Spirit.
3. Pride can be the result of becoming skillful in learning. The Bible warns that those with knowledge run the risk of becoming high-minded or puffed up because of what they know. Pride will be an issue when a teacher gets their worth from what they know. Teachers
must remember “they know what they know” because of the grace of God. Love and not knowledge must be their motivation for their ministry (1 Cor 8:1).

4. The teaching anointing causes a person to be very objective and they may appear to others that they are lacking sympathy or understanding and even seem cold and analytical in their perceptions and responses.

5. Because those with a teaching anointing are analytical and have skillful minds they may run the risk of being influenced by demonic thinking or so called “science” and “philosophies” that do not align with the word of God, but simply appeals to their intellect...

1 Tim 6:20-21 NLT
Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called science… Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness.

Col 2:8 NLT
Don’t let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ.

Those with a teaching anointing must guard this anointing and not allow the influences of the world’s philosophies or wrong thinking from demonic spirits to steal this anointing. Many who have been given this powerful anointing have it stolen by allowing pride to make them unteachable and unwilling to receive correction when it is needed. One must never compete or compare themselves with others who have this same anointing. God gives His anointing or gifts for the purpose of destroying the yokes and burdens of the devil...

Isa 10:27
The burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing. NKJV

Teachers will be judged by a higher standard by God, because they influence the minds of God’s people...

James 3:1
Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged by God with greater strictness. NLT
Motivational Gift #4: EXHORTING ANOINTING

Rom 12:6-8
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
7 Or serving, let us wait on our serving: or he that teaches, on teaching;
8 Or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness. KJV

The word EXHORT in the Gr.\textsuperscript{10} literally means: to admonish, exhort, to beg, to strive to appease, to entreat, to console, to encourage, comfort, and instruct). People with this anointing are motivated to find practical steps to solve problems in order help encourage others. It is very important for them to help others find peace and satisfaction when they sense disturbance, irritation, lack of security or safety in the lives of others. They delight in seeing others make progress in their emotional, physical and spiritual lives. Those with the exhortation anointing make wonderful counselors and advisors. They are the peace makers (“eirenopoios” lit: one who has received peace and therefore makes peace) in the body of Christ (Matt 5:9). Those with this anointing have learned to walk in peace so they can impart peace to others in crisis and to those in conflict with others. They are very strong, loving and positive people who desire to produce abundant living through growth and maturity in others. Those who belong to Jesus Christ and possess the gift of exhortation will effectively minister the Father’s heart of God to people...

2 Cor 1:3-7
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God...For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ...But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer...and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. (NAS)

When we receive God’s comfort through other body members in our own time of distress and trouble, we are experiencing the gift of exhortation...

2 Cor 7:6-7
Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the \textit{consolation} with which he was comforted in you...NKJV

\textsuperscript{10} Strongs’s #3870 \textit{parakaleo} (para-kaleo)
Consolation is one of the ways we operate in the gift of exhortation. The way this word is defined\textsuperscript{11} conveys the various acts of exhortation...

\begin{center}
\begin{block}{Consolation}
* To call near 
* To entreat 
* To encourage 
* To comfort 
* To give a stirring, instructive, persuasive discourse
\end{block}
\end{center}

\begin{center}
\textbf{Rom 15:5-6}
Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. KJV
\end{center}

\textbf{True UNITY among believers cannot be achieved without the gift of EXHORTATION}

When we try to receive comfort apart from God’s gift of exhortation we run the danger of trying to comfort ourselves through self-gratification. This means we are not relying upon God for comfort but upon our own...

- **Advantages** … a job, education, money, etc.
- **Merits** … our natural strengths or talents
- **Efforts** … good works, striving to achieve

Pride in our own advantages, merits and efforts will keep us self-focused. It will not allow the gift of exhortation from God to operate in us. Self-gratification is a never ending quest for satisfaction and comfort apart from God. Fallen human nature struggles with condemnation, but we only find comfort and consolation when God exhorts us through His word...

\begin{center}
\textbf{Ps 119:50-53}
This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life. Pride has me in great derision (condemnation), Yet I do not turn aside from Your law (word). I remembered Your judgments (word) of old, O LORD, And have comforted myself. NKJV (parenthesis mine)
\end{center}

\textsuperscript{11} Strong’s #3874 \textit{paraklesis} - definitions are from the Thayers Greek dictionary
Four Characteristics of the EXHORTING ANOINTING

1. This gift causes people to be very visionary. They can see specific achievements for others and desire to prescribe certain steps of action so they can see these achievements realized in those they minister to…

   1 Thess 4:1
   Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God  
   NKJV

2. Those with this gift want what they teach or give as prescribed counsel or advice to be understandable and practical to those they desire to encourage…

   1 Thess 2:11-12
   You know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.  
   NKJV

3. They make great mentors because they have a strong desire to see others mature and reach a higher level of perfection. They desire to guide others to a place of security and fulfillment by developing patience in their times of trouble…

   Acts 14:22
   Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."  
   NKJV

4. Leaders with the gift of exhortation are great problem solvers and tend to look at problems from the standpoint of how they developed, so steps can be taken to avoid future problems.

   Titus 1:8-11
   He (the leader) must live a devout and disciplined life. He must have a strong and steadfast belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with right teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong. For there are many who rebel against right teaching; they engage in useless talk and deceive people. This is especially true of those who insist on circumcision for salvation. They must be silenced. By their wrong teaching, they have already turned whole families away from the truth. Such teachers only want your money.  
   NLT
Pitfalls for those with the EXHORTATION ANOINTING

1. Unless love is their motivation for this anointing they can become critical in their attempts to encourage growth or progress in those they are trying to help, because they seek and expect maturity (perfection).

   Eph 4:31-32
   Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. NLT

2. They can become discouraged, frustrated and impatient in their attempts to encourage others when those they are trying to help do not take the advice or steps of action they have prescribed and end up failing …

   Col 3:21
   Fathers, don't aggravate your children (those you should be exhorting). If you do, they will become discouraged and quit trying. NLT (parenthesis mine)

3. They may be perceived as overconfident and unconcerned with others feelings because they are so sure that their steps or advice is the way to do what will bring progress. True confidence is empowered by love and sincerely desire to exhort others and encourage growth through speaking the truth...

   Phil 1:14-16
   And most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident because of my chains, and are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
   Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:
   The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely. NKJV

4. As mentors, those with the gift of exhortation feel a great responsibility to demonstrate the reality of Christian character and lifestyle. Thus they may fear having faults and weakness exposed which they think will discourage others. This may cause them to fall into pretense or self-righteousness in order to appear as the example they desire to be...

   2 Cor 12:9-10
   Each time he(Jesus) said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me. Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite content with my weaknesses and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. NLT
Motivational Gift #5: GIVING ANOINTING

Rom 12:6-8

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
7 Or serving, let us wait on our serving: or he that teaches, on teaching;
8 Or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness. KJV

Give in the above text is defined as: reaching out with the hand, to EXTEND, to impart, to furnish and supply, to deliver, and to bestow. The word give is joined with nouns that denote power and strength, such as the hand (which in Heb. literally means power and strength). The gift of giving is to be done with simplicity. To give with simplicity is defined as giving with...

♦ sincerity...Not self-serving or selfish, no pretense or hypocrisy, to have genuine motives.

♦ generosity...Abundantly give, open handed, freedom from meanness (inferior quality, without honor, small minded, offensive, humiliating, nasty)

Those with the giving anointing have experienced the extended hand of God in their own lives. Being able to freely give is the result of being freely forgiven or being freely given to. When we are bound by sin and guilt it is difficult have a generous spirit that is sincere in its motives to give. Generous giving must be sincere. In order to be a sincere giver you must be a lover of God and His kingdom purposes

12 Strong’s # (NT#3330 (compound word) NT#3326 “meta”(met-ah) meaning through” & NT#1325 “didomi” (did-oh-mee) to... impart – furnish – supplying – deliver – bestow…
13 Thayer’s Greek Lexicon
14 Strong’s OT:#3027 yad (yawd); meaning an open hand, (indicating power, means, direction
15 Strong’s NT:#572 haplotes (hap-lot’-ace)
16 Definitions from Microsoft Bookshelf ©2000 Dictionary
God imparts, furnishes, supplies, bestows and delivers abundant provision and blessing to His people through the giving of His word (Jesus). Jesus told Peter that if he really loved Him he would feed His sheep (JN 21:17). We are all going to be held accountable for how much we have been given by God and what we did with it...

There are many ways we can serve God by our giving. When we are motivated to sincerely give, we will freely and willingly give to God of our time, our finances and our material possessions. When the grace for giving is upon us, we give with great joy...

As Christians, our first priority is to give to our Christian brothers and sisters. There are many poor sinners living under the curse of poverty among us and there always will be...
Many are living in sin and rebellion toward God, His word and His ways and as a result they are living under His curse of poverty (Deut 28:17-18). The above text says because of this the poor are always going to be among us, as long as there is rebellion to God and His word. Therefore, we as God’s people need to make sure that our “brethren” or fellow believers in Jesus Christ are our first priority, when it comes to giving to the poor. We must be obedient to God and not our emotions when it comes to giving to the poor. God wants His family to be taken care of, when they are in need or time of crisis. It breaks the heart of God to see humanity suffer, but the much suffering in the world is because of the sin that people choose to live in. That is why we need to give sinners the good news of the Gospel so they can come out from under the curse of shame and poverty. Those who refuse will be cursed…

_Prov 13:18_

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction. KJV

_Mal 2:2_

Listen to me and take it to heart. Honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "or I will bring a terrible curse against you. I will curse even the blessings you receive. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you have not taken my warning seriously. NLT

**Characteristics of the GIVING ANOINTING**

1. They are motivated to labor hard and make an investment in the work of the Kingdom of God...

   _Acts 20:34-35_

   Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was...

   _Acts 18:3_

   You know that these hands of mine have worked to pay my own way, and I have even supplied the needs of those who were with me.

   And I have been a constant example of how you can help the poor by working hard.

   NLT

2. Givers like the Apostle Paul, will motivate others to also give and to be generous _high quality_ givers, because of their love and appreciation for the Lord and the work of His ministry …

   _1 Cor 15:58-16:1-2_

   So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord’s work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

   Now about the money being collected for the Christians in Jerusalem: You should follow the same procedures I gave to the churches in Galatia.

   On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. NLT
3. They are not like the hypocritical Pharisees, but dislike publicity or attention drawn to their giving. They have a very humble attitude and sincere motive for giving.

   *Matt 23:5*
   
   *But all their works they (Pharisees) do for to be seen of men… KJV*

4. They enjoy meeting needs without the pressure of being told about the need. It gives them great joy to know their giving is an answer to others prayers…

   *1 Cor 16:15, 17*
   
   *I urge you, brethren — you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints — for what was lacking on your part they supplied. NKJV*

5. They are not impulse givers, they rely on *counsel* and *confirmation* regarding to whom and what they give. Those with the anointing to give prefer to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit rather than feeling pressured by others to give.

   *2 Cor 8:4-5*
   
   *They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift given for the Christians in Jerusalem. Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord and to us for whatever directions God might give them. NLT*

6. Giving makes those with this anointing feel like they are taking an active part in the lives or ministries into which they are giving…

   *1 Thess 2:7-9*
   
   *We were as gentle among you as a mother feeding and caring for her own children. We loved you so much that we gave you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too. Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that our expenses would not be a burden to anyone. NLT*

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**Pitfalls for those with the GIVING ANOINTING**

1. Unless they are led by the Holy Spirit and are discerning with wisdom, their desire to *reach out* and *furnish what is needed*, may be misguided or misdirected.

2. Unless pride is kept in check, their generosity may become *insincere*, and result in the desire to gain control through their giving.
3. They may be accused of being material minded or money hungry by others who see their desire to promote or accumulate wealth or material things for future kingdom giving.

4. They may be accused of not being caring or generous because they fail to respond to general appeals or appeals given under pressure.

5. They may be accused of being or frugal (concerned about spending or wise savings) because their desire is to have more to give to God and others... they don’t like waste.

Motivational Gift #6: THE RULING ANOINTING

Rom 12:6-8

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
7 Or serving, let us wait on our serving: or he that teaches, on teaching:
8 Or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness. KJV

To RULE means to… (a) set or to place or stand before (b) to be over, to superintend, to preside over (c) to be a protector or guardian who gives aid (d) to care for. The person with this anointing is gifted as a LEADER of others in the body of Christ. God will anoint this person with an overall vision and goals for a particular area of responsibility. They will be anointed to inspire and impart the desire for accomplishing the goals and vision of God to those they work with, ministering to, or oversee and care for. Followers of a leader will follow voluntarily and will not have to be manipulated or coerced into following. Followers feel secure in the guidance of an anointed ruler. Rulers understand the need for delegating responsibility to others. Those with this anointing are fiercely dedicated to their followers. One who is anointed to rule must do so with DILIGENCE...

DILIGENCE

DILIGENCE Strong’s NT #4710 “spoude” according to Thayers Lexicon:

(a) To have speed or haste in accomplishing, promoting, or striving after anything.
(b) To interest oneself most earnestly (is to seriously attend to; to have the qualities of depth (i.e. not superficial), firmness and stability. It also denotes an eagerness to pursue these qualities.
(c) To be sincere (is to be free from mixture (i.e. compromise) or deceit, to be honest (i.e. no pretense, high level of integrity, genuine).
Those who rule—must be people who have strength of character, and who are not filled with pretense or pride. They will be people of integrity with genuine Christ-like character and behavior, who are stable and eager to accomplish the will of God. Those gifted to rule stand before God’s people as overseers who bring protection and aid.

Guidelines for Ruling Elders

♦ Know and honor them that labor among you

1 Thess 5:12
And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you...hold them in the highest regard in love for their work.... KJV

“Know them” Strong’s NT #1492 “eido” To: discern, discover, to see by understanding or experience the state or condition, to visit, interview, get to know

♦ Honor them & don’t “receive accusation”

1 Tim 5:17, 19-20
Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses... Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. NKJV

“Receive accusation” Strong’s NT #3858 NT:3858 “paradechomai” & #2724 “kategoria” meaning …to delight in or accept complaints or accusations

♦ Rule their own family well

1 Tim 3:2-5
A bishop(overseer) then must be...one who rules his own house well...for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God? NKJV

“house” Strong’s NT #3624 “oikos” to: dwelling place of God, inhabitants of a household

♦ Rule by being a good example

Heb 13:7
Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and trust the Lord as they do. NLT

♦ Obey & honor those who Rule you
Characteristics of the RULING ANOINTING

1. They are motivated to organize, but prefer to organize only what they are responsible for.
2. They like to see tasks completed quickly, the quicker the better. They can become frustrated with interruptions or delays in finishing a project or completing a goal.
3. They like to be well prepared, and are good at finding and organizing resources that are necessary to complete the job or vision.
4. They have spiritual insight to discern the gifts or abilities in the different members of the body. This anointing has a supernatural ability to designate tasks.
5. They are sideline players and will not assume a leadership position unless given the task, but will assume a leadership role if no one is leading.
6. Because they are consumed with seeing the vision or goal realized they are not people pleasers, and can endure extreme hardship in order to reach the goal.
7. Problems are seen as challenges, and they enjoy going on to the next goal or phase of a vision, they don’t see the job as finished as far as the Lord’s work is concerned.

Pitfalls for those with the RULING ANOINTING

1. Because they are good at delegating responsibility, they may be accused of being lazy, but they are just the opposite (first to arrive, last to leave).
2. They may appear or be accused of being insensitive to others, because the goal or completion of a job is a priority. Those under them may feel misused, because what is happening may seem more important than who is involved.
3. Because those with a ruling anointing like to see progress toward a vision or goal, they can become frustrated with those they are leading. If they don’t make progress fast enough, they may feel the pressure to strive or perform in their own strength in order to speed up the process. (i.e. Saul waiting for the prophet Samuel to arrive became impatient and took matters into his own hands (1 Sam 13:8-13).
4. Unhealed areas may result in placing confidence in self’s abilities or logic and allow pride to keep them from depending on God for guidance or strength. They may fall into the Saul syndrome of doing things their way instead of God’s way, and be more concerned about how people see them than how God sees them (1 Sam 15:17-24).
Motivational Gift #7: MERCY ANOINTING

Rom 12:6-8

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
7 Or serving, let us wait on our serving: or he that teaches, on teaching:
8 Or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness. KJV

Those that are given God’s gift of mercy will be motivated to show compassion to those who are in distress because of lacking something that is needed by them. The word “mercy” in this text is the Greek word eleeo (el-eh-eh'-o). This word not only denotes compassion but also means to benefit others. Many people are easily moved to feel sympathy from purely human emotions for those in unfortunate circumstances. The Gift of mercy however is more than just having feelings of sympathy for those in trouble or need. Mercy that is motivated by God’s grace will have the wisdom of God so the one motivated by the gift of mercy will know how to benefit the one who is hurting or in trouble.

Many times human feelings of pity or sympathy can motivate decisions to do things that look like mercy but are simply based on emotions and not according to God’s wisdom. For instance, mercy may require the one motivated by this gift, to do or not do something for someone who is hurting and in distress, which seems contrary to being merciful. For example a mother who has an injured child, which requires a painful treatment in order to receive healing. If the mother is motivated by sympathy she may decide not to allow the painful treatment, with the reasoning it will only add to the discomfort of the child. On the other hand if she is motivated by God’s compassion, His wisdom will motivate her to put aside her human emotions and decide it will benefit the child more if she allows the painful treatment. Therefore mercy often requires seemingly hard or harsh decisions in order to truly benefit those who are in trouble or in need therefore God’s wisdom is essential in the motivation of the gift of mercy. The story of the prodigal son who almost died is a good example of this (Lk 15: 11-32). The Father’s mercy allowed the rebellious son to come to his end.

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18 NT: #1655 Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary
The above text states that mercy should be carried out with *cheerfulness*. This is the Greek word *hilaros* (hil-ar-os')\(^{19}\). This word means: *to be prompt and willing*. Thus, when one is motivated by the gift of God’s mercy they will act promptly and willingly to do what will benefit those needing mercy. Those who are willing to be merciful (compassionate) will promptly and willingly experience God’s gift of mercy in their own lives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matt 5:7</th>
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<td><strong>Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.</strong></td>
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The Thayer’s Greek Lexicon defines the word “mercy” (*eleeo* (el-eh-eh'-o)) as … *to give help or aid to one who is afflicted or wretched*. The word “wretched” is defined as:

1. In distress or misfortune; miserable
2. Characterized by or attended with misery or woe
3. Of mean character
4. Contemptible; despicable
5. Of very inferior quality

It is not natural or is it easy to have mercy upon someone who is mean or despicable. That is why God’s mercy is a gift that motivates us to have compassion when we would not naturally have it for those who least deserve it. God may choose to have mercy upon those that we would rather see punished or ignored. Therefore it is again the wisdom of God that determines His will…

> Rom 9:15
> *For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."* NLT

God gives His grace (gifts) to the humble, therefore we must remain humble so God’s gifts will not be misused or perverted in any way. Pride always causes us to pervert and misuse our spiritual gifts. God gives His grace to the humble, which releases His gift of mercy to them. His grace and gift of mercy will adequately bring the right kind of help at just the right time and always for the right reason when we are trying to help others in a time of need…

> Heb 4:16
> *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* NKJV

\(^{19}\) NT: #2431 Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary
Characteristics of the MERCY ANOINTING

1. This anointing causes sensitivity to the emotions and feelings of others. It is sensitive to the “inner” needs of others.

2. Those with the gift of mercy are especially sensitive to the pain and distress of those who are in need. They are attracted to those of inferior quality and character with the desire to meet their needs.

3. This gift creates a desire to rescue others from trouble or distress. It enables us to go to great lengths and personal sacrifice to do what is necessary to help one who is suffering.

4. This anointing will motivate those with the gift of mercy to give the right kind of correction at the right time. Firmness is avoided unless it is deemed beneficial in relieving the suffering of an individual.

5. Those with the gift of mercy will be very diplomatic and careful with their words, they do not want to hurt or injure the feelings of those who are wounded.

6. They have the ability to discern the true motives of others, and can readily sense hypocrisy.

Pitfalls of the MERCY ANOINTING

1. If those with this gift are not secure in their identity they may appear weak or indecisive and tend to avoid firmness or confrontation. There is the danger of being a people pleaser.

2. They may close their spirit and become bitter against those who are perceived as insincere, insensitive, harsh or hypocritical.

3. They may tend to be led more by their emotions than by their spirit. They must be led by the Holy Spirit or wisdom will not prevail.

4. People of the opposite sex may misinterpret the motives of those motivated by mercy, and become attracted to their sensitivity. This can lead to over involvement and must be guarded against.

5. Sympathy and empathy can cause them to identify with others and take on the offences of those they are trying to help...objectivity is essential.

6. They have the ability to discern the true motives of others, and can readily sense hypocrisy.
Lesson Notes
LESSON THREE: THE NINE CHARISMATIC SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TEXT: 1 Cor 12:4-7, 11
4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all.
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. NKJV

Five Essential Principles for Spiritual Gifts

Before discussing the individual charismatic gifts it is important to take a closer look at some of the points made in the above text. There are five principles in the above text that are essential to grasp when it comes to receiving and operating in spiritual gifts...

1. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (vs. 4). The dictionary defines a gift as receiving an endowment. To receive an endowment means: To be furnished, equipped or supplied with a valuable or desirable source. This text tells us the source for all gifts is the Holy Spirit. God’s Holy Spirit is the source for all supernatural power, gifts and callings. Before the creation of man, God gave gifts to the angelic host of heaven. These gifts were retained by Lucifer and the fallen angels after they rebelled, so this means that Satan and all evil spirits still have their God given supernatural abilities. It is because of this that they can use their God given spiritual gifts to produce evil and deception within the earth. How can this be? God’s word tells us that once God gives His gifts to whomever He chooses to give them to, He will never take them back. His gifts can be ignored, neglected, misused and even refused but God will never change His mind and take back His gifts... (Rom 11:29) For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. NLT. Therefore, all supernatural power originated with God. He is the only one who can create what is natural or supernatural. Satan and the demonic realm can only use and misuse what God has created.

20 Microsoft Bookshelf Dictionary 2000
God’s supernatural gifts become a “counterfeit” gift if they are misused or abused. Something that is “counterfeit” can look like and can even act or function like the genuine, but if it is used to “defraud” someone, it is called counterfeit. For example Pharaoh’s magicians in Egypt were able to “copy” the supernatural acts which Aaron did, but the operation of their “gift of miracles” was motivated by an evil spirit, making their gifts “counterfeit gifts”...

○ (Ex 7:11-13) But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments...For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods...And Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said. NKJV.

The word magicians is used to describe the sorcerers and wise men of Egypt. This is the Hebrew word 21 chartom (khar-tome') which refers to occult practices. The word “occult” means “hidden”. These “magicians” used enchantments, which is the Hebrew word 22 lahat (lah'-hat) and this means to be enwrapped in what is hidden. Those operating in the occult have hidden motives and agendas for operating in supernatural gifts. The supernatural gifts of demonic beings will operate through people when they yield themselves to a supernatural demonic influence. Therefore, we must not be accepting of a supernatural gift just because it is “supernatural”...it must be a genuine supernatural gift because it is motivated and sanctioned by the Holy Spirit. Not only does God promise not to withdraw His gifts once they are given, but this also applies to His “call”. God’s call is His invitation to receive all of the various aspects of His “grace” ... (Rom 1:5-6) "Through Him we have received grace...among whom you also are called by Jesus Christ”. Grace is God’s divine endowment offered to all who receive Christ by faith. The word “gift” charisma (khar'-is-mah) and “grace” charis (khar'ece) are a form of the same Greek root word chairo (khah'-ee-ro). 23 The Holy Spirit is the one who furnishes and supplies all that these words mean. The variations of this root word give us insight into what God “calls” or invite us to receive as our source when the Holy Spirit supplies and equips us for the work of our ministry. Here are the meanings for the root word “chairo” and it’s other forms:

○ Chairo means: joy, to be well off – full of rejoicing
○ Charis means: grace, to be granted favor, forgiveness and acceptance
○ Charisma means: gifts, to be endowed with divine influence and abilities

Grace is the foundation for our life in God which comes by receiving eternal life through Jesus Christ. Thus Eternal life releases God’s foundation of grace (joy – favor – gifts).

21 See Strong’s # 2748
22 See Strong’s # 3858
23 See Strong’s # 5486 and #5485 & #5463
2. **There are differences of administrations, but the same Lord (vs 5).** This verse says there are differences in administration, which is the Greek word 24 diakonia (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah), which refers to different offices or ministries such as the fivefold offices mentioned in...

- (Eph 4:8, 11-12) "When He ascended on high, He... gave gifts to men."...He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

There are also differences in how the Holy Spirit administers or dispenses and metes out these gifts. There are times He dispenses the gifts because we desire them (1 Cor 14:1), other times they are given without the receiver even knowing about them (Acts 10:45), and sometimes they are meted out by the laying on of hands (Acts 19:6). However they are administered to us we must always remember that the reason they are dispensed or meted out is for the purpose of "serving the Lord" and not for our own self-serving purposes. When we use spiritual gifts to promote ourselves or our own ministries, we enter the realm of the “occult” because we are “hiding” our personal agendas and disguising them as service or ministry for the Lord. That is why false ministers can hear very accurately from another spirit other than God’s Holy Spirit. Occult spirits communicate with and manipulate the souls (intellect, will and emotions) of people. This is why psychics can get very accurate information from a spirit other than the Holy Spirit. As Christians our ministry with God is done through our spirit not our soul (Rom 1:9)... For God is my witness, whom I serve (minister) with my spirit”.

Again I must say, our ministry for God is not initiated through our soul, but through our spirit. God’s Holy Spirit communes with our born-again spirit. Many are deceived by lying spirits because they want to experience God in their soulish realm ... they are looking to hear God in their intellectual mind or to “feel” God as an emotion. God’s manifests His mind through His Spirit to our spirit (1 Cor 2:14). On the other hand Satan and deceiving spirits will work through our carnal soulish being (our intellect, will and emotions) in order to get us to receive what they influence our soul with. This is why the human “soul” needs to be saved, by listening to the born again human spirit. Without this there is not the ability to discern good from evil, for Satan “disguises” himself as an angel of light...

- (2 Cor 11:12-15) ...those who boast that their work is just like ours...These people are false apostles. They have fooled you by disguising themselves as apostles of Christ...But I am not surprised! Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light... So it is no wonder his servants can also do it by pretending to be godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve. NLT

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24 See Strong’s # 1248
3. *There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all* (verse 6). This verse states there are different *operations* when it comes to the gifts. The word “operations” is the Greek word \textit{energema} (en-erg'-ay-mah) which refers to the different \textit{effects} or \textit{results} that our gifts have. We can choose to receive gifts from God and chose to use them for serving Him. It is not up to us however, to \textit{activate} or cause the gift to work or produce results. Only God can impart and activate gifts according to our faith and cause them to produce His desired effect. We must be careful of those who teach we can \textit{activate} another believer in the gifts. We are only the vessel that God uses to put His gifts within, but He alone will produce whatever results \textit{He desires} through the gifts \textit{He gives} to us. Different gifts produce different results when they are activated by God. Some will use their gifts to water, some will use their gifts to plant but only God can give the increase...

- \textit{(1 Cor 3:7, 8, 10)} \textit{So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase...each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor...According to the grace of God which was given}....

4. *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal* (verse 7). This verse states that when there is a \textit{manifestation} of the of the Holy Spirit through a person, this literally means it will be clearly evident that the Holy Spirit is at work, because what He bestows through the gifts, will \textit{profit withal}. The phrase \textit{profit withal} is the Greek word \textit{sumphero} (soom-fer'-o), which refers to a \textit{collective contribution}. A collective contribution of spiritual gifts means, when the gifts operate collectively in a group, whatever gifts are \textit{distributed} and what is \textit{contributed} by those who operate in them, will be under the supervision of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the whole body. The more people that collectively operate in spiritual gifts, the more the body will be built up into what God desires.

5. *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills* (verse 11). It is the work of the Holy Spirit that \textit{administrates} (decides how gifts are dispensed), \textit{operates} (activates and gives the results), \textit{manifests} (makes clear it is God at work) and \textit{distributes} all spiritual gifts as \textit{He wills}. This phrase is the Greek word \textit{boulomai} (boo'-lom-ahee) which refers to the \textit{purposes} and \textit{intentions} that the Holy Spirit has for giving us spiritual gifts. There are things that God wants to accomplish through us, by using the gifts that are bestowed upon us. They are His power tools and we must desire to have them and be activated by Him in their use.

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25 See Strong’s # 1755

26 See Strong’s # 4851 the definition given is from the Complete Word Studies Dictionary

27 See Strong’s # 1014
The Nine Charismatic Gifts Categories

TEXT: 1 Cor 12:8-10
8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Following are the nine spiritual gifts that are mentioned in the above text. A closer look at this list reveals the “three categories” under which these gifts fall...

REVELATION GIFTS
- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Discerning of spirits

SPEAKING GIFTS
- Prophecy
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

CREATIVE GIFTS
- Faith
- Miracles
- Healings

These nine gifts are essential tools and weapons for every true disciple of Jesus Christ who is serious about becoming equipped to do the work of the ministry God has called them to do. All of these charismatic gifts have a place and a purpose in ministry for the Lord. We are told to desire the best gifts (1 Cor 12:31).

This means we must desire whatever gift is best suited for the purpose which pertains to the place or situation we are in. If a laborer is called upon to do carpentry work then carpentry tools are needed or if laborer is called upon to work on a car, then mechanical tools are needed. Thus we must desire the best suited gifts for each ministry situation we are called to serve in. We will now examine each of the nine charismatic gifts in more detail...
1. The Gift of the Word of wisdom

The Greek words for “word of wisdom” is logos–sophia (sof-ee’-ah)\textsuperscript{28} The word logos is defined as: the divine expression of a subject, topic or matter. Jesus is called the logos (Jn 1:1) because His words express and release the creative power of the divine intelligence, thoughts and reasoning power of God. He is divine expression. When God gives us His words of wisdom, He is giving us knowledge, insight and deep understanding, as a divine gift, which includes the practical application of those words. This knowledge, insight and understanding are not something we acquire through education, training or human activities. Simply stated, the word of wisdom means we have supernatural understanding on a matter without having all the details or facts concerning it. A Word of wisdom may come forth as words of counsel or instruction concerning a matter without our having any details or knowledge regarding the situation.

There have been times the Holy Spirit has given me words of wisdom in the form of instruction for someone, because it was meant to prevent that person from getting involved with something that would not be good for them. I had no details about the situation at the time I gave the word of wisdom, but later after the details became known it was apparent why the Holy Spirit gave those instructions. For instance, there was a person I gave a word of wisdom to which warned them not to get involved with a certain person they had met. I had no details as to why God was giving them this warning and instructing them to stay out of a relationship with that person. Unfortunately they did not heed the word of wisdom, and their involvement with that person ended in great pain and God’s judgment upon their life. When the word of wisdom is imparted to us from God’s Holy Spirit it will never contradict the written logos word. The word of wisdom gives us the ability to know how to deal with people and circumstances scripturally, it is revelation insight imparted from God as His divine…

Our faith must rest in God’s supernatural power and wisdom and not in mere human wisdom that is gained through reason or education…

- \textbf{(1 Cor 1:20, 22, 27)} So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made them all look foolish and has

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{28} See Strong's #'s 3056 & 4678}
shown their wisdom (education) to be useless nonsense...God's way seems foolish to the Jews because they want a sign from heaven to prove it is true. And it is foolish to the Greeks because they believe only what agrees with their own wisdom (education)...Instead, God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise (educated). And he chose those who are powerless (uneducated) to shame those who are powerful. NLT (parentheses mine).

It is important to note that wisdom cannot be separated from purity of heart and life...

• **(James 3:13, 17)** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness through wisdom...But the wisdom that is from above is first pure...NKJV

Only the pure in heart can have the mind of God on a matter. Any sin, deception or defilement muddies the water of God’s word, so God’s thoughts do not come forth clearly to us. In (Ps 11:10) we are told that the fear of the Lord is needed to have wisdom. Wisdom is imparted to us when we take God’s word seriously by honoring it and obeying it. The more time we spend studying and meditating on the logos word of God, the more logos wisdom will be imparted to us. When God opens our eyes to receive the light of His revelation and it causes us to understand His logos truth, this means we have had an impartation of the words of wisdom...

• **(Eph 1:18)** I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand...NLT

The prophet Isaiah described how Jesus Christ embodied the full expression of God’s gift of wisdom and revelation...

• **(Isa 11:1-3)** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots...The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD... His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears...but with righteousness he shall judge... NKJV

It is important to note that the word of wisdom is the FIRST gift listed in this list of nine gifts in (1 Cor 12:8-10). Without the word wisdom we will not have the maturity to operate in spiritual gifts as God desires. How spiritually gifted we are is not as important as how mature we are. Spiritual maturity determines...

• Our character
• How genuine we are as a follower of Christ
• The level of humility we walk in.
Spiritual giftedness reflects our level of spiritual sensitivity to operate in the supernatural \textit{dunamis power} of God. Like Jesus, we must first have the gift of wisdom to help us operate in other spiritual gifts…

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{(Mark 6:2)}...And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! NKJV
\end{itemize}

Operating in supernatural gifts and \textit{dunamis power} without the gift of wisdom to bring us to maturity is like giving a child a loaded gun as a gift... it can only end in disaster!

\section*{Biblical examples of the word of wisdom:}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{(Gen chapter 41)}...Joseph was given revelation and a word of wisdom on how to counsel Pharaoh on dealing with an impending seven year famine.
  \item \textbf{(1 Ki 3:16-28)}...a word of wisdom helped to judge a case between two mothers and one child.
  \item \textbf{(Acts 27:21-25)}...Paul was given a word of wisdom regarding the storm that would determine their survival.
  \item \textbf{(Jn 16:13)}... However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. NKJV
\end{itemize}

\section*{How the word of wisdom is imparted—activated—discerned}

\begin{itemize}
  \item This gift is imparted and activated by the Holy Spirit according to our \textit{individual faith}. Our faith level will be determined by how much God anointed preaching and teaching we have heard from the word...
    \begin{itemize}
      \item \textbf{(Rom 10:14, 17)}...and how shall they hear without a preacher? So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. NKJV
    \end{itemize}
  \item The word of wisdom is imparted to and discerned by our human \textit{born-again spirit}. God’s spiritually discerned thoughts will then enter our mind (soul) as His \textit{instructions, correction, guidance, counsel} and \textit{judgments} regarding a matter or person. Any thought that enters our mind must first be spiritually discerned so nothing deceptive will be accepted by out soul. We must not allow our \textit{human intellect} or human \textit{reasoning}
\end{itemize}

\footnotesize{See Strong’s # 1411}
(operations of the soul) to hinder or alter to this gift. God’s word of wisdom mixed with human reasoning will cause this gift to become a counterfeit gift. The People heard Jesus teach with great wisdom and authority, but their human reasoning caused them to question what He taught so they became offended by what they heard, which affected their level of faith in Him …

- **(Mark 1:27)** Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this?"

- **(Mk 6:2-3)** And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! … Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. NKJV

### 2. The Gift of the Word of Knowledge

The two words for “word of knowledge” is *logos—gnosis* (gno-sis). 30 This refers to the *logos* or divine expression regarding *gnosis* or factual information. The Greek word *gnosis* refers to receiving information about something or someone. When we receive a word of knowledge, we are receiving information that is not obtained by natural means, such as education, observation, research or training by natural means. God is revealing things we could not otherwise know… *(Dan 2:28)* But there is a God in heaven that reveals secrets… When a word of knowledge is given, facts or information are being revealed to us in an instant by the Holy Spirit… we just automatically “know something”. It is an expression of God’s knowledge concerning a circumstance or person. This revelation of information is given for a specific reason. God never reveals things about people or circumstances just to give us insider information. He wants us to serve Him by using the revealed information to further His purposes through intercession or some form of personal ministry which involves the person or circumstance that the word of knowledge concerns. If we don’t use this information according to His purposes, we run the danger of becoming inflated with pride, just because we “know something”…

- **(1 Cor 8:1)** While knowledge may make us feel important, it is love that really builds up the church. NLT

Love should always be the foundation and motivation for desiring to operate in any spiritual gift. The information which is a revelation imparted from the word of knowledge is to be received and used by faith in order to build up, encourage and accomplish the purposes of God. Words of knowledge are used to…

- Let people know God is aware of their situation and build up their faith
- Reveal a problem
- Reveal the secrets and the true condition of a person’s heart
- Reveal the deceits and strategies of the enemy

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30 See Strong’s # 1108
- Reveal information concerning past, present or future events
- Reveal God’s impending judgments

Words of knowledge and words of wisdom are two gifts that work together. The word of knowledge will reveal information or details about a problem, or concerning a situation. The word of wisdom will reveal how God wants to deal with a situation or remedy a problem. Words of knowledge and wisdom are given to those who operate in the prophetic anointing…

- (Amos 3:7) Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. NKJV

A good example of these two gifts working together is found in chapter 2 of the book of Daniel, when King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream from God (a word of knowledge) but did not understand what it meant, or what to do with the information given in the dream. The Prophet Daniel was able to tell the king his dream, through the gift of a word of knowledge and also reveal the meaning of the dream and to warn and instruct the King on how to use the information through the gift of the word of wisdom.

Other Biblical examples of the Word of Knowledge

- (1 Sam 9-10) Samuel received a word of knowledge from God that Saul was to be anointed as king. God also released a word of knowledge as to where Saul was hiding…

  - (1 Sam 10:21-23) And finally Saul son of Kish was chosen from among them. But when they looked for him, he had disappeared! … So they asked the LORD, "Where is he?" And the LORD replied, "He is hiding among the baggage." … So they found him and brought him out…NLT

Many times when I cannot find something and I ask the Lord where it can be found He gives me a “word of knowledge” telling me where to look, and when I act on that word… I find it! God says we “have not because we ask not!” (Js 4:2).

- In (1 Ki 14:2-3) a word of knowledge revealed to the blind prophet Ahijah that Jeroboam’s wife, the queen, had come to him wearing a disguise…

  - (1 Kings 14:5) But the LORD had told Ahijah, "Jeroboam's wife will come here, pretending to be someone else. She will ask you about her son, for he is very sick. You must give her the answer that I give you." NLT
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This disguised woman came bearing gifts hoping to get a favorable prophetic word concerning her sick son. Instead she was told that her son would die because of the evil her husband Jeroboam had done. A word of knowledge can save us from many deceptions of the enemy so we will not be “bribed” by his deceptions! The faithful prophet delivered God’s prophetic judgment, as a result of the gift of the word of knowledge.

- In (1 Ki 5:20-27) it was through the word of knowledge that Elisha was told about the sin of his servant Gehazi. Gehazi had lied to the prophet about taking the gift Elisha had refused which was offered to him by Naaman for his healing. It was through the gift of the word of knowledge this was revealed to Elisha and it resulted in the judgment of leprosy being pronounced upon Gehazi. God’s gifts are not to be bought or sold! I personally find it very questionable to ask for “offerings” for a prophetic word or any other type of ministry. I believe offerings should be freely “offered” and not a prerequisite for doing ministry work for the Lord.

- In (Jn 4:17-30) a Samaritan woman was given a word of knowledge about her past marital situations and her present situation concerning her live in boyfriend. This revelation caused faith to arise in her heart and through the gift of the word of knowledge a whole city was awakened and many came to meet Jesus. People are instantly awakened to how much God is aware of their personal life through the gift of the word of knowledge, when past or present information is revealed to them. If we receive a word of knowledge about something that we are aware of and know that it could not possibly be known by the person giving us the revelation, it speaks to our heart telling us God is personally aware of us and our situation. Please notice that even though Jesus revealed her sinful lifestyle, she was not condemned! Instead she was amazed and excited. Jesus was motivated by love in His gift of the word of knowledge. This allowed faith to arise in the woman’s heart, so she believed and received the truth from Jesus. When the gift of the word knowledge is motivated by love it will allow those being ministered to by this gift to receive further truth from God.

- In (Acts 5:1-11) the Apostle Peter through the gift of the word of knowledge received the revelation that Ananias and his wife Sapphira were not telling the truth about the sale of their land and the offering they were giving. They were confronted with their sin and Peter spoke the judgment of death from God given by the word of knowledge.

  - When a word of knowledge is used to bring judgment it is for the purpose of getting sin out of the body of Christ. Sin opens the door to demonic activity within the body of Christ. It is like germs or a deadly virus invading our natural bodies. This needs to be diagnosed (exposed) and the diseased portion cut off (judged) so it won’t spread and continue to destroy other parts of our body. The word diagnosis is from the Greek words dia (through)
and the word *gnosis* (knowledge)…meaning *through knowledge* (divine knowledge). Through divine knowledge from God’s Holy Spirit we then can purge what is harmful.

**How the word of knowledge can manifest**

- This gift is imparted and activated by the Holy Spirit according to our individual faith. When God reveals *information* to our spirit and it can then manifest through…
  - **Dreams and visions** … *(Jn 1:47-48)* As they approached, Jesus said, "Here comes an honest man — a true son of Israel." … "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. And Jesus replied, "I could see you (in a vision) under the fig tree before Philip found you."
  - **Instantaneously just knowing something** … *(Matt 9:4)* Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why are you thinking such evil thoughts?"
  - **Prayer**… *(Acts 9:11-12)* The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you arrive, ask for Saul of Tarsus. He is praying to me right now… I have shown him a vision (a word of knowledge) of a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so that he can see again." (parenthesis mine)

- *The word of knowledge* as we have stated, is imparted to and discerned by our human (born-again) spirit first. The knowledge that has been imparted and discerned by our spirit can then manifest in our mind, body or emotions (our soul). Again let me emphasize—a word of knowledge must FIRST be given to our spirit so it can be spiritually discerned; otherwise we can be open to being deceived by deceptive occult powers which operate through our soul. Demonic powers known as familiar spirits work through psychics and mediums by using their physical, mental and emotional faculties (body and soul) to cause them to experience impressions and information. These impressions or information can be very accurate. However the ends (accuracy) NEVER justify the means (sorcery)! 31 Those who receive information or revelation this way are hearing from a demonic spiritual source and this is forbidden by God…
  - *(Lev 19:31)* "Do not rely on mediums and psychics, for you will be defiled by them. I, the LORD, am your God. NLT

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31 More information on this subject can be found in my book *IF POSSIBLE Even The Very Elect… Will Be Deceived*, chapter 6 *Sorcery In the Church*, by Lulu Publishing, © 2011
As born again believers we have the responsibility and the ability to spiritually discern any information, impressions or revelations through our human spirit. After being spiritually discerned we will know the source for what is manifesting in our mind, body or emotions as information, impressions or insight regarding a matter or person. We cannot rely on what we are experiencing in our physical body or through our intellect, will or emotions to tell us if what we are experiencing is from God or not. Sorcery is the counterfeit source for divine revelation. Sorcery involves the practice of enchantments. It is important to note that the Hebrew word nachash (naw-khash) which is translated “enchantments”, has as one of its meanings that of learning by experience. If we let that which we experience be our guide for discernment, we are practicing enchantments. When we are born again the Holy Spirit is then living in our spirit, this means we have God’s anointing to teach us (causing us to discern) what is false and what is true...

- (1 John 2:27) But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you all things, and what he teaches is true – it is not a lie. So continue in what he has taught you, and continue to live in Christ. NLT

Just as with the gift of the word of wisdom, we must not allow our human intellect or human reasoning to hinder or alter to the gift of the word of knowledge. God’s word of knowledge mixed with our human reasoning or information from any source other than the Holy Spirit will cause this gift to become a counterfeit gift.

3. The Gift of faith

The Greek word for “faith” is pistis (pis'-tis) which including it’s root form peitho (pi-tho) reflects three key elements essential for faith...

- Belief ...in something as truth
- Agreement ...with what is believed to be true
- Obedience...acting upon what is believed and agreed to be true

In order to have complete faith all three of the above elements must be present, or our faith is not genuine faith. For instance, the devil and his followers believe in God, but they do not agree with God and therefore do not obey Him...

- (James 2:19-20) Do you still think it's enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror! Fool! When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good (obedient) deeds is useless? NLT

32 See (2 Chronicles 33:6) for a list of practices related to sorcery

33 See Strong’s #5172

34 See Strong’s #4102, #3982
Just because we hear the truth and believe it to be the truth, does not mean we have genuine faith. Faith that is powerful and able to produce what God desires comes ONLY by hearing what is directly from God, and by agreeing with it and by acting upon it. This means we must hear, agree and act upon the rhema word of God (His direct revelation). Rhema is defined as...that which God says or communicates individually or personally to our spirit...

- (Rom 10: 14, 17) How can they hear unless someone tells them (their direct revelation from God)...So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) from God. NLT (parenthesis mine)

The rhema word produces faith which comes to us directly from God or through hearing (understanding) what others preach and teach from the word He has revealed to them. When God enlightens our spirit by His Holy Spirit, we can understand and believe what we are hearing. This enlightenment by the Holy Spirit is a form of rhema...

- (Eph 1:18) I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light (be enlightened) so you may understand...NLT (parenthesis mine)

This understanding releases faith, therefore the more understanding (Holy Spirit enlightenment) the more faith we will have. If you study the word faith in the Bible you will find there are three different levels of faith which are mentioned. The Bible talks about having...

- **great faith** (Lk 7:9)
- **little faith** (Lk 12:28)
- **no faith** (Mk 4:40).

Because faith is the result of hearing a revelation in our spirit from God’s Holy Spirit, the gift of faith is the highest level of faith that we can operate in. The gift of faith gives us great faith. This is because the revelation gifts which cause us to hear God’s rhema word are used to produce this level of faith...

- (Gal 3:5) Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? — NKJV

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35 See Strong’s # 4487
God’s Grace through the gift of the word of wisdom causes us to understand what God reveals to us through the gift (grace) called the word of knowledge. The ability to understand what God is revealing to us releases the gift (grace) of faith. It is important to note that the gift of faith is the first of the three creative gifts mentioned in the (1 Cor 12:8-10) text which lists the nine charismatic gifts. This is because the gift of faith is needed to manifest the works of faith which are demonstrated through the other charismatic gifts of healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues. Remember, faith needs to be demonstrated by works of faith or it is not genuine faith...

- **(James 2:18, 26)** I will show you my faith by my works...For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. Nkjv

Genuine faith then, releases the ability to create or accomplish what God intends because His revealed word of truth is believed, agreed with and acted upon. The gift of faith gives us supernatural expectations (hope), for what we wouldn’t naturally expect. Because of this supernatural ability to expect what God says... we can do that which is extraordinary or that which we would not naturally do...

- **(Heb 11:1)** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Nkjv

The phrase hoped for in this verse is the Greek word 36 elpizo (el-pid'-zo) which means to confidently or fully expect something, or a joyful anticipation because of a desire that is confidently expected to be fulfilled.

It is important to understand the difference between having Faith as a gift from God and putting our faith in God...

- **(Eph 6:23-24)** ...love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ... (this) Grace (gift of faith) be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. KJV (parenthesis mine)

Faith from God is activated or imparted to us as “grace” or “gift” because of our sincere love for God. Sincere love is the KEY for releasing the gift of faith from God. On the other hand the reality of God’s love for us also activates our faith in Him. Our love for God and the desire to please Him is the foundation for our faith in Him. It is upon this foundation that great faith is built up releasing grace as a gift of faith from God to us...

- **(Gal 5:6)** ...faith (is) activated and energized and expressed and works through love. Amp

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36 See Strong’s #1679
This verse states that “faith works by love”. The word “works” is the Greek word \textit{energeo} (en-erg-eh'-o), which means to be activated, expressed (manifested or communicated). The word \textit{energeo} expresses the idea of a powerful manifestation. Again, faith without manifesting through works is dead faith. This means to have faith in what is not genuinely of God works death in us… (Js 2:20) But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? NKJV. Therefore, according to (Gal 5:6) — LOVE is the key that releases the powerful (supernatural) manifestations of faith — as a gift from God. Of course anything we receive from God is because of our faith in God. How much we believe, agree with (trust) and obey God, will depend upon… how much we love Him. When we receive the gift of faith from God, it is because of our love relationship with Him. Therefore faith in God and faith from God are activated or imparted by love. The stronger our love is for God the greater our level of faith will be — for Him and from Him.

### Biblical Examples of the Gift of Faith

Those who are given the gift of faith from God will be living proof of what God reveals to them through His Holy Spirit. In (Heb 11) we find the “hall of fame” for those who had great faith. The Old Testament saints in this chapter are given to us as examples of those who were given faith from God because of their love for Him and their faith in Him. Let us look at the first few people who are mentioned and examine how their faith in God, released their gift of faith from God thus enabling them to do extraordinary exploits for God. Those who are mentioned in this chapter are said to have obtained a good report…

- **(Heb 11:1-2)** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for (fully expected), the evidence of things not seen…For by this the elders obtained a good report. KJV

The phrase \textit{good report} is the Greek word \textit{martureo} (mar-too-reh'-o), which refers to a person who gives proof, bears witness, or will testify to the truth of what they have seen, heard, or know. Those who have a true love relationship with God also have the desire to please Him. Our English word “martyr” comes from this word \textit{martureo}. Unless we are willing to die to self, we will never have the kind of love and communion with God that releases faith. Martyrdom is then the basis for experiencing communion (communication) with God. When we have communion with God it means we will know our God because He communicates with us through His revelation gifts. Our spirit will bear witness which means we will see, hear or know God’s mind, will and ways. It is this communion with God that releases the gift of faith, whereby great exploits can be done for Him…

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37 See Strong’s #1754

38 See Strong’s #3140

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- (Dan 11:32) ...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. KJV

In (Heb 11) those mentioned are credited with doing extraordinary exploits through the gift of faith imparted to them by God. Their love and communion with Him produced great faith in Him...

The gift of faith demonstrated

Able ...His love for God was extraordinary and his giving to God reflected this. God called his offering more excellent. This literally means his gift was of the highest quality. It was not just an ordinary offering like his brother Cain’s offering. The faith Able obtained from God gave him the extraordinary desire to give God the best. Ordinary people are selfish and self-centered, like Cain. Faith from God made Able extraordinary so that what he did for God was not ordinary, but of the highest quality. Likewise the quality of what we offer God as acts of worship or service will also be reflected by our personal communion and love for Him. Able had communion and love for God in a way that his brother Cain did not. Able became a true martyr (witness) for God. He was living proof of what he had seen, heard and knew about God. This is why he was able to manifest the gift of faith through excellence in his giving to God...

- (Heb 11:4) (Prompted, actuated) by faith Abel brought God a better and more (excellent) acceptable sacrifice than Cain, because of which it was testified of him that he was... upright and in right standing with God...AMP

How much time do you spend in communion with God? God is always ready to respond to us when we are serious about setting aside the affairs of this life to spend time hearing Him speak to us through prayer and study in His word!

Enoch ... His life pleased God, which means he had love for God and a living relationship with Him. The Bible tells us Enoch walked with God (Gen 5:22), this means Enoch diligently sought communion with God. His life is proof of God’s reward called the gift of faith. Through the gift of faith Enoch escaped death by being translated to heaven by God. The gift of faith from God rewarded him with a truly extraordinary exploit! Enoch’s life of faith in God was also a martureo (a martyrs testimony). His life was proof that he had died to self and was not a self-pleaser or people pleaser but Enoch was a God pleaser...

Jer 29:13 If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me.
(Heb 11:5) By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God...But without faith it is impossible to please Him...He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. NKJV

Noah ... is another example of one who had communion with God (through the revelation gifts). When Noah put his faith in God, by believing, agreeing with, and acting upon what God revealed to him, he was then given the gift of faith from God to do the extraordinary task of building an ark...

(Heb 11:7) It was by faith (from God) that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before. By his faith he condemned the rest of the world and was made right in God’s sight. NLT (parenthesis mine)

Abraham ... When you study Abraham’s life you will find that he had a living relationship with God while living in Ur of the Chaldees, despite the fact his father Terah was a pagan worshiper. His relationship and communion with God gave him great faith in God. It was Abraham’s love for God and his faith in God that released the gift of faith from God into his life. This caused Abraham to fully expect that God would provide for him and fulfill all of the covenant promises concerning his inheritance that were given to him by God. In (Heb 1:1) the NLT says it this way...What is faith? It is the confident assurance (or full expectation) that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. The Amplified Bible calls faith the title deed to what we fully expect to receive...

(Heb 11:1) NOW FAITH is the assurance, the confirmation, the title deed of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not see and the conviction of their reality (faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses). AMP

Sarah ... She also had a love and faith filled relationship with God. Otherwise she would not have willingly followed Abraham and left behind all she knew and cherished when he obeyed God and left Ur. Sarah heard the word from God regarding the promise that He was going to give her a child despite her old age (Gen 18:10) 40. Her love and faith in God, released the gift of faith from God so she became a living manifestation of God’s miracle power by conceiving at 90 years old...

(Heb 11:11) By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. NKJV

40 (Gen 18:10) Sarah your wife shall have a son." Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him. NKJV
Jesus ... is our greatest example of all. He demonstrated all of the gifts including the gift of faith, while living here on earth. His gift of faith from God also came out of His relationship of love for God the Father. Jesus said He did nothing except what He heard or saw His father do (Jn 5:19, Jn 8:28). It is clear from Scripture that Jesus spent time with the Father and through the revelation gifts He was given the gift of faith from God to do and speak the supernatural things he did and spoke. It was only through the gift of faith given to Jesus, that the greatest miracle to ever taken place in the history of this world occurred. Jesus was able to do the greatest exploit of all—which was to accomplish the Father’s will of enduring the humiliation and agony of shedding His precious blood on Calvary’s cross...

- (Matt 26:39, 42) "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine." ..."My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away until I drink it, your will be done." NLT

4. Gifts of Healings

Once the operation of the revelation gifts are used to release the gift of faith, other gifts including gifts of healing can be imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. Without a doubt it takes faith to operate in gifts of healing. As stressed, faith comes by hearing. When God reveals to us His mind concerning healing, faith will be present to act upon how God desires to bring healing. There are various ways and means for healing and they are all God’s gifts to us, which is why many translations use the word gifts (plural) rather than the (singular) gift of healing...

- (1 Cor 12:9) ...to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. KJV

In the previous verse the word for healing is the Greek word 42 iama (ee'-am-ah) which refers to an effect that brings a cure, or wholeness. The CWSD 43 says this word refers to the process of healing. God gives us the revelation as to how a person can be healed or made well. There are various things that can be associated with why a person is in need of healing. They may need healing because...

- They may not be eating properly
- They may be abusing their bodies
- There may be un-confessed or unrepentant sin issues
- Emotional issues may be affecting their mind or physical body
- Physical disease, trauma or accidents may have affected their physical or mental health
- Demons may be involved

41 (John 5:19) "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. NKJV; (John 8:28) I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. NKJV

42 See Strong’s # 2386

When people ask others to pray for them to be healed, and if sin is the issue, God will often still heal them but He is still concerned about their spiritual health. For example a group of people brought a man to Jesus for healing but notice His response to the man in need of healing. Jesus did indeed heal the man, but He first mentioned sin as being an issue…

- (Matt 9:2) Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Take heart, son! Your sins are forgiven." NLT

The Healing Process

Healing can be instantaneous or as mentioned it can be a process that is contingent upon dealing with the cause so the remedy can bring wholeness or health. How can we know the cause for a persons’ need of healing unless God first reveals it to us? When I am asked to pray for someone, I ask for revelation from God about their situation. I know what I would like to see happen, and what I would like to ask God to do, but only God knows what I should speak and what needs to be done as far as the cause and the cure for their situation. He also knows what will be effective in their process for healing.

JAMES 5:14-15
IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU? LET HIM CALL FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH; AND LET THEM PRAY OVER HIM, ANOINTING HIM WITH OIL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD:

AND THE PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK, AND THE LORD SHALL RAISE HIM UP; AND IF HE HAVE COMMITTED SINS, THEY SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM.
KJV
God may reveal a certain medical procedure that will bring a cure. Other times it is revealed that a change of diet or the use of herbal remedies will be effective. It may be they need more rest, or they may need to deal with a sin issue, or with what is causing stress in their lives. Whatever the situation may be, there are many ways that God brings the process of healing into the lives of people. Likewise whatever process God chooses to use, you can be sure it will result in being cured and being made whole if we are willing to go through the process. Sometimes the process is very short but there are times it may be a long drawn out affair. God’s healing process is for the purpose of changing something which has caused a problem.

As it was in my case, it may take a fair amount of time to receive the necessary revelation so the process God chooses, can be effective. For instance I suffered with many physical symptoms because of experiencing deep depression for many years. I earnestly prayed and confessed what the word of God promised for my physical healing hoping (actually wishing more than really expecting) the symptoms would go away. When they didn’t I consulted my doctor but he only wanted to treat my physical symptoms with drugs that had many possible harmful side effects. I heard the Holy Spirit tell me that drugs would not cure (heal) the CAUSE for my depression. As a believer in Jesus Christ, I knew God had my answers for healing because He promised healing to us in His word, as part of the covenant promises given to His people.

The healing process for depression and the various physical and mental problems it had caused me, took many years to be overcome. I needed to get to my spiritual root problems. I had to go through the process of learning to hear the rhema word of God concerning my situation. I thought for many years I just needed the right person to lay hands on me and I would find immediate relief from my physical and emotional dis-eases. I can now testify that God brought me through a process that brought great healing — first to my spirit, then to my soul and ultimately to my body. God was not in a hurry to bring me through the healing process. His plan went far beyond my personal healing. His plan was to birth a healing and deliverance ministry out of my healing process which would be founded upon the rhema revelation He had given me. This would be the basis for what I would minister to others who also needed healing and deliverance.

Ex 15:26

“If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and laws, then I will not make you suffer the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the LORD who heals you.” NLT

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44 To learn more about depression I recommend my CD series entitled Defeating Depression

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The process of healing takes place as we hear God talk to us about our situation and we are careful to do what He tells us. When people cannot hear God for themselves, this is when those with the revelation gifts and the gifts of healing can be used by God to minister healing to them. The gifts of healing and miracles work together. I will discuss this in greater detail when we examine the gift of miracles. The gift of miracles is a gift that can give instantaneous and even creative results when used to bring healing.

**Biblical Examples for releasing the Gifts of Healing**

The gift of healings can be released through various means such as...

- **Prayer** … (James 5:14-16) Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord… And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven... Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. NKJV

There are “three key points” in the above text which are related to praying for the sick. These points are:

1. **Elders do the personal contact praying**…Why is this important? First of all this is talking about personal one on one contact praying. When someone is being anointed with oil or when there is physical contact by the laying on of hands when they are being prayed over. This is personal contact praying. We must be careful not to allow just anyone to anoint, touch, lay hands upon us, or pray over us because of what can be imparted to us from them. Spiritual influences as well as spiritual gifts are imparted this way…
   - (2 Cor 6:17) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch (come in contact with) what is unclean (defiled), And I will receive you." NKJV
   - (1 Tim 4:14) Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecies spoken to you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you. NLT
LESSON THREE: The Nine Charismatic Gifts

Karen Connell

Only qualified elders should be called upon to lay hands upon others. An elder represents a *mature Christian*, who knows how to hear from the Lord because they are mature in their faith, and even more importantly they have godly Christian character. I want to emphasize again that only people with *good fruit* (godly character) and *mature faith* should be permitted to pray the prayer of faith over a person needing healing or wanting an impartation of spiritual gifts.

To qualify as an elder a person must be a *righteous person* (see Tit 1:6, 1 Pet 5:1-9). As mentioned previously, Christian maturity should never be judged by how *spiritually gifted* someone is. Jesus said *fruit* is how we should judge a professing Christian’s life. Professing Christians who are not mature are carnal and weak in faith. These people may be well meaning in what they pray, but their prayers may not be motivated by the Holy Spirit—thus it is not a prayer of faith—thus they can actually do more harm than good to those they *pray over*. To *pray over* someone also means to *pray about* that person’s need. Elders need to hear from God concerning the person they are praying over. Prayers that are motivated by the carnal mind and emotions can be easily influenced and manipulated by the demonic realm. The Bible tells us that “*words create death and life. We can become partakers of “deadly fruit” by allowing carnal prayers to be prayed over us. This kind of praying consists of words which the flesh loves to hear and readily receives but what is being spoken over us are not prayers that are according to the mind of the Holy Spirit* (a prayer of faith), and this can lead to something as serious as death…”

2. *Sin issues must be dealt with* … The text in (Js 5:14-16) makes the correlation between *sin* and *healing*. When elders are asked to pray for a sick person, praying the prayer of faith also means *hearing from God* about sin issues that are needing to first be dealt with. When a person is sick and in need of healing it is time to for self-examination… (2 Cor 13:5) *Examine yourselves to see if your faith is really genuine* … This is something we must do when we are in need of healing. We may have faith in something we have been taught or heard and believe to be true, but actually it is not. We may be convinced that something is right when in reality it is not according to God’s word, will or ways, which makes what we believe *wrong* (sin). These things can hinder our faith for receiving our healing. We must be willing to humble ourselves and allow God to bring us the truth—to us personally or through an elder who has *prayed the prayer of faith* and heard from God on our behalf regarding any…

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45 Parenthesis mine indicating an alternate translation
wrong beliefs, actions or attitudes (sin)—that needs to be confessed so it can be forgiven (removed)...

- **(Ps 26:2)** Put me on trial, LORD, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and affections NLT.

If we are not willing to humble ourselves and admit we have been wrong when the truth is given to us, then our healing may be delayed or withheld altogether unless we repent and change our mind. Not getting honest about sin issues is very serious when it comes to healing...

- **(Ezek 18:27-28)** …by doing what is just and right, they will save their lives…They will live, because after thinking it over, they decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die. NLT

3. **Confession of sin is to be made to others** … Many times confessing a sin issue to God alone is not enough if we want to be healed. This is especially true if we have had unforgiveness and bitterness towards others. Jesus teaches us very clearly that the only way we can find release (receive forgiveness, or be released from what torments us) is if we are willing to forgive others who have sinned against us...

- **(Matt 18:34-35)** And his master was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors… "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." NKJV.

We can pray until we are blue in the face for someone’s healing, but if they are not willing to forgive those who have offended them, their healing process will be “in trouble” until all bitterness and unforgiveness is dealt with...

- **(Heb 12:15)** …looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God (fail to receive God’s gifts); lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled NKJV.

Confessing our sin to others is a necessary step in the process of becoming humble. It is very humbling to let others know when we have sinned. God resists us (is against us) as long as our pride keeps us from doing what He requires of us…*(James 4:6)* "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." NKJV

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**The Laying on of hands** … is another way that the gift of healing can be imparted … *(Mark 16:17,18)* And these signs shall follow them that believe… they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. KJV
The phrase **lay hands on** is the Greek word 46*epitithemi* (ep-ee-tith'-ay-mee) which means 47to *lay the hand (or hands) upon*" as a symbol of stretching out and superimposing (or to lay upon someone) the *healing power of God*. When you study the word 48*sick* it indicates *weakness, illness, a lingering ailment, or bad state of health*. The healing power of God through the laying on of hands will bring **recovery** which literally means something **bad** or **wrong** will be 49**made right, better or good**. The laying on of hands releases God’s healing gifts so the healing process can take place. This process may be instantaneous, or over a period of time. It may result in a *physical, emotional or spiritual* healing. When I lay hands on people for healing, there are often instant results and at other times it only starts the healing process.

### 5. The Gift of Working Miracles

There are two Greek words that are translated **miracle**. One word which is used in (1Cor 12:10) is the Gr. word 50*dunamis* (doo'-nam-is) which literally means *supernatural, can do, ability*. Dunamis abilities are things that can only be done through *supernatural power*. Miracles can be **instantaneous**, and **creative** in nature. For instance Jesus did a creative miracle in the eyes of a man who was blind from birth (Jn 9:1-7), demonstrating the **gift of working miracles** by operating in *supernatural creative dunamis ability*. It is important to note what Jesus said about His **dunamis supernatural ability**. He made this statement after healing a man that had been sick with an illness for thirty eight years...

- **(John 5:19-20)** then Jesus answered and said unto them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son *can do nothing of Himself*, but what He sees (discerns what) the Father do (appoints); for whatever He does (appoints), the Son also does (performs) in like manner...For the Father loves the Son, and **shows Him all things** that He Himself does (appoints and wants performed); and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. NKJV51

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46 Strong’s #2007
48 Strong’s #732
49 Strong’s #2573
50 Strong’s #1411
51 Parenthesis mine indicating an alternate translation
If Jesus needed revelation from the Father concerning what the Father wanted to “do”, then we also need the same in order to do miracles. Jesus said “whatever the Father does, the son also does…for the Father… shows Him all things…” This word “does” is the Gr. word 52 poieo (poy-eh'-o) which means to appoint, perform or declare. Therefore God the father had to declare (or make known) what He had appointed for Jesus perform when it came to miracles. God will impart the gift of working miracles through the gift of faith which is released through the revelation gifts from God. Therefore the various gifts are contingent upon one another in their operation.

The other word translated miracle is the Greek word 53 semeion (say-mi'-on) which refers to a supernatural indication. In (Mk 16:17-18) Jesus named FIVE INDICATORS or signs that would follow true believers (who respond to the true gospel message by repentance and baptism) — these signs were an indication that the gift of miracles was operating in their lives. The five signs Jesus gave were…

1. **Deliverance from demons**... true believers are given the authority and the dunamis power to cast out demons …
   
   o  *(Rom 16:20)* And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly (speedily). The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you KJV.

   When God’s “grace” (gifts) is in operation...we have the power (authority and ability) to put Satan’s influence (from his demonic powers) “under our feet”. This literally means we can crush or shatter his evil power in the lives of those who are under the influence of demons, by casting them out…

   o  *(Luke 10:19)* Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power (dunamis) of the enemy… NKJV54

2. **Speaking with new tongues** … true believers would speak in a new supernatural language. This can refer to the gift of tongues (which is elaborated on in the section discussing the “gift of tongues”) but it can also mean we will have a “new way of talking” that matches our “new way of walking”. Jesus said that whatever was in our heart would come out of our mouth. If we have a new heart we will have a new tongue. The Apostle Paul said it this way…

52 Strong’s #4160 …Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2000, 2003 by Biblesoft

53 Strong’s #4592

54 Parenthesis mine indicating the original Greek word
3. **Taking up serpents** ... *true believers* would “take up” (or literally remove) “serpents” which is the Gr. word **ophis** (of'-is) which refers to the **cunning, malicious, and artful wisdom of Satan**, as mentioned in (Js 3:15). Therefore, when we “take up serpents” we will have the same mission as Jesus, which is to expose and destroy the works of Satan by exposing his cunning and malicious “wisdom” that manifests as lying doctrines, mindsets and imaginations...

4. **Protection from drinking anything deadly** ... *true believers* are protected if they “drink” which is the Gr. word **pino** (pee-no)... meaning **imbibe** (absorb, assimilate, or take in) anything poisonous. This can refer to the false doctrines of demons and false ministers, but it also can refer to what is literally poisonous.

5. **Recovery from sickness** ... *true believers* can lay hands on those who are sick and **expect** to see them recover. This is definitely a wonderful indication of God’s presence and power as we have already discussed (see also Acts 9:17-18 and Acts 28:8-9).

I want to emphasize again that just because there are **signs** indicating that the supernatural is at work, especially when it comes to healing, these “signs” are not always an indication that it is the Holy Spirit **activating** the **gift of healing** (or any other supernatural gift)....

6. **(2 Thess 2:9)** Even him,(one who is against Christ) whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders...KJV

In her book entitled **The Beautiful Side of Evil**, Johanna Michaelson tells her extraordinary story about her involvement in the occult and how she learned to distinguish between the

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55 Strong’s 3789

56 Strong’s #4095

57 I recommend reading this book, it can be found on www.Amazon.com
beautiful side of evil and the true way of the Lord. It is the story of her spiritual searching that led her to become a personal assistant to a “psychic surgeon” for 14 months in Mexico. The psychic surgeon did many incredible supernatural feats. Many were truly healed by this demonic power. However, as mentioned previously, true Christians must not allow the ends to ever justify the means when it comes to receiving healing or for finding an answer to anything we may want or need by depending upon occult powers. This means those who are truly activated and motivated by God’s Holy Spirit to operate in supernatural gifts must have completely pure motives and mature godly character. Spiritual gifts should never be used as an indicator or sign to validate or promote a person or a ministry. There are those in the church today who are operating in supernatural spiritual gifts because another spirit is their source. Many of whom have been found to be living impure and sinful lives. A number of these idolaters or adulators are well known, high profile ministers who operate in gifts of healing and other supernatural signs and wonders, making them seem credible in the eyes of many undiscerning people. When God’s gifts operate through defiled hands they become corrupted and counterfeit and are no longer considered being GOOD or PERFECTING gifts. God alone is the giver of every GOOD gift and His gifts are PERFECT...

○ (James 1:17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights; with whom (or among those) there is no variation or shadow of turning. NKJV 58

The above verse makes it clear that those who have God’s perfect and good gifts have nothing to do with variation or shadow of turning. The word variation is the Gr. word 59 parallage (par-al-lag-ay’) which refers to being erratic, or unstable. Far too many within “Christian circles” that are involved in healing ministries or operating in other types of supernatural gifts, operate in variation or have very “unstable” Christian lives. This is because of the shadow of turning in their lives. The phrase “shadow of turning” is from the Gr. words 60 trope (trop-ay’) and aposkiasma (ap-os-kee’-as-mah) which literally means to turn to that which overshadows with darkness.

When Christians compromise the standard of God’s word or turn to the enticements of darkness, their God given gifts, as previously explained, will still operate, but not through the power of the Holy Spirit. This phrase shadow of turning means God’s perfect and good gifts will not be used to turn people to the darkness. Likewise those operating in His good and perfect gifts are not to be overshadowed by what is from the darkness. People who are defiled by the darkness (because they have un-confessed and unrepentant sin issues) can as we have said, operate in supernatural gifts. For example psychics or spiritual mediums, have supernatural gifts that defile and turn people to the darkness. Their gifts are dependent upon the darkness for their information and power. This results in people becoming defiled and deceived. However, it is sad to see that many “professing”

58 Parenthesis mine indicating an alternate translation
59 Strong’s #3883
60 Strong’s #5157 & 644
Christians, who are defiled by sin, also operate in spiritual gifts through interaction with evil, unholy spirits. It is equally sad to say that these defiled professing Christians are self-deceived and end up embracing the beautiful side of evil, because they do not have the ability to spiritually discern God’s Spirit in their human spirit. They are being led by their flesh and not by the Spirit.

- (2 Cor 11:3) But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent. NLT
- (Rom 8:13-14) For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live… For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. NKJV

God forbids his people to become involved in supernatural practices that are demonically motivated and activated...

- (Deut 18:10-12) And do not let your people practice fortune-telling or sorcery, or allow them to interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft… or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead… Anyone who does these things is an object of horror and disgust to the LORD. NLT

The above text states that people are able to these miraculous things...

- tell fortunes
- interpret omens
- cast spells through witchcraft
- function as mediums and psychics
- communicate with the spirits of the dead

We are told to have NO REGARD (which literally meaning “look at or look to”) those who operate in these things. There are currently a number of reality shows on TV that profile people who operate as psychics and mediums who try to “help” people by communicating with the spirits of the dead. As Christians we should not be “looking at” these shows. There is a morbid curiosity that the enemy uses to draw God’s people into disobedience to his command to avoid such things. When we disobey we will be defiled...

- (Lev 19:31) "Do not (regard) mediums and psychics, for you will be defiled by them. I, the LORD, am your God. NLT

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61 For further study on this topic I recommend my book IF POSSIBLE Even the Very Elect Will Be Deceived

62 Parenthesis mine indicating an alternate translation
The Purpose for Gifts and Miracles

When the Holy Spirit activates the gift of miracles through signs and wonders, they will be used to draw people to the truth of the gospel message of salvation...

- (Heb 2:3-4) What makes us think that we can escape if we are indifferent to this great salvation that was announced by the Lord Jesus himself? It was passed on to us by those who heard him speak…and God verified the message by signs and wonders and various miracles and by giving gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose to do so. NLT

The above verse mentions signs (supernatural indications) and wonders (that which causes amazement) and miracles (“dunamis” or supernatural abilities) and by 63 (Gr. merismos …mer-is-mos’) which refers to what is distributed… by the Holy Spirit, including His gifts. All of these things are the work of the Holy Spirit through the life of a believer. Again, the intent for these supernatural manifestations is to draw people to God and to the truth of the Gospel...

- (Acts 14:3) The apostles stayed there a long time, preaching boldly about the grace of the Lord. The Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders. NLT

The Apostle Paul revealed three keys needed to win people to Christ...

- Preaching the message of the gospel of salvation
- Living a life that demonstrates God’s holy character
- Demonstrating the gift of miracles from the Holy Spirit as signs

- (Rom 15:18-19) I have brought the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I lived before them…I have won them over by the miracles done through me as signs from God — all by the power of God’s Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ…NLT

All three of these things are essential keys to being an effective minister who is empowered by the Holy Spirit to win lost souls for Jesus Christ. This is the destiny and ministry for every genuine Christian. Those who preach any gospel other than repentance from sin and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ or live unholy lives and still operate in the supernatural gifts will be empowered by unholy spirits to demonstrate the supernatural as a false minister who will deceive many, including undiscerning Christians...

- (Matt 24:24) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. NKJV

63 Strong’s #3311
We who are true Christians are called to be “ministers” or servants of Jesus Christ and we have been given everything we need fulfill this high calling from God. As a true believer it is our “destiny” to win souls for God’s kingdom. The Bible says “He who wins souls is wise” (Pr 11:30). This is something that Satan will try always try to keep us from doing! If we do not have a genuine and living relationship with Jesus Christ, we will not work to win souls. We may be doing Christian “good works”, but if we are not in a true relationship with Christ, we will only have a “form of godliness” that has no POWER …

- **(2 Tim 3:5)** Having a form of godliness but denying (contradicting) its power (dunamis). And from such people turn away! NKJV

Many, who have allowed the devil to defile or deceive them will end up operating in the supernatural in a way not authorized by God, and will end up hearing these words when they face Jesus Christ on their judgment day…

- **(Matt 7:22-23)** On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' ...But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.' NLT

### 6. The Gift of Prophecy

As we have seen, it is through the revelation gifts which activate the gift of faith that there is a demonstration of the genuine gifts of healing and miracles. The same holds true for the gift of prophecy. It is also through the revelation gifts (wisdom—knowledge—discerning of spirits) that the gift of faith is activated, enabling one to speak by the gift of prophecy. The word “prophecy” used in the text verse found in **(1 Cor 12:10)**, is the Gr. word **propheteia** (prof-ay-ti'-ah). It must be understood that just because a person operates in the gift of prophecy, does not mean they stand in the “office” of a prophet. According to Scripture there are four ways the gift of prophecy is used. A prophecy will come forth as predictions, declarations, exhortations, warnings, directions and commissioning— which are all uttered while acting under God’s divine influence. Let us take a closer look at the different ways in which the gift of prophecy is used…

- **Predictions** ... This means the foretelling or fore-announcing of things to come. This may be, and often is, the responsibility of a prophet.
  - **(Acts 21:10-11)** And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea...When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit,'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" NKJV
  - **(2 Tim 3:1)** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come…NKJV

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**Parenthesis mine indicating an expanded more literal translation**

**64 Parenthesis mine indicating an expanded more literal translation**

**65 (1 Cor 12:10)...To one is given... the working of miracles; to another prophecy...KJV**

**66 Strong’s #4394**
(2 Tim 4:6-8) As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near...I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me — the crown of righteousness that the Lord...NLT

• **Declarations** ... When a word from God is prophetically declared it is done with great authority by the one making the prophetic declaration, because they are declaring the will or counsel of God.
  
  o (Jer 23:28) let my true messengers faithfully declare my every word. NLT
  
  o (2Chron 18:13) "As the LORD lives, whatever my God says, that I will speak." NKJV
  
  o (Acts 20:27) For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. KJV
  
  o (Rev 11:6) They (the two prophets) have power to shut the skies so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to send every kind of plague upon the earth as often as they wish. NLT

• **Exhortations** ... Prophetic exhortation is when we are inspired to speak words from God which will encourage, comfort, aid or strengthen someone.
  
  o (1 Cor 14:3) But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. NKJV
  
  o (Acts 15:32) Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. NKJV

• **Warnings** ... Those called by God to watch over or be watchmen for His people will be trouble-shooters, or those looking for problems so they can give prophetic warnings from God of impending problems or trouble.
  
  o (Ezek 3:17) "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me. NKJV
  
  o (Ezek 33:2-4) When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman... when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people... then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.
  
  o (Acts 20:31-32) Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears..."So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up...NKJV

• **Directions** ... A word of prophecy can bring forth instructions and directions from the Holy Spirit concerning our personal lives and ministries...
  
  o (Acts 6:3,6) Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business... whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed (receiving direction), they laid hands on them. NKJV

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67 Strong's #1696 **dabar** (daw-bar') to speak an oracle or according to divine inspiration

68 Strong's #1696 **dabar** (daw-bar') to speak an oracle or according to divine inspiration
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- **(Gal 5:16,18)** So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves...when you are directed by the Holy Spirit. NLT

- **Commissioning**... This is the authoritative prophetic declarations made by a presbytery of elders over the one whom they are ordaining or commissioning to their ministry.

  - **(Acts 13:2-3)** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said," Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."... Then, having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them forth. NKJV
  
  - **(1Tim 4:14,16)** Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecies spoken to you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you...Keep a close watch on yourself and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right, and God will save you and those who hear you. NLT
  
  - **(Acts 6:3,6)** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business... whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. NKJV

The gift of prophecy, when used by those who do not stand in the office of a prophet, is for the purpose of bringing words of **edification**, **exhortation** and **comfort** to those within the church (1 Cor 14:3). That is why we are to **covet** this gift (1 Cor 14:39) and we are not to **despise or forbid** the gift of prophecy from being used within the church (1 Thess 5:20). This gift is meant to build up and strengthen the body of Christ. Those standing in the “office of a prophet” will use the gift of prophecy in a greater dimension of authority. They stand as an appointed ambassador of God who is commissioned to be the interpreter and conveyor of His mind and will. Prophets who use the gift of prophecy are often called to bring a **confrontational** prophetic word, a prophetic **word of correction**, a prophetic **word of warning** or pronounce a **prophetic judgment** from God ...

- **(Dan 5:26-28, 30)** This is what these words mean: Mene means 'numbered' — God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end... Tekel means 'weighed' — you have been weighed on the balances and have failed the test... Parsin means 'divided' — your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."... That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed. NLT

- **(Ezek 34:7, 10)** 'Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD... "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock"...This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I now consider these shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock. I will take away their right to feed the flock, along with their right to feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be their prey. NLT — NKJV

- **(Lev 24:12-14)** They put the man in custody until the LORD's will in the matter should become clear... Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take the blasphemer outside the camp, and tell all those who heard him to lay their hands on his head. Then let the entire community stone him to death. NLT
• *(Acts 5:9-11)* Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." …Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband…So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. NKJV

**Receiving Prophetic Revelation**

The gift of prophecy gives a person the ability to receive revelation and speak the mind and will of God into various situations and circumstances. There are two foundational ways that we receive prophetic revelation…

**#1.** Prophetic revelation can come through reading the Scriptures as was the case with the prophet Daniel…

• *(Dan 9:2)* During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, was studying the writings of the prophets. I learned 69 (through revelation) from the word of the LORD, as recorded by Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years. NLT

  • Here we see how the WORD of the Lord was originally given to the prophet Jeremiah concerning the 70 years of captivity recorded by him (Jer 25:11-12, 29:10). As the prophet Daniel meditated on this written prophetic word of Jeremiah, he received further prophetic revelation concerning what was written. Jeremiah predicted the 70 years of captivity for God’s people, and Daniel received revelation that that the time of that 70 year period was then coming to an end. God will give us inspired revelation as we study the His word.

**#2.** Prophetic revelation can also come as God’s Spirit communicates directly to our born again human spirit, as was the case with the Apostle John when he was exiled on Patmos Island…

• *(Rev 1:9-11)* I (John) was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and speaking about Jesus… It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard a loud voice 70 behind me (that followed me), a voice that sounded like a trumpet blast… It said, "Write down what you see, and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." NLT

**God Wants To Communicate With People**

It is important to note that the Holy Spirit prophetically communicated to John through “hearing” and “seeing”. We can “hear” with our “spirit” the thoughts or impressions given to our

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69 Parenthesis mine

70 Parenthesis mine …Strong’s #3694 opiso (op-is’-o) can also be translated this way
born-again human spirit by the Holy Spirit. Hearing God means we “understand” what God is communicating to us through, thoughts, impressions, and dreams and also through seeing visions...

Ps 89:19

Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one, And said: "I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.  NKJV

The Apostle John heard or understood the instructions spoken to him from the Lord which was “…Write down what you see, and send it to the seven churches…” There are also many instances in the Bible where God communicated with those who did not know Him. Therefore He communicates to both the righteous and the unrighteous (see Num 22:12, 35 and Matt 27:19 as examples).

Relationship With God Comes By Hearing His Voice

• In-to-me-see … Without intimacy with God, we only possess a “form of godliness” that is void of power (2 Tim 3:5). Many will do “religious” and even “spiritual works”, but without intimacy that comes through communication with God, we never really “know Him”…

  • (Matt 7:22-23) Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' … And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' NKJV

The phrase “knew you” is the Greek word 71 ginosko (ginh-oce'-ko). By euphemism, it means to lie with or have intercourse with a person of another sex. This implies “intimacy”. Being close with God comes through our communion with Him. We talk to Him (through prayer and meditation) and He responds by communicating His mind and heart to us...

  o (John 15:15) No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. NKJV (emphasis mine)

Good friends share and communicate their thoughts, feelings and desires with each other. Just as God desired to communicate with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in intimate fellowship, He is looking for that same fellowship with us…

  • (Gen 3:8-9) Toward evening they heard the LORD God walking about in the garden, so they hid themselves among the trees… The LORD God called to Adam, "Where are you?" NLT

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Reasons We Must Hear From God

- **Hearing From God Brings Us Peace** ... When we go through times of trouble, it is important to hear God voice so we can be comforted and strengthened by what He communicates to us. When God speaks to us our faith and trust remain in Him...
  - *(Ps 143:1, 7-8, 10)* Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my plea! Answer me because you are faithful and righteous...Come quickly, LORD, and answer me, for my depression deepens. Don’t turn away from me, or I will die...Let me hear of your unfailing love to me in the morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I have come to you in prayer...Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing. NLT (emphasis mine)

- **Hearing From God Brings Corporate Unity** ... When God’s people are corporately hearing His thoughts and purposes they will speak and believe the same thing (because God has revealed it to them). His word or truth that is prophetically revealed becomes the foundation for true unity within the body of Christ...
  - *(1 Cor 1:10)* Now, dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won’t be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. NLT (emphasis mine)
  - *(Jer 32:39)* And I will give them one heart and mind to worship me forever, for their own good and for the good of all...NLT

- **Hearing From God Brings Personal Instruction, Direction and Protection** ... There are times that God will teach us and reveal specific instructions or give specific directions so we can fulfill His purposes...
  - *(Isa 48:17)* Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go. “NKJV
  - *(Ps 91:14-15)* The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name...When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. NLT
• *(Ps 16:7)* I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. KJV

> “God, what are You saying?”

When God is speaking prophetically to us or through another person, it will speak to our “reins”. This word as used in *(Ps 16:7)* is the Hebrew word 72 kilyah (kil-yaw’) and it is defined as the innermost and most private aspect of a person. Therefore when we receive a personal prophecy from God Himself, or from someone with the gift of prophecy it will speak to our “reins” or innermost being known as our “spirit man”. It is the Holy Spirit that speaks to us through the gift of prophecy when it is operating in another believer’s life. Receiving a personal prophecy from someone with the gift of prophecy must not become a substitute for personal intimacy with God. God wants to have personal intimacy with us. Remember, a true prophetic word will never come from a “different” spirit that speaks to the mind (soul) of the person who is “prophesying”. This is how “physics” receive and give their information (which again, may be very accurate)…

• *(2 Cor 11:3-4)* But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds (souls) may be corrupted…if you receive a different spirit…you may well put up with it! NKJV

When we prophesy to someone or if they prophesy to us it will be communication coming from the Holy Spirit that is flowing from our “reins” or innermost being...

• *(John 7:38-39)* He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly (reins) shall flow rivers of living water." …But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive… KJV

• **Hearing From God Renews Our Mind and Transforms Us** …When we are hearing from God we are in His presence. Being in God’s presence means we are having communion (communication) with Him. God’s presence causes His holiness to reveal areas of darkness (sin) in our life. This allows us to change our mind and ways so we are transformed and conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. We are transformed by having our mind (soul) conform to what God reveals prophetically to our “clean heart” or born again spirit…

• *(Rom 12:2)* And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. KJV

• *(Rom 8:29)* He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son…NKJV

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(Ps 51:10-11) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me…KJV

True Prophecy

Prophecy then is the voice of God that comes to us by His Holy Spirit. Our body (whole being) is represented by the “tabernacle” in the Old Testament. We are the “tabernacle” of God. The tabernacle of old was made in three parts—the outer court (representing our physical being)—the inner court (representing our soul) and the Holy Place (representing our spirit. Our human nature also called flesh separates and hinders us from living in the presence of God. We must pass through the veil of our fleshly nature, which keeps us living in the soulish realm of human logic and human emotions. We must enter the Holy of place, which is the place of spiritual communion with God. Like the tabernacle of old, our human nature’s will is a veil that keeps us from living in the spirit. Jesus (who is the word of God) as our forerunner and example of the word that divides spirit and soul, made it possible for us to go beyond being ruled by our soul (logic and emotions) so we can enter the most holy place of communing with God...

(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit…NKJV

(Heb 10:20) By a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, (representing), His flesh (or human will). NKJV (parenthesis mine)

The phrase consecrated for in the above verse is the Greek word 73 EGKAINIZO (eng-kahee-nid'-zo); which means to be dedicated to renewal. The death of Jesus created a new and living way to peace for God’s people who are dedicated to renewal. He made renewal possible by giving us the ability to renew our minds through Him (the word) as stated in (Rom 12:2). Our lives are transformed and our soul can now be renewed by receiving revelation from the bread of life (represented by the candlesticks and showbread in the holy place in the O.T tabernacle).

This is the means by which we enter into the most holy place of intimacy with God. The veil (representing our human will) is no longer an obstacle preventing us from entering into direct communion with God, because the Word of God (Jesus) in us causes us to rightly divide between soul and spirit. Faith in the Word of God gives us the light needed for the new and living way of intimacy in the most holy place of Communion with God.

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- **(Luke 1:78-79)** With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." NKJV

Our Faith in Jesus Christ gives us the opportunity to receive life and light in our born again spirit. This means our candle (spirit man) now has light (Pr 20:27) from Jesus—who is the light of the world (Jn 8:12). The removal of our sin through faith in Jesus means there is no longer a veil keeping us from being in God’s presence and from seeing the face of God. We can now perceive (see) through God’s eyes, discern (understand) through His nose, and speak (communicate to others) what God speaks from His mouth to us. True prophecy is meant to change and transform our lives so we will be more like God as we clearly see (understand) what God is speaking to us...

- **(2 Cor 3:14-18)** But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted...because the veil is taken away in Christ...a veil lies on their heart... Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away... Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty...But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. NKJV

A clear word from God is an aspect of God’s glory. The word “glory” is the Greek word 74 doxa (dox'-ah) and is defined as that which is very apparent, and is weighty, it also means to magnify. Therefore when we get a true prophetic word things will be made very clear or apparent to us and what we see and say will carry a lot of weight (authority) because it is from God. Whenever God’s word is being made very apparent to us, weather it is being spoken from the mouth of one of His people or if it is being made clear to us from His written word, what has been made apparent to us requires a response to His word. We can choose to receive, ignore, or even reject what God makes clear through the gift of prophecy. The choice is always ours. The bible says without true prophetic insight and revelation from God, we will not be able to understand what He has planned for us in the future or understand the awesome inheritance that belongs to us as His chosen people...

- **(Eph 1:16-19)** I pray for you constantly... asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you might grow in your knowledge of God... I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people... I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. NLT (emphasis mine)

74 Strong’s #1391
A true prophetic word will reveal and give evidence of the truth. Jesus is the WAY and the TRUTH which results in LIFE (Jn 14:6). A true prophetic word is a testimony from or about Jesus (the word). Those who search the Scriptures will be candidates for prophesying or giving the truth (a prophetic word) from Jesus. The Bible tells us that the testimony of Jesus is the true spirit of prophecy...

- **(Rev 19:10)** for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. KJV

- **(John 5:39)** Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. KJV

### God wants His people to prophesy

Many who are not in intimate relationship with God are not hearing what God wants them to hear; therefore He has ordained that His voice be heard in these end times through those with the gift of prophecy...

- **(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. KJV

- **(1 Thess 5:20)** Despise not prophesying. KJV

- **(1 Cor 14:39)** So, dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy... NLT

- **(1 Cor 14:1)** Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. NKJV

### 7. The Gift of the Discerning of spirits

The gift of the discerning of spirits is another of the revelation gifts that is activated by the gift of faith as mentioned in our text Scripture verse in 75(1 Cor 12:10). The word “discerning” in its root form is the Greek word 76 *diakrino* (dee-ak-ree'-no) and is defined as...to distinguish, decide, judge, or weigh a matter. There are three areas that the gift of spiritual discernment is used in.

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75 (1 Cor 12:10) To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits...KJV

Discerning human spirits ...The gift of the discerning of spirits allows us to judge or discern human spirits. This means the Holy Spirit enables us to discern the thoughts and the motives of human hearts. Many times people can do “good” looking things, but this gift will judge or rightly discern the motives behind what they do. Through this gift the Holy Spirit will give revelation as to the condition of their heart (which is the human spirit and soulish mind). This gift is particularly needed when it comes to knowing who we should help and show compassion on and who needs to undergo pain and suffering to their flesh so God’s righteous judgment can do it’s work of giving them the opportunity to repent. Without this gift we will end up “enabling” those who are not taking responsibility for their sinful actions and are in need of God’s judgment in their lives. Here are some examples that refer to the discerning of the human spirit ...

Biblical Examples for the Gift of the Discerning of Spirits

- **(1 Cor 2:11)** ...For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? KJV

- **(Acts 5:3-4)** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ...While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." NKJV

- **(Jude 22)** And on some have compassion, making a distinction (“diakrino”...to weigh or exercise discernment). NKJV

- **(1 Cor 5:4-6)** In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ... deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus... Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? NKJV

• **(Matt 22:18)** But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Whom are you trying to fool with your trick questions?" NLT

• **(Luke 5:22)** Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you think this is blasphemy?" NLT

**Discerning demonic spirits** ... If we are not able to discern when a demonic spirit is in operation, Satan can keep us deluded, in error and ignorant concerning the work of demons that are causing pain and trouble in and through people or circumstances around us. Demons bring distress and destruction when their influences go undetected. The gift of the discerning of spirits is imperative in getting people free from many physical, mental and spiritual problems that is the result of demonic activity. When we discern a demonic spirit is speaking or operating through another person, it will grieve or agitate our born again discerning human spirit, telling us something is not right. Such was the case with the Apostle Paul...

  o **(Acts 16:16-18)** Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling... This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." ...And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. NKJV

Jesus also operated in the discerning of spirits in His ministry as well. Like Jesus we need to understand that it is not people who are our problem, but the evil spirits that motivate them. Jesus was able to discern that it was not Peter who needed to be dealt with for trying to stop God’s purposes, but the spirit of Satan...

  o **(Matt 16:23)** But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." NKJV

A demonic spirit can also motivate the thoughts and speech of a false minister. Therefore we are told to discern what spirit is at work when someone ministers among us...

  o **(1 John 4:1)** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. NKJV

  o **(1 Cor 14:29)** Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge (discern). NKJV

  o **(Rev 2:2)** "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars. NKJV

**Discerning spirits from God** ... The gift of the discerning of spirits helps us to discern when God’s Holy Spirit is at work as well as when God is using his angelic spirits to assist and serve those they are assigned to help...
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- *(Heb 1:14)* But angels are only servants. They are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation. NLT

- *(Heb 13:2)* Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it (discerning these spirits)! NLT (parenthesis mine)

- *(Num 22:31)* Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw (discerned) the angel of the LORD standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam fell face down on the ground before him. NLT

Unless we have the gift of the *discerning of spirits* we will not be able to discern God’s angelic activity from demonic activity. There is going to be a lot of spiritual activity in these end times and we need to be able to discern if the spiritual activity that is taking place around us or in us— is of God or of the enemy. We must always keep in mind that Satan is the great counterfeiter and therefore we need the gift of the discerning of spirits to keep us from falling into deception. We must cut short his opportunity for deception by discerning his false ministers and their lying signs and wonders…

- *(Matt 24:21, 24)* For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be… For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. NKJV

- *(2 Cor 11:12-15)* But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast… For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ… And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light… Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. NKJV

8. The Gift of Different Kinds of Tongues

This is another of the *speaking gifts* that is listed among the *signs* that Jesus said *would* follow true disciples of Him. As stated previously a *sign* is an *indication* that the supernatural is at work.

- *(Mark 16:17)* And these *signs* will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; *they will speak with new tongues*… NKJV (emphasis mine)
The gift of speaking in *diverse tongues* or to speak in a *new tongue* refers to speaking in a language given to us as a gift by the Holy Spirit. The ability to speak in a language given to us by God, which is not acquired through human learning, is a sign of the supernatural work of God’s Holy Spirit. This gift indicates or signifies and demonstrates that God’s Holy Spirit is at work supernaturally in an individual’s life. As mentioned previously Satan is able to counterfeit spiritual gifts, therefore just because a person is able to speak in tongues does not mean the Holy Spirit is the source for this gift. As an example Buddhist and Shintoist priests speak in tongues, as well as Hindus and even people who are demon possessed. Therefore, we must test the spirits…

- *(1 John 4:1)* Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God… NKJV In (1 Cor 12:10) the phrase *diverse kinds of tongues* is used in the King James Version. The word *diverse* is the Greek word 78 *heteros* (het'-er-os) meaning *strange, or another* — as referring to a “tongue” or language. The word *tongue* is the Greek word 79 *glossa* (gloce-sah'); which by implication means *a language* — specially, one not naturally acquired by one's own efforts. The 80 CWSD defines “diverse” or “new” tongues as—other or different tongues (languages), meaning different than one’s own acquired native tongues or language, and “new tongues” is qualitatively to speak languages not known to them before. These languages that come from the Holy Spirit can be a *human language* or the *language of angels*…

- *(1 Cor 13:1)* Though I speak with the *tongues of men and of angels*, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. NKJV

In the book of Acts the gift of tongues was a *sign* that people had been filled with the Holy Spirit after they put their faith in Jesus Christ…

- *(Acts 2:4)* And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with *other tongues*, as the Spirit gave them utterance. NKJV

- *(Acts 10:45-46)* …the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also… *For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.* NKJV

- *(Acts 19:5-6)* When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus… *And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.* NKJV

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As a new Christian I was taught that speaking in tongues was the “exclusive” manifestation of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life. However, as seen in the above verse (Acts 2:4), when believers were \(^{81}\) “filled” (which also means furnished with) or “baptized” (immersed in) the Holy Spirit they also prophesied and magnified God when the Holy Spirit came upon them. It is the Holy Spirit then, who decides which gift is given as a “mantle” (specific anointing) when He “comes upon” them as a sign of being “baptized” by Him. In (Acts 1:8) \(\text{dunamis power}\) (supernatural abilities i.e. anointings or gifts) are promised to the disciples of Jesus, when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. When the Holy Spirit comes upon a person it is like receiving an anointed mantle of God’s power. This anointing of power is like Elijah’s “mantle” or the impartation that Elisha from Elijah …

- \((2 \text{ Kings } 2:14)\) Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him…Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah (the Holy Spirit that was upon Elijah) rests upon Elisha." NKJV (parenthesis mine)

**The purpose for the gift of tongues**

Apart from being a sign that the Holy Spirit is at work in a person’s life, speaking in tongues has two important purposes…

- # 1. The first purpose is …it builds up faith and the spiritual strength of the one who is speaking in tongues. Speaking and communicating with God through a spiritual language or the language of the spirit, refreshes, builds up or strengthens our entire being…
  - (1 Cor 14:4) He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself…NKJV

Speaking in tongues yokes us to the “rest” (refreshing) found in God. Communication through the spirit allows God to lighten our “heavily laden” spiritual, emotional and physical beings—by teaching us to follow what is being communicated by the One we are yoked to…

- (Isa 28:11-12) For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to (communicate with) this people…To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"…NKJV

- (Jude 20) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. NKJV

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\(^{81}\) Strong’s #4130 pletho (play’-tho) (Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)
(Matt 11:28-30) Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest…Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls… For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. KJV

Being “yoked” to Jesus means His Holy Spirit is communicating to and through our human spirit. This gives us the “rest” and refreshing the Prophet Isaiah prophesied God wanted to give to His people. Jesus said this “yoke” through communication was His “burden”. The Greek word for burden is 82 phortion (for-tee-on) which literally means service or task and it also refers to “goods” or personal property. We have been given the gifts from His Holy Spirit as our “goods” (personal property) to carry out our service and tasks for God. This “yoke” of communion with Jesus through the Holy Spirit is easy 83. This literally means useful, to profit or to furnish what is beneficial. The “yoke” then furnishes our needed spiritual communication and instruction, which is why Jesus said ‘My sheep hear my voice’ (Jn 10:27) and to also ‘Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me’. The yoke of communication with Him is our means for a close intimate relationship with Him, enabling us to walk together with Jesus as He walks. When two oxen are yoked together the yoke is what enables them to move in the same direction. When we are yoked to Jesus in intimate communion (communication) we can truly “rest” as we walk in agreement with Him...

(Amos 3:3) Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? NKJV

- #2. The second purpose …for the gift of tongues is when we do not know what or how to pray about something and we allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us in an unknown tongue, we are praying the perfect prayer. In our natural mind we have no idea what we are saying, but God hears our perfect prayer of faith, and we can rest in the fact that the Holy Spirit is interceding through us…

(1 Cor 14:14) For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. NLT

(1 Cor 14:2) For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. NKJV

(Rom 8:26-27) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered… Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. NKJV

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83 Strong’s #5543 chrestos (khrase-tos’)

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In (Rom 8:27) we are told that when we allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us with a language that cannot be “uttered”, God knows what is being prayed. The word *uttered* is the Greek word *alaletos* (al-al'-ay-tos) which means: a way of communicating that cannot be expressed in (known) words. There are times that the Holy Spirit intercedes through us by using *groanings* as the means of communication. The Greek word for *groanings* is *stenazo* (sten-ad'-zo) meaning to pray when one is squeezed or pressed by circumstances, or of persons who are in distress, affliction.

We may feel emotionally distressed and not even know why, but as we pray in unknown tongues, the Holy Spirit is interceding for something that is a “mystery” to us. For instance, I recall a time when I was awakened at about 2 am with a strong sense of urgent distress. I had no idea why I was feeling that way, so I began praying using my gift of tongues which included *groaning*— until I felt the distress leave. A short time later I was telling my son, who was not living at home at the time, about being awakened and feeling the burden to pray at that particular hour. He said to me, “Mother it’s a good thing you did, because at that very moment I was thrown from a car I was riding in when the door flew open as it went around a sharp curve at a rate of high speed!” He went on to tell me that he landed in a ditch and was not hurt. I have no doubt my son’s life was spared by angels being sent on assignment to protect him at the very time intercession was being made by the Holy Spirit through me.

As (1 Cor 14:2) states, when we pray in an unknown tongue we are speaking directly to God. What a blessing to be able to pray the *perfect prayer* directly to God— concerning *mysteries* or things our *natural mind* cannot even understand...

- **(1 Cor 2:7, 10-11)**... But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory... But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God...For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. NKJV

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9. The Gift of the Interpretation of Tongues

The gift of the interpretation of tongues is a speaking gift that operates because of revelation that is given as a gift from God. This again is activated by the gift of faith according to (1 Cor 12:8-10). As mentioned the gift of speaking in unknown tongues does not require that the speaker in tongues understand what is being spoken. His spirit is praying to God. The gift of the interpretation of tongues will reveal what God is saying in answer to the one praying to Him in an unknown tongue. When God answers a prayer that has been prayed in an unknown tongue, His answer comes through the gift of interpretation. This is a form of prophecy because it is a prophetic word received from God. The interpretation of tongues then, is another way of prophesying (speaking the mind and will of God). The gift of tongues or the interpretation of tongues should not be allowed to cause disorder in a service, as was the case with the church in Corinth.

Guidelines for the Speaking Gifts

Because of the confusion and disorder in the Corinthian church, the Apostle Paul gave some guidelines for the use of these gifts when used in a corporate setting. These guidelines need to be followed by all who operate in spiritual gifts...

- (1 Cor 14:26) Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize what I am saying. When you meet, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in an unknown language, while another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord… NLT

I want to emphasize again that when someone speaks in an unknown tongue they are praying TO God… therefore when an interpretation comes forth it means the Holy Spirit is bringing forth God’s ANSWER to what was prayed TO HIM. The Greek word interpret as used in (1Cor 14:26) is diermeneuo (dee-er-main-yoo'-o) which means to clearly expound and thoroughly explain, or to translate. In other words when a prayer is spoken out in a corporate setting, someone with the gift of the interpretation of tongues should be present so the congregation can benefit from His answer to what has been prayed to Him in tongues. The Apostle Paul went on to give the following three points as guidelines for the operation of the speaking gifts, which includes tongues, the interpretation of tongues and prophecy...

86 (1 Cor 12:8-10) 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. KJV

There should be no more than three prayers to God in tongues at one time and each speaker in tongues must take their turn, but only if there is someone present who can interpret...

- **(1 Cor 14:27)** If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. NKJV

God wants us to exercise the gifts in an orderly fashion, which includes speaking in tongues, but if no one is present having the gift of interpretation, then they must not pray out loud, but privately to God...

- **(1 Cor 14:28)** But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. NKJV

- **(1 Cor 14:39-40)** ...don’t forbid speaking in tongues... But be sure that everything is done properly and in order. NLT

Anyone exercising a gift is able to control his own spirit. The KJV says in (1 Cor 14:33) ...”The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet.” This means The Holy Spirit will never override the will of a person. We can control weather we will release a gift or not. Anyone who cannot control themselves while manifesting a gift is not under the influence of the Holy Spirit, but of another spirit. That is why we are told to “test the spirits” (1 Jn 4:1). The Holy Spirit will never cause a person to act in a disorderly manner or cause confusion...

- **(1 Cor 14:29-33)** Let two or three prophesy (by a direct word or through the interpretation of tongues), and let the others evaluate (judge – test – discern) what is said... if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop... In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged... people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can wait their turn...For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the other churches. NLT (parenthesis mine)

God wants His gifts to operate and be used as tools for ministering truth and life to those who see them demonstrated among us. We need to demonstrate God’s love and concern for people by using the gifts He has given. When spiritual gifts are used as God intends they are the valuable tools and weapons which help us become fully equipped to do the work of our ministry...

- **(1 Cor 14:22-25)** So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers...Even so, if unbelievers or people who don’t understand these things come into your meeting and hear everyone talking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy... But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don’t understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin, and they will be condemned by what you say... As they listen, their secret thoughts will be laid bare, and they will fall down on their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is really here among you." NLT
The *speaking Gifts* are meant to convince people that God is aware of what is going on in their lives. I recall a time when I was hospitalized with a very painful “mysterious” stomach ailment. The doctors were never able to diagnose the cause for my pain but I discerned the enemy had a hand in this situation. Therefore I decided to turn a bad situation into an opportunity to be a blessing to someone.

I asked the Lord for a *prophetic word* for a nurse who was assigned to me on night duty. I prayed in tongues for a time and waited for God’s answer. As the nurse entered the room, I discerned she was a very unhappy woman. Immediately the Lord gave me a word of knowledge about her daughter. He revealed to me that this nurse had been through a lot with this daughter and was very worried about her.

He instructed me to tell her that she no longer had to worry about her, because He was in control of her life and all that had been happening to her. He said to tell her that nothing was going to happen to her and that she was safe and being held in the palm of His hand. After hearing this from the Lord, I told the nurse I had been praying for her and felt the Lord had revealed some things to me and I asked her if I could pray with her and share what I felt He had spoken to me about her. Her face suddenly softened and she was most eager to have me share what I felt the Lord had spoken to me about her and to pray for her. I then shared what I had heard from the Lord.

As I was sharing she began to weep and proceeded to tell me that for the past two years right before Christmas her daughter, who was married with several children, had suffered a major stroke. This nurse was living in great fear about what was going to happen that coming Christmas. She was so blessed and overjoyed to hear this most encouraging word from the Lord. This word from God let her know that He was very much aware of her life and all that concerned her. She expressed her deepest gratitude for sharing this gift with her, and I know it deepened her love for God and her faith in His love for her.

May we never forget to allow ONLY the word of God to determine our attitude and beliefs concerning the need for—as well as the operation and dispensation of spiritual gifts among His people. We do not have the right to *pick and choose* what part of God’s word we will believe and put into practice. *Ignorance* and *disobedience* to God’s word will keep us *fearful, faithless* and *fruitless* as Christians. Therefore, we must become *thoroughly furnished* with all God intends for us to have as revealed in His word. This is so we can become *strong, fruitful and faithful* children of God who desire do His will upon the earth.

Multitudes are waiting to hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and God will use powerful signs and wonders to confirm this glorious message. We must also keep in mind that many will be used of Satan to also demonstrate his counterfeit gifts—in order to as Jesus stated …”If possible even the very elect will be deceived!”(Matt 13:22).
2 Tim 3:13-17

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them...you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished and equipped for every good work. NKJV
LESSON FOUR: THE FIVE FOLD EQUIPPING MINISTRY GIFTS

TEXT: Eph 4:8, 11-15
Therefore He says: "When He (Jesus) ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ...And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting... but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — NKJV (emphasis mine)

In the above text there are listed five different leadership or equipping gifts which Jesus Himself gave to the true church known as the body of Christ. These five leadership gifts are...

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors
- Teachers

These leadership equipping gifts are given for two express purposes — which are …

- Equipping the saints so they can do the work of the ministry
- Edifying the body of Christ (the true church)
Equipping the Saints

Please notice that it is the saints which need to be equipped, because it is the SAINTS that are called to do the work of the ministry. If saints are not doing the work of the ministry then the body of Christ will not be edified. First of all let us clearly define WHO the saints of God are. The word saint is the Greek word 88hagios (hag’-ee-os). According to the 89CWSD it denotes the fundamental idea of separation, consecration, devotion to the service of Deity, sharing in God's purity and abstaining from earth's defilement...to be perfect and without blemish. It also includes the idea of deserved respect, reverence or honor. The Bible says those who call themselves Christians are calling themselves by His name...

- (2 Tim 2:19) Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." NKJV

A true Christian is one who goes on to become a Saint. Saints are those who, after becoming born again, go on to SEPARATE themselves from all that would defile their lives or they become sanctified (holy). The true church is made up of true saints who are willing to through the process of becoming equipped so they can reach the point of perfection. The word equipping is rendered perfecting in the KJV version of (Eph 4:12). It is the Greek word 90katartismos (kat-ar-tis-mos'). The 91CWSD states this word refers to being made fully and completely ready... the verb tense of this word also denotes that the process of being fully prepared, adjusted, fitted, furnished and mended is a completed work. It is only when this work is completed that we are ready and fully prepared to do the work of the ministry. Too many people are calling themselves “ministers”, but sadly they have not completed the equipping or perfection process and they are not prepared to do the work of the ministry. When this is the case “ministers” and “ministries” bring shame and reproach upon the name of the Lord and to His beloved church. A lack of equipping and perfecting allows false teaching, false anointing and defiled lifestyles to flourish.

Let’s face it, not all who are born again into God’s family, are willing to go through the process of sanctification. This process requires that we be adjusted, fitted, furnished and mended so we can be HOLY people. Remember the word SAINT (hagios) is also translated HOLY. God’s true people are called His HOLY NATION...

- (1 Peter 2:9-12) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light... Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly

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88 Strong's #40


90 Strong's #2677

91 Ibid.
In our modern day churches many become born again (regenerated) but choose not to go on to pay the price of abstaining from fleshly lusts by dying to self so their conduct among unbelievers does not honor God. These people never go on to become transformed into the image of Christ because they have never identified themselves with the death of Christ...

- (Rom 6:3-8) ...do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ...even so we also should walk in newness of life... if we have been united together in the likeness of His death...NKJV

Those who are born again and become willing to enter into their baptism of death to self will become healed and mature Christians who are well adjusted people of God. These are the true servants of the Lord who bring honor to God...

- (2 Tim 2:19-22) "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." ...But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor...Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work...Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. NKJV

When born again people do not have—or do not allow the five equipping gifts to do the katartismos (equipping or perfecting) work of God in their lives, they cannot become true saints who have holy, consecrated and sanctified lives that are free from sin. We are saved by two things—by being REGENERATED (born again) and ALSO by being RENEWED (perfected or equipped)...

- (Titus 3:5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing from regeneration, AND renewing by the Holy Spirit KJV.

We cannot be cleansed from sin unless we are first born again (regenerated). This gives life and light to our human spirit—then we can see our sin as God sees it and choose (or not choose) to deal with it. The word washing\(^{92}\) is the Greek word loutron (loo-tron') which means to be immersed, and to take a bath. Those who are regenerated have the opportunity to take a “blood bath” and be cleansed by faith in Christ’s blood, every time sin is made known to them through being “immersed” in God’s word (Jesus Christ). This results in “renewing” which is the Greek word \(^{93}\) anakainosis (an-ah'-ee-no-sis) and is defined as the process of RENOVATION. This is the perfection and equipping process of being repaired, restored and made new again.

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\(^{92}\) Strong’s #3067

\(^{93}\) Strong’s #342
Born Again but Cast Out

Only the true saints of God who are truly regenerated AND renewed will have a place of honor in God’s heavenly kingdom...

- (Matt 8:11-12) And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven... But (there are) sons (born again ones) of the kingdom (that) will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” NKJV (parenthesis mine).

Multitudes of professing Christians who have never to put on their “wedding garments” which signifies being part of the (perfected and equipped) bride of Christ—will find to their great horror and dismay they have been excluded from the kingdom of heaven...

- (Matt 22:2-3, 11-14) "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son... Many guests were invited...But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the wedding garment... 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' And the man had no reply... Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ... For many are called, but FEW are chosen” NLT.

The Bible also goes on to describe the coming of the kingdom of heaven to earth...

- (Rev 21:1-2, 10, 23-25, 27) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared... And I saw the holy city, (God’s heavenly kingdom) the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride prepared (or the saints without spot or blemish) for her husband (Jesus)... And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light... So he took me in spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God... The nations of the earth will walk in its light, and the rulers of the world (are saints who are going to rule and reign with Jesus in His new heavenly kingdom on the new earth) (they) will come and bring their glory to it... Its gates never close at the end of day because there is no night... Nothing defiled will be allowed to enter — no one who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty — but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life NLT (parenthesis mine).

The above text is clear that the city called New Jerusalem is the habitation of the Bride of Christ—the home of the true saints of God—also known as the kingdom of heaven. These saints have Christ in them—the LIGHT of God’s presence (glory), the light source for the kingdom of heaven. They built their life upon the FOUNDATION of the ROCK (the Word of God—Jesus Christ as their head cornerstone) and produced holiness in their lives. Those who chose to live a life of pleasing themselves built their lives upon the sand, representing those who never matured or became perfected and holy. They were easily shifted and swayed and “as children are tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine”(Eph 4:14). Jesus went on to say this about those who built their lives upon Him—the ROCK and those who built upon sand...
(Matt 7:21-27) "Not all people who sound religious are really godly (holy). They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven (the New Jerusalem). The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven… On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'… But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away (into outer darkness); the things you did were unauthorized (not authorized by God’s Holy Spirit but done through their own flesh)." Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me (the word) is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock… Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse, because it is built on (the) rock… But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand… When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash" NLT.

There will also be people who were at one time born again, but who will end up becoming the tares Jesus taught us about…

(Matt 13:37-43) "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man… The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons (products) of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons (products) of the wicked one… The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels… Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age… The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice iniquity… and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth… Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! NKJV

A person who was once born again can become a tare by having Satan’s deceptions take root in their life and becoming defiled by iniquity. As was stated in (2 Tim 2:19), true saints depart from iniquity. These tares will lose their eternal reward of entering the kingdom of heaven. They may be saved from eternity in the Lake of Fire, but only by experiencing God’s furnace of fire. Fire represents judgment, testing and punishment. Those who are not genuine saints will have their lives judged, tested (put on trial) and then punished by going through God’s furnace of fire, known as outer darkness. This is a place of mental torment and grief where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth over the great loss of the reward of being allowed to sit down with the saints of God in the glorious celestial heavenly kingdom, as a glorified saint who will rule and reign eternally with Christ …

(1 Cor 3:13-17) But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone's work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value… If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward (entrance into the kingdom of Heaven)... But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer GREAT LOSS, but the builders themselves WILL BE SAVED, yet so as through fire (the furnace of fire)... Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple (the great house) of God (the master) and that the Spirit of God lives in you? … God will bring ruin upon anyone who ruins this temple. For GOD’S TEMPLE IS HOLY, and you
Christians are that temple. NLT (parenthesis mine).

When born again people do not have—or will not allow the five equipping gifts to do the katartismos (perfecting or equipping) work of God in their lives, they will not become true saints who have holy, sanctified lives. These defiled children of God will not be part of the Bride of Christ, because as stated, this Bride is comprised only of HOLY SAINTS of God…

- (Eph 5:25-27) Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her… that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word… that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish NKJV.

We must keep in mind that as Christians, everything we do NOW is preparation for our day of judgment and for the eternal ages to come. God has chosen holy people to be His KINGS and PRIESTS who rule and reign with Christ in the new heavens and upon the new earth...

- (Rev 5:9-10) You...have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation... And have made us KINGS and PRIESTS to our God; And we shall reign on the earth" NKJV (see also: Rev 1:6; 22:3-5)

We must get rid of our romantic notions of what it means to be a King and a Priest or a minister unto God. It is not about trying to get our worth from a position of ministry, or about receiving recognition or personal gain of any kind. What it really means to be a true minister will in no way appeal to our fleshly nature. On the contrary our human nature will detest what being a true minister requires—for it requires DEATH to our fleshly human motives, good intentions and deeds. The average Christian doesn’t realize death means dying to our human thoughts, will and ways that are the result of living according to the dictates of our flesh (human nature). Jesus, who is called the second Adam, had to die to His human thoughts, will and ways in order to fulfill God’s eternal purposes. If He had listened to His human soul He would have fallen into sin just as the first Adam did...

- (1 Cor 15:45) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. KJV

Jesus did not walk according to His human nature (soul), He walked according to His Holy, alive to God, spirit nature, just as we must if we are born again. We too must die to being a “soulish Christian”, or having our soul ruled by our fallen flesh nature that is filled with iniquity. In the literal Greek “iniquity” is also translated unrighteousness, and wicked (Strong’s #458 & #93) and in the Hebrew it is usually translated wicked or evil (Strong’s #5771). Therefore any thought, action or desire motivated by our human nature, no matter how good or godly it may appear God calls wicked and unrighteous

94 anomia (an-om-ee'-ah) & adikia (ad-ee-kee'-ah)

95 `avon (aw-vone’)

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because human thoughts, ways and desires do not originate from God’s Spirit but from our human nature and soul. God works through our spirit so we can bring our soul into submission to His will and ways...

- **(Isa 55:7-9)** Let the wicked forsake HIS WAY, and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS:... For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

As humans we are capable of being extremely resourceful, intelligent and skillful. We are more than able to DO much without relying upon God. We also tend to determine our worth by how much we are able to accomplish. Christians ruled by their soul rather than being spirit led, will think that building the biggest and the best—“is all for the glory of God”, but they are sorely deceived. God is not impressed with our accomplishments but calls what we DO from our own abilities—wicked. God’s value system is based upon our willingness to DIE for Him, rather than our ability to DO for Him...

- **(2 Cor 3:4-5)** We are confident... because of our great trust in God through Christ...It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God NLT.

Christians are seeking God’s power but most fail to understand that it comes in the form of His resurrection power and this requires that we must first die!

- **(Phil 3:10)** That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, by being conformed to His death NKJV

Those seeking “power” without first dying to their flesh daily, open themselves up to occult powers and counterfeit spiritual gifts operating through their soul (as mentioned in the previous chapter). Yes they will accurately “hear” and “see” prophetically, but it is information coming from “another spirit” and not revelation given to their born again human spirit from God. Many professing Christian ministers are building great ministries, reputations and bank accounts through their soulish efforts, which is only a work of the flesh. A good idea that prospers us does not mean it is a God idea! Even when something is a God idea, our flesh will try to get involved in order to give God a “helping hand”...but we must remember what happened to Uzzah when he tried to give God a helping hand…

- **(2 Sam 6:6-7)** the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah put out his hand to steady the Ark of God...Then the LORD’s anger blazed out against Uzzah for doing this, and God struck him dead beside the Ark of God. NLT

Our fleshly tendency to take things into our own hands must die. God wants all the glory for everything we accomplish in His name as His minister. Art Katz in his book Apostolic Foundations puts it this way…
“Any impatience, self-will, ambition, the compulsion to do for God, and the need to be recognized and acknowledged, will never be a glory unto God.” 96 All things must be done only by God’s power and by His might …

- (1 Cor 1:29, 31) That no flesh should glory before God… that, according as it is written,
  He that glories, let him glory in the Lord ASV.

God shines brightest through us when we are at our weakest, but we as humans don’t like weakness because it results in failure. This is why God will allow failure in our attempts to serve Him, so that humiliation can bring death to our flesh. Flesh craves admiration and honor from God and man when it is able to do that which it deems as good. God on the other hand calls our human efforts and motivations evil.

Let’s face it, not all who are born again into God’s family, are willing to go through this painful process of humiliation and death. We must understand that there is a great difference between dedicating our selves to identifying with the death of Jesus versus dedicating ourselves to attaining a deeper level of consecration to serving God. Identifying with the death of Christ requires loss—loss of reputation, loss of esteem by others and loss of personal gain. Our human nature fights to keep all of this. Therefore trying to just attain a deeper level of commitment or consecration is more appealing to our flesh nature, because it results in trying to accomplish or DO more—More acts of service, more sacrifices, or more spiritual disciplines such as Bible study and prayer—all in order to impress God and people with our “spirituality”. These are all good things in and of themselves, but more often than naught these accomplishments can “puff us up” in pride, thus keeping our fleshly efforts alive rather than causing them to die. We can dedicate and rededicate our lives to God over and over again and even achieve a greater level of accomplishments, power and recognition, but still never experience death to the flesh…

- (Rom 8:12-14) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh… For if you live according to the flesh you will die (spiritually); but if by the Spirit YOU put to death the deeds of the body (flesh), you will live… For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God NKJV (parenthesis mine).

We must ONLY accomplish our works for God according to the leading of God’s Holy Spirit. This will insure that we will not experience spiritual death which means separation from God. If we prophesy or cast out demons it must be according to the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, otherwise these things become merely “deeds of the flesh.” Please notice the above verse tells us it is we who must put to death our fleshly accomplishments, no matter how good they appear to be. What is not from God’s Spirit produces death to our life with God. The kind of death God requires in us so we can have His true resurrection life and power cannot be obtained without being equipped and perfected by His apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Through their activities, they equip and perfect us so we can live a life that is pleasing to God.

ministry gifts we can…”put to death the deeds of the body (flesh).” Those who DO DIE to all that pertains to the deeds of the flesh become resurrected glorified saints, who are a true demonstration of God’s authority, character and supernatural resurrection power now and forever (Phil 3:10).

## Doing the Work of the Ministry

When the saints of God are fully equipped and perfected, only then are they qualified and ready to do the work of the ministry. The word ministry (Strong’s #1248) is the Greek word diakonía (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah), the CWSD says the following about this word…

1. **This word designates the vocation of those who preach the gospel and have the care of the churches…. It is an office or ministration in the Christian community viewed with reference to the labor needed (so body members can be perfected), both in the case of individuals, and generally as a total concept including all branches of service… The work of the ministry is the work of the Lord, (not a work of our flesh). Jesus began and left this work to be continued by His disciples. This gospel-work of the ministry is every labor and every calling which has as its goal to benefit others and accomplish the will of God upon the earth.” (parenthesis mine)

It is interesting to note that the above statement from the CWSD said…”the work of the ministry is to benefit others and accomplish the will of the Lord upon the earth.” This reveals two important aspects of the “destiny” for true saints …

1. **#1. To Benefit others**… God’s love and free gift of salvation is to be offered to all people in every nation, but the FIRST people we are called by God to minister to are the Jews….

   1. **(Rom 1:16)** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek (or non-Jews). NKJV

      Among all the nations of the earth, God chose Israel to be His people through which He would make Himself known, and He refers to them as the “apple of His eye”…

   1. **(Zech 2:8)** For thus says the LORD of hosts… for he who touches you (Israel) touches the apple of His eye. NKJV (parenthesis mine)

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97 Ibid.
God has a special destiny for the relationship between the literal nation of Israel and the Church. *Israel's salvation is still God’s priority.* It is through the nation of Israel that God made His eternal covenants with His chosen people. As true born again saints of God we are now "grafted in" to His chosen nation and are partakers of their root and covenants as offshoots of their Hebrew root. The Christian Church has the responsibility to make the Jews jealous by having them witness the reality of the Most High God at work in our lives in a way they have not yet experienced. They will come to the reality of their messiah by witnessing God in our lives as perfected Saints. Unless the true church allows the perfecting power of God to produce His glory in them, they will have no reason to be jealous over our relationship with God that comes only through regeneration by faith in Jesus Christ...

- *(Rom 11:11-12, 16-18, 23-24, 28-29)* Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! His purpose was to make his salvation available to the Gentiles, and then the Jews would be jealous and want it for themselves...Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the Jews turned down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when the Jews finally accept it....And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their children will also be holy. For if the roots (Abraham and the other patriarchs) of the tree (Tree of Life – Jesus) are holy, the branches (children) will be, too... But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree, some of the Jews, have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – Satan’ tree), were grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in God’s rich nourishment of his special olive trees’ (root)... But you must be careful not to brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. Remember, you are just a branch, not the root... And if the Jews turn from their unbelief, God will graft them back into the tree again. He has the power to do it...For if God was willing to take you who were, by nature, branches from a wild olive tree and graft you into his own good tree — a very unusual thing to do — he will be far more eager to graft the Jews back into the tree where they belong...Many of the Jews are now enemies of the Good News. But this has been to your benefit, for God has given his gifts to you Gentiles. Yet the Jews are still his chosen people because of his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob... For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. NLT (parenthesis mine)

We can see by the above text then that true Christians are called to benefit (minister to) the unbelieving Jews. God is going to use the Church to speak the truth to these prodigal sons, but most Christians are not equipped for this ministry to our prodigal brethren. Our ministry to Jews everywhere must be to warn them of the impending time of devastation known as “Jacob’s trouble” which Israel is yet to experience...
(Jer 30:7, 24) Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it… The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it. NKJV

It would be wise to meditate on the entire chapter of (Jer 30) to understand the full scope of what God is going to bring upon Israel in the last days so that a “remnant” will be saved. God is going to use the work of the ministry of equipped and perfected saints during this future time of tribulation. The Prophet Daniel also spoke about this time of terrible tribulation for God’s chosen people…

(Dan 12:1, 9-10) "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people (Israel); And there shall be a time of trouble, (Jacob’s trouble) Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered (protected), Every one who is found written in the book… And he said, Go your way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end… Many (chosen people—Jews and defiled professing Christians) shall be purified, and made white, and tried (by going through a punishing time of judgment called Jacobs trouble);but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. KJV (parenthesis mine)

Many Churches are embracing what is known as replacement theology, which erroneously teaches—that God has replaced the nation of Israel with the Church and any references to the nation of Israel are being spiritualized to mean the church. This is not the case as clearly taught by the Apostle Paul.\(^98\) Satan knows that if the true saints of God are not equipped to minister prophetic warnings of impending destruction concerning Israel and the impending judgment of the gentile nations,\(^99\) they will not be equipped to make known God’s gift of salvation to the heathen and the Jewish people will not be saved. It is Satan’s intention to wipe the Holy nation of Israel off the map, so Jesus will not have this nation from which to rule and reign upon the earth.\(^100\) Therefore, our lives and our work of the ministry as Christians are meant to culminate in moving unbelieving Jews to jealousy, for they are meant to see clearly that we know their God as our God and because of our relationship with Him we also have His heart of love for them and desire to see them saved…

(Rom 11:11-14) Did God’s people (Jews) stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! His purpose was to make his salvation available to the Gentiles, and then the Jews would be jealous and want it for themselves… Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the Jews turned down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when the Jews finally accept it… I am saying all of this especially for you (Christian) Gentiles. God has

\(^{98}\) See Romans chapters 9-11

\(^{99}\) See Ps 110:6

\(^{100}\) See (Joel 3:16-21) & (Ezek 37:25)
appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I lay great stress on this… for I want to find a way to make the Jews want what you Gentiles have, and in that way I might save some of them. NLT (parenthesis mine)

The seed of Abraham

The Bible tells us that those who are God’s children are from the Seed of Abraham—that “Seed” being Jesus Christ. These are also identified as joint heirs with Abraham’s seed—Jesus Christ. God promised Abraham that through His Seed (Jesus Christ) all nations (ethnic groups) would be blessed.

(Gen 22:18) Through your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." NKJV

(Gal 3:16, 29) Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ... And if you belong to Christ, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

In (Gen 3:15) God prophesied in the Garden of Eden that His promised Seed (Jesus Christ) would bruise (i.e. crush and destroy) Satan’s head (i.e. rule). Also in (Gen 22:18) we are told every ethnic group (nation) on earth would be blessed by — the Seed of Abraham. The promised blessing associated with Abraham’s Seed does not pertain to the biological decedents of Abraham. God’s blessing is upon the Seed (not seeds i.e. descendants) of Abraham (unless they become born again). The blessing of Abraham is only upon those who belong to Jesus Christ by means of being born-again. Therefore, if we are truly born-again we are of Abraham’s Seed. This means Satan’s rule over our life can now be destroyed — making us eligible for “salvation.” The Seed of Abraham then, has nothing to do with being a Hebrew descendant of Abraham or that of being a “Jew” or an Israelite by birth. It has nothing to do with the natural life of a fallen human being — Jew or Gentile. Our biological differences (including male and female) do not determine our spiritual heritage or inheritance. We are all ONE (literally “one and the same”) in Christ. In Bible typology Isaac represents Jesus Christ, who—if you are familiar with the story of Isaac—was willing to lay his life down as a sacrifice — according to God’s command. Thus, Isaac represented the “seed of Christ” (the promised covenant son) of Abraham. We also are identified as “covenant children” when we are born again by Abraham’s seed (Jesus Christ) and like Isaac are willing to lay our lives down as a living sacrifice unto God.
(Rom 9:6-8) For they are not all Israel who are from Israel (Israelites)… nor are they all children (of God) because they are the seed (biological descendants) of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." …That is, those who are the children of the flesh (of Abraham), these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise (from the promised seed—Jesus Christ) they are counted as the seed.

As Christians then, our identity must come from our spiritual identity as the **Seed of Abraham** and not from our human character or condition. To be identified with Abraham means we like him, do not look at this world as our home but we identify ourselves with WHO and WHAT is eternal. The true Seed of Abraham do not have their roots planted in this world. They remain focused on their eternal inheritance from God.

(Heb 11:8-10) It was by faith that Abraham… lived — for he was like a foreigner, living in a tent. And so did Isaac and Jacob, to whom God gave the same promise… Abraham did this because he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. NLT

Doing the work of our ministry by blessing God’s chosen people (the Holy Nation i.e. Abraham’s seed) with His truth… means we will also receive God’s promised blessing…

- **(Gen 12:3)** I will bless those who bless you (God’s Holy Nation), And I will curse him who curses you; And in you (Abraham’s seed i.e. the Holy Nation) all the families of the earth shall be blessed." NKJV

- **#2. Accomplishing the will of God upon the earth** is the second aspect of our destiny as saints of God—which means doing the work of our ministry. This can only be accomplished through the perfecting and equipping process from within the body of Christ, causing the body to be *edified*. \(^{101}\) Being *edified* means being built up or rightly structured corporately as saints (Strong’s #3619). \(^{102}\) This will result in *diakoina* (ministry) or being *spiritually profitable* by people experiencing the *advancement*” of God’s Kingdom by preaching the true Gospel of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

101 *(Eph 4:12)* for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the *edifying of the body* of Christ,

NKJV

102 *oikodome* (oy-kod-om-ay')
In other words, when the saints of God are perfected (mature) they will be spiritually profited so they can spiritually profit others (Jews and Gentiles)—thus accomplishing the will of God upon the earth. This will cause the advancement of God’s kingdom purposes in individual lives as well as in the nations of the earth. A nation will be judged or blessed by they respond to God’s word. The work of the ministry means we become the voice of God’s righteousness within our sphere of influence within our nations, calling them to turn to the one true God in repentance, and warning them about His righteous judgments. Even as the prophets declared this to the Jews of old in Israel—we who are grafted into the Holy nation through life from Jesus Christ—have as our ministry and mission to be God’s voice and vessels of righteousness to all nations of the earth...

- (Jer 4:2) and if you will swear by my name alone, and begin to live good, honest lives and uphold righteousness, then you will be a blessing to the nations of the world, and all people (people within every nation) will come and praise my name." NLT

**Four Main Objectives for the Equipping Ministry Gifts**

The body of Christ is ordained be an edifying church that spiritually profits and brings the advancement of God’s end time purposes to every nation where God has placed His perfected saints. The work of the ministry is much larger in scope than building personal ministries or gaining a reputation for what we as individuals are able to accomplish for God. There is no room for personal agendas or personal gain and glory. It is a corporate work of the Lord and together we as perfected saints must accomplish it.

In (Eph 4:13) it states that all five equipping ministry gifts named in (vs. 12—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) must function in their equipping ministries until the four objectives given by God in the following text are established within the body of Christ...

- (Eph 4:13) Until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. NKJV

Within the body of Christ there are obvious human differences such as ethnic, gender, and social-economic diversity. These human differences must not be allowed to cause divisions among true believers. No matter what our culture, gender or social status may be it must not hinder or determine how we fit into and function within the body of Christ. Nor should these human distinctions be used as a means for preferring, demoting or promoting one body member over another...

- (Gal 3:26-28) So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus... And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him... There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians — you are one in Christ Jesus NLT.
The word *until* as used in the above verse is the Greek word 103 *mechri* (mekh'-ree) which denotes a space of time up to when a certain point or place is reached. The place that the true church must reach is the four main objectives which can only be obtained if all five equipping gifts are functioning in the lives of God’s people. Only then can the true church reach the point (of accomplishing God’s objectives) which He has established for His true church. These objectives are …

- **OBJECTIVE #1 The unity of the faith**…This means All true saints will achieve unity by believing and speaking the same thing...

  - *(1 Cor 1:10)* Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (opinions). NKJV

There is a place for diversity in the body of Christ, but if we strive to maintain “distinct” differences in areas that are theological, cultural, and philosophical, these kinds of differences can lead us into error by compromising God’s word for the sake of unity. These kinds of distinctive differences can greatly influence what we embrace as truth. The Scriptural view of distinct differences lies in the fact that there are distinct body members which function in distinct ways. The dictionary defines the word “distinct” as...Unmistakably dissimilar or different. The Apostle Paul addressed the distinct differences in body members and their function...

  - *(1 Cor 12:29-31)* Are all (members in the body) apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have (or function in) gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. NKJV (parenthesis mine)

The word “unity” is defined as...the absence of diversity; to be unvaried or uniform in quality or character. 104 There will be ethnic, economic or gender differences among us, but we must be uniform in our quality and character. However, the current world view for achieving unity is to embrace diversity and show tolerance for the sake of unity. By embracing diversity and exercising tolerance for the sake of unity Christians run the danger having to tolerate certain theological, cultural and philosophical beliefs and practices that are contrary to God’s word and our true Christian culture. 105 Wrong beliefs due to ignorance of the word of God and coming under the influence of deceiving spirits, will keep professing Christians divided and out of agreement with each other. This is used by Satan to cause a dividing asunder or separation among God’s people.

  - *(1 Cor 11:18-19)* First of all, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church...But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that those of you who are right will be recognized! NLT

103 Strong’s #3360

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105 For more on this subject read ANATOMY FOR DECEPTION: If Possible Even the Very Elect Will Be Deceived, by Karen Connell, Extended Life CTM, © 2012
We cannot fall for Satan’s new age philosophy of tolerance and simply agree to disagree. Agreement upon God’s word must be the foundation for true unity when there are divisions among believers. The word of God will reveal when someone is wrong and when someone is right. Agreement with God and His word will insure true unity…

- (Eph 4:3-6) Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit (of truth), and bind yourselves together with peace…We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future…There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism…and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all. NLT

- OBJECTIVE #2 The knowledge of the Son of God… Those who profess to be Christians cannot be spiritually profited or advance and grow into mature saints of God unless they come into a true knowledge of the Son of God. This can also be interpreted as obtaining true knowledge from the Son of God. Many profess to know about Him and even acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God, but they do not know Him because they do not abide in Him therefore **His understanding** does not abide in them…

- (1 John 5:20) And we know that the Son of God has come (to abide in us) and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true (all truth); (because) **we are in Him** who is true (or the truth), in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. NKJV (parenthesis mine)

The above text tells us that if we are truly born again we have been **given an understanding** that comes from abiding in (living according to) the Spirit of Jesus Christ who lives in us. All true believers are given this understanding to **know Him**. To know Him means we know can know all truth…

- (1 John 2:27) But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. **For the Spirit teaches you all things, and what he teaches is true** — it is not a lie. So continue in what he has taught you, and continue to live in Christ. NLT

- (1 Cor 1:28-30) God has chosen… that no flesh should glory in His presence…But from Him (God the Father) you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom (understanding) from God — and **righteousness** and **sanctification** and **redemption** NKJV (parenthesis mine).

Please notice the pattern for true salvation from the above verse. We are made **righteous** through repentance and faith in Christ’s blood that cleanses us from sin. We maintain our righteousness by allowing the five fold equipping ministries to bring us through the **sanctification** process, so we can experience our **redemption** from an eternity in hell and receive the promise of the **eternal inheritance** given only to the true saints of God…
Those who live their lives according to their flesh will not be given the understanding needed to reach God’s objective of becoming a true saint who will receive the promise of their eternal inheritance. The eternal inheritance that belongs to all saints of God will not be a living reality in the lives of professing Christians who live according to the flesh because they live for what pleases them here and now. They are not eternity minded. Mature spiritual understanding is only given to the born again ones who come to realize they must die to following their fallen human nature (the flesh), if they want to be resurrected to inherit eternal life through following the Holy Spirit...

Following the Holy Spirit then and not our fallen human nature is the only way to receive our eternal inheritance. This not only includes eternal life, but our eternal inheritance also includes living in the Kingdom of Heaven as rulers who reign eternally with Jesus Christ in the new heavens and upon the new earth...

- **(Heb 9:12, 15)** …He (Jesus) entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us... (We) who are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. KJV

- **(Rom 8:12-14)** So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do…For if you keep on following it, you will perish (you will not inherit eternal life). But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it (sin nature) and its evil deeds, you will live (have eternal life)…For all (only those) who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God NLT (parenthesis mine).

- **(Matt 25:34)** Then the King will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom (The City New Jerusalem) prepared for you from the foundation of the world. NLT

- **(1 Peter 1:3-4)** All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead…For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay NLT.

- **OBJECTIVE #3 Perfected man**… To bring up True Saints who are mature or perfected people requires them to be in full agreement with and obedient to the word of God. Therefore, they will walk in true unity with other perfected saints because of their knowledge and faith from the word...

  - **(1 Cor 14:20)** Brethren, do not be children in understanding… but in understanding be mature. NKJV
Only those professing Christians who are willing to take seriously the **warnings** and **teachings** from those who are commissioned by God to preach His word will come to perfection or the place of being made ready for the work of the ministry. There are many born again people who do not allow the equipping and perfecting process because they have no desire to for what is **required of them** in order to reach the place of perfection. Perfection requires that we eagerly receive correction rather than become offended and react in resentment when correction is given. Only those willing to suffer humiliation and death to their flesh (fallen human nature) can obtain God’s perfection.

- **OBJECTIVE #4 Obtaining the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ** … According to the CWSD 106 the literal rendering of this phrase refers to… **completeness, or reaching the intended goal to the attainment of full… maturity in Christian knowledge and love.** Jesus Christ is the full expression of all knowledge and love. He is also the **head** of His body; therefore he must have a perfected and mature body that reflects who He really is. It is through His body that the work of the ministry is to be preformed, therefore it must be a body that is perfectly joined together and not out disjointed. His body as the true church must be perfect because it reflects the **glory of God** upon the earth by its godly character. His body as the true church has been established as the “pillar of truth”. This means that true saints will uphold God’s standard as the foundation for all truth even if it means rejection and persecution by those who oppose it …

- *(1 Tim 3:15-16)* I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God**, (is) **the pillar and ground** (foundation) **for the truth**…And without controversy great is the **mystery of godliness**. NKJV

### Three End Results of Reaching God’s Objectives for His Church

When the above four objectives required by God for His church are reached, the church will then **look** and **act** like **the glorious church who is the bride** of His beloved Son. The first aspect is…

**End Result #1. (Eph 4:14) no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting KJV.** This means when saints are fully and finally equipped through the five fold ministry gifts **they will know the word of God** which has been taught to them by the equipping ministry gifts. God’s people who have a right foundation laid according to the Word (Jesus Christ as their cornerstone) will be able to discern genuine leaders, teaching, gifts and anointing from the false. They won’t be among **the very elect who if possible – will be deceived** (Matt 24:24). There is no way a person can become a SAINT of God without being taught and trained to exercise discernment which comes by knowing, studying and using the word of God…

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- (Heb 5:13-14) For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe… But solid food belongs to those who are of full age (mature – perfected – equipped), that is, those who by reason of use (using the word as their standard) have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. NKJV

End Result #2. (Eph 4:15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ KJV. It is one thing to know the truth, but it is quite another thing to speak the truth. Speaking the truth will not always make us popular; in fact it quite often has the opposite affect. Therefore, if we as God’s people are not willing to sacrifice our personal reputations, and do what is best for those we say we love, which is give them the truth weather it is well received or not, we have not reached the state of maturity that God desires for us...

- (2 Tim 4:2-5) Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency (stand by, be at hand and ready), whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. (Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.) And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching…For the time is coming when (people) will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching (for something pleasing and gratifying), they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold…And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions…As for you, be calm and cool and steady, accept and suffer unflinchingly every hardship… fully perform all the duties of your ministry. AMP

End Result #3. (Eph 4:16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love NKJV. When every member of the true body of Christ is effectively using their spiritual gifts and doing the work of their ministry, there will be growth in the church because of mature Christ like character. This means the foundation of God’s love is causing the body members to be spiritually profited and also causing the advancement of God’s end time purposes...

- (1 Peter 4:7-8, 10-11) The end of all things is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers…Most important of all; continue to show deep love for each other…God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you…Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ. All glory and power belong to him forever and ever. Amen NLT.

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Can Women Hold Foundational Equipping Ministry Offices?

In order to understand the controversial subject of whether a woman can hold a ministry office I would like to include an excerpt on this issue from my book entitled: 

**WOMEN IN MINISTRY:A Biblical Perspective on Women in Ministry**

What does the Bible really say about this issue? Is there a scriptural basis for a woman to be in any position of authority or leadership in the church? I would like to encourage both men and women, who have embraced teaching that says women are disqualified as ministers and leaders—to be open to what the word of God plainly says on this matter. Only then can men and women of God fulfill His calling upon their lives.

We as Christians are going to be held accountable for how we have helped or hindered our fellow believers by what we preach and teach. This is a solemn warning to those in leadership positions. Just because we have believed something our whole life, or because our denomination or culture teaches us something is right—doesn't mean it is Biblically correct. If you have a problem with seeing women in positions of leadership, please… prayerfully seek the Lord with an open heart on this issue as you proceed through the pages of this booklet.

Let us start by reading the following promises from the prophet Joel. This prophecy was fulfilled at Pentecost, and as we draw closer to the End Times, we can expect to see it fulfilled in much greater dimensions. The following text in (Act 2:17-19) states that both men and women are going to be anointed with God's Holy Spirit and be given spiritual gifts by Him.

(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... KJV

(Galatians 3:28) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." KJV

**Can a Woman Teach a Man in a Church Assembly?**

Although the Bible makes it clear that there is "neither male nor female" in Christ—why is it then, certain verses in the New Testament seem to forbid women from ministry positions in the church, if male and female distinction is not to be an issue among those who are body members in Christ? It is mainly because two commonly quoted texts that are used to disqualify a woman from teaching a man are not being “rightly divided”—and need to be examined in light of their true context, cultural and historical setting—and most importantly in light of the literal word meanings found in the original Greek text in which they were written. The fruit (surface text) of God’s word is wonderful, however, the deeper root meanings are worth digging for.
I am sad to say that there are those who will not read anything but the King James Version of the Bible, because they believe it is the only inspired version of the Bible. However, the Bible was not written in King James English, it was originally written in the Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages. By not being able to see the fullness of what was originally inspired and written in these languages, the fullness of what God us saying is often misunderstood or missed entirely.

Why are Women to be Silent in the Church?

Following is the first text in which I want to examine some very important key words from the original Greek text, so that a clearer picture will emerge concerning the subject of why women are told by the Apostle Paul to be silent in the church …

(1 Cor 14:23, 33-35)

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

26 How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, and has an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

35 And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. KJV

In the above text the Apostle Paul states that there were two reasons that confusion was going on in the local assembly of saints. The first reason was because both men and women were causing confusion by speaking in tongues and prophesying in a disorderly manner—which he goes on to address in (vs’s 27-31) of this chapter.

The second reason there was confusion is because wives were having conversations with their husbands during the meeting—in order to try and learn or understand something.
These conversations with their husbands were causing a confusing disturbance. Therefore Paul tells them to keep silence... And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak (to talk i.e. out loud) in the church. The phrase keep silence literally means to hold one’s peace.107

Thus, in (vs. 34) above, Paul is not forbidding females to use a teaching gift in an assembly, he is instead addressing the issue of married women in the assembly who are out of order—because they were causing a disturbance by talking with their husbands in order to learn or be taught something.

Therefore, Paul is not addressing a female versus male issue he is instead addressing a husband—wife issue. Why do I say this? Because the word “women” as used in the above verses, is translated from the Greek word (Strong’s 1135) gune (goo-nay’), which is used when referring to a wife. The other Greek word used for woman is (Strong’s 2338) thelus (thay’-loos), which refers to a female (married or unmarried). However, when referring to a married woman, the word gune is always used, and never thelus.

Before I examine the second text that is commonly used to disqualify females from being able to teach a male—I also want to make a distinction between the words husband and male. The Greek word (Strong’s 730) arrhen (ar’-hrane); is used when referring specifically to a male (married or unmarried) in the New Testament Scriptures and—as I have already mentioned—the word (Strong’s 2338) thelus (thay’-loos) is used when specifically referring to females (married or unmarried). These are the words that are used in the text below because this verse is specifically referring to males and females (married or unmarried)...

(Galatians 3:28) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male (arrhen) nor female (thelus) for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." KJV

I mention this because in the text we have just examined in (1 Cor 14:23, 33-35) and in the following text in (1 Tim 2:10-14), neither of these words are used when referring to the “men” and the “women” being addressed. Instead the Greek words (Strong’s 435) aner (an-ayr’) which means husband is used when talking about the “man” and the Greek word (Strong’s 1135) gune (goo-nay’), which means wife is used when talking about the “woman” in these texts. Thus, the Apostle Paul is addressing an issue that pertains to husbands and wives in an assembly.

107 Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance, (NT:4601) sigao(see-gah’-o);
Now let’s examine the following text that is also used to disqualify females from holding a teaching position in the church. The context again is addressing a specific husband (aner) and wife (gune) issue and not females and males in general.

(1 Tim 2:8-14)
8 I desire therefore that the men (aner i.e. husbands) pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;
9 in like manner also, that the women (gune i.e. wives) adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but that which becomes women (gune i.e. wives) professing godliness with good works…
11 Let the woman (gune i.e. wife) learn (gain understanding) in silence (in tranquility) with all subjection (with complete submission).
12 But I suffer not a woman (gune- wife) to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man (aner i.e. husband), but to be in silence (stay calm). **Because of the word order in the Greek text, this verse can also be translated as follows: when being taught—wives it is not permitted—never to dominate their husbands, but exist in a state of tranquility and remain undisturbed. *Interlinear Transliterated Bible
13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.
14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. KJV (Parenthesis mine for clarification).

In (vs. 12)—which is most used by those who oppose women ministers—there are two words that are important to understand in the original Greek, in order to have the right understanding of this text.

The first word that needs to be understood is the word teach (strong’s 1321) didasko (did-as’-ko) for it can also be translated to learn or to know. According to Thayer's Greek Lexicon it means: to hold a discourse (conversation) for the purpose of instruction. This agrees with what Paul previously addressed in (1 Cor 14:35) when he told the wives to stop talking in church because… if they wanted to learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home. Again, this is about a wife having a conversation with her husband because she was wanting to learn something him. It had nothing do with a female being silenced or forbidden to hold a teaching position among males in a Christian assembly.

The second Greek word that needs to be clearly understood in its original meaning is the Greek word translated as silence. When husbands do teach their wives what they desire to know it was to be done in silence—which in this case does not mean she is not allowed to speak.

The word silence in the above text in (1Tim 2:11) is not the same as the word silence as used in (1 Cor 14:34) that meant to stop talking. It is the Greek word (Strong’s 2271) hesuchia (hay-soo-khee’-ah) which means to be tranquil and undisturbed. The word teach as used in (1 Tim 2:11-12) is (Strong’s 1321) which is the Greek word didasko (did-as’-ko).

The Complete Word Study Dictionary,¹⁰⁹ states this word can be used to refer to shaping or influencing (i.e. manipulating) another person’s will through what is communicated. Thus, in (1 Tim 2:12) due to its context—this verse is not talking about females being prohibited from teaching males in a Christian assembly—but rather it is about teaching wives to remain (emotionally) undisturbed, for it is prohibited for wives to dominate (usurp authority over) their husbands by trying to influence or manipulate them by becoming emotionally disturbed. Let’s face it women are good at influencing their husbands through their emotions.

What the Apostle Paul is teaching here is also confirmed by the Apostle Peter when he admonished married women to remain meek and quiet, which is the same Greek word translated as silent (Strong’s 2271) hesuchia) as used by Paul in (1 Tim 2:12). Both apostles were telling married women to adorn themselves with godly emotional attitudes and behavior towards their husbands.

(1 Peter 3:1-5)

1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation (behavior and attitude) of the wives;

2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands. KJV

It becomes clear then, why it is so important to clearly understand the context and the literal meanings to the key words in these often misused texts. Thus, these original word meanings reveals what has been misunderstood by those who teach that women must be silent and cannot teach a male or even speak in a church assembly.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he was dealing with a church that was out of order. Because he wrote correcting the excesses and abuses that were occurring, some of which, as we have stated, did pertain to married women in particular while others were addressed to the entire church. Because of this there are those who feel Paul had a woman issue because he instructed the Corinthian married women to keep silent. But as we have seen this didn’t mean they could not speak or teach in a church assembly—it meant they were to remain undisruptive and emotionally calm. It is important to note that in the early Eastern Church the seating arrangement was quite different from our modern Western Church. Thus it may be that the early assemblies followed the Jewish tradition found in the synagogues of men being seated on one side of the building while the women and children were seated elsewhere—which is still practiced in many cultures today.

Also, the women of Christ's day were generally uneducated and usually only the men were privileged with an education. Due to this situation, it is easy to see when the church met that women were tempted to converse with their husbands concerning what was being read or discussed during the meeting. Because of the new equality that Christianity brought to women, it could be that some of them were taking their freedom too far, to the point of being disruptive. It should also be considered that at the time Paul wrote his epistle to Timothy, the issue of severe heresies and false teachings were a problem. It is evident that many of those who were advocating these heresies—as well as those who were embracing them were women.

(Tim 3:6-7) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. KJV

The historic and cultural context for these texts are also important to take into consideration. Timothy was a minister in Ephesus, which was a primary center for goddess worship—due to the worship of the pagan goddess Diana, this played a large part in why Paul had to deal with unruly women. Goddess worship involved usurping dominance over men. Because of these things, one can understand why the interpretation of these verses must be in light of the literal word meanings as well as the historical and cultural context.
Only MALES in Leadership Roles?

It is also imperative to understand the verses of Scripture that apply to positions of authority and leadership within the church. A study of the original Greek text in those verses that give the qualifications for leadership—makes it clear that women are nowhere excluded from filling leadership roles within an assembly.

Many times the qualifications for being an elder, deacon or bishop are said to only be filled by males—because the English pronouns him and he are used in the three texts that I will examine—which give the qualifications for these leadership positions. It may, however, come as a surprise to those who oppose women ministers—to find that in the original Greek texts—the male pronouns him or he are actually neuter pronouns—which means a male or female is referred to. Following is an excerpt from the Spiritual Gifts Manual\textsuperscript{110} that explains this in further detail:

“The following texts give the qualifications for the leadership positions of bishops,deacons and elders.

- **Qualifications of Bishops ...**(1 Tim 3:1-7) This is a faithful saying: If a man (if any person) desires the office of a bishop, (he) desires a good work... A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach... not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous... one who rules (his) own house well, having (his) children in submission with all reverence... for if a man (if any person) know not how to rule (his) own house, how will (he) take care of the church of God?... not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride (he) fall into the same condemnation as the devil... Moreover (he) must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest (he) fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. KJV.

- *(Titus 1:5-13) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you — if any (neuter pronoun: if anyone) is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not violent, not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of god, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money... but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled... holding fast the faithful word as (he) has been taught, that (he) may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict... KJV.*

\textsuperscript{110} *Spiritual Gifts Manual*, Published by EXTENDED LIFE Christian Training Ministry, pg. 136
From these two texts It is often mistakenly assumed—by those who do not look to the Bible’s original Greek and Hebrew texts for greater translation clarity—that the offices of elder and bishop can only be held by males—thus females are disqualified from holding any leadership position in the body of Christ. This mistaken assumption is because the English text in (1 Tim 3:1) states: **if a man desires the position of a bishop**— and also because (Titus 1:5, 7) states: **if a man is blameless… for a bishop must be blameless….**

However, the Greek text does not support this idea that these statements are referring only to males as bishops. Because if the English phrase “**if a man**”—as used by the King James translators—is mistakenly understood to apply only to the male gender—it’s because of the failure to understand that the Greek text uses the **neuter pronoun “ei tis”**¹¹¹ which can also be translated as **if any person, or if anybody, or if whomsoever**—(male or female)—**desires the position of a bishop—or is blameless… for a bishop must be blameless.**

This then makes it inaccurate to assume that it is **only the male gender** that qualifies for the position of overseeing God’s people (as a bishop). This phrase **if a man** is an accurate translation if the word **man** is understood to refer to a **person**—male or female—such as when referring to “God and man”—meaning God and a person” (males and females) and not just “God and males.”

In addition, the pronoun “he” is not found in the Greek text—but has been inserted by the translators—to make for smoother reading. However, the inserted pronoun “he” should also be understood as being a neuter pronoun—“he” as referring to “anybody”—“whomsoever” or a “person”—male or female.

**The Husband of One Wife?**

- **(1 Tim 3:8-13)** Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre… Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience… And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless… Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things… Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well… For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. KJV

Another phrase found in the previous two texts (1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-13) which reveal the qualifications for a bishop (overseer)—is also found in the above text from (1 Tim 3:8-13) which addresses the qualifications for deacons. The phrase “**husband of one wife**” as a qualification needs to be understood according to the literal Greek text as well as from a historical and cultural perspective.

¹¹¹ Strong’s #1536
If being the “husband of one wife” is assumed to mean that an elder, deacon or bishop must be a male, it must also be assumed they are required to be married. There is no Biblical basis for either of these assumptions as the Apostle Paul was not married, thus this phrase is referring to those in leadership who are married and the requirement is a “one wife per husband marriage”—or in other words a monogamous marriage—and not a polygamous one or a more than one wife marriage. Notice it is not stated that a husband could not be married to a wife with multiple husbands—because it was the husbands who had multiple wives and not the other way around. Polygamy was common among the pagan cultures—therefore it is stated those in Christian leadership would not be blame free if polygamy were the case. Opponents to women being given leadership positions, who teach that “the husband of one wife” is proof for only men serving in these positions, fail to understand the cultural and historical context for this statement. According to J. George, when the Christian Church came into being, polygamy was still practiced by the Jews. That is why this requirement was given to the married men holding ministry offices.

In (vs. 11) of the above text which states: “Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers…” this too must be correctly understood from the original Greek Text. The pronoun “their” is not found in the Greek text. Therefore, it should be rendered: “Even so wives (married women) must be grave, not slanderers…” It is also important to note that in (vs. 13) the pronoun “they” is included, and this is the Greek pronoun (Strong’s 3588) ho (ho) and is also a neuter pronoun that refers to he or she. Thus “they” in (vs. 11) is referring to deacons who can be a “he, or she deacon.”

I would also like to mention that those who try and use the text from (Titus 2:3-5) to say that women who are elders are to only teach younger women and cannot hold a ministry office as an elder or teacher, are using this text out of context also. The context for these verses are addressing the different responsibilities for those of various age groups within a local fellowship. It is not talking about ministry positions or offices. This text states the following:

(Titus 2:3-5) The aged (elder) women likewise, that they be in behavior as becomes holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things... That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children... To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. KJV

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The word *aged* is the Greek word (Strong’s 4247) *presbutis* (pres-boo’-tis). The CWSD\(^{113}\) states the following:

*This word is referring to being an old woman and cannot be taken to refer to the office of an elder leading a local church as does presbúteros (4245), meaning the office of an elder, which is equal to Epískopos (Acts 20:17,28). That It refers to age, not office, is clear from the consecutive use of the word *presbútas* in referring to old men, not those in the office of an elder as leaders.*

**To Sum it All Up**

Paul's writings are sometimes misunderstood today because we do not look at the original Greek meanings to his words, or fail to determine the complete context of his letters and also because we do not know all the details that led him to write what he did. Because of these things—it still holds true what the Apostle Peter said, concerning those who misconstrue the meaning to Paul’s words.

*(2 Peter 3:16) ...His (Paul's) letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do other Scriptures, to their own destruction". NKJV*

As we have examined in this study, in both of the churches in Corinth and Ephesus the Apostle Paul was addressing specific issues that needed correcting, and some of these issues involved women in these churches. In both cases he was establishing basic guidelines regarding the behavior of these women. Therefore, Paul was not making any hard and fast rules with regard to women in ministry. The precedence for women holding positions of leadership was already established in the Old Testament records—where women filled positions of leadership and ministry (such as prophets and judges). Even in the time of Jesus we see Anna who filled the office of a prophet in the temple at Jerusalem. (Lk 2:25-35).

Thus, it is clear from a careful study of the Scriptures that women are not excluded from leadership roles within the body of Christ. As the Apostle Paul stated:

*Gal 3:28* “there is to be no cultural (Jew or Greek)—nor social or class distinctions (bond or free)—and also no male or female distinctions when it comes to being (in Christ) as a body member.”

We are all one and the same when it comes to receiving the gifts and callings from God—they are not given according to these distinctions mentioned in the above verse. God chooses from among every culture, social class and *gender*—those who He desires to give his gifts to. These gifts include the leadership gifts mentioned in (Eph 4:11) that both men and women are to receive. May we learn to accept and honour the gifts that God has given to each member of His body. –end of excerpt—\(^{114}\)

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\(^{113}\) Complete Word Studies Dictionary

\(^{114}\) WOMEN IN MINISTRY A Biblical and Historical Perspective (Pages 3-17); by Karen Connell © 2012, Extended Life C.T.M.
Lessons and Prophets: Foundational Equipping Ministry Offices

(Eph 2:19-22) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints (from all past ages) and members of the household of God (the true church)... having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone... in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord... in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. NKJV

Much is being said at this present time about the ministry offices of apostle and prophet. The word Apostle is the Greek word 115 apostello (ap-os-tel'-lo); which means set apart, to send out, sent away it also denotes being an ambassador and a commissioner for Christ — the CWSD says it means to send out on a mission to preach; speak; bless; rule, redeem, and to propitiate (settle or resolve a problem). The expression that Jesus was sent by God (John 3:34) denotes the apostolic mission which He had to fulfill (as the apostle of our faith) (Heb 3:1) and the authority which backed Him. It also denotes being sent forth from one place to another, to be sent upon some business or employment.

The word Prophet is the Greek word prophetes (prof-ay'-tace) CWSD: says the following... A prophet is a foreteller of future events, also an interpreter, a person who spoke under divine influence and inspiration. This included the foretelling of future events or the exhorting, reproving, and threatening of individuals or nations as the ambassador of God and the interpreter of His will to men. Hence the prophet spoke not his own thoughts but what he received from God, retaining, however, his own consciousness and self-possession. 117

The Apostolic—Prophetic Antioch Pattern

One type of prophet found in the New Testament is the apostolic-prophet that stands in the ministry office as a foundation layer along side the office of the apostle. As mentioned Jesus Christ is the HEAD of His church, and we are His body. As with any human body, the head is positioned over two “shoulders”. This can be representative of the “apostolic” as one shoulder and the “prophetic” as the other shoulder. They are the foundation for the authority coming from the “head” — Jesus Christ and they are the governmental parts of Christ’s body...

- (Isa 9:6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. NIV

115 Strong’s #649


117 Strong’s #4396, ibid.
The word *shoulders* in the above verse is the Hebrew word 118 *shekem* (shek-em’) and it means to *bear the responsibility of ruling*. “Both the apostle and the prophet are foundational ruling and governmental ministries and both (as previously defined) are said to be “ambassadors” for God. An AMBASSADOR is *an authorized messenger who is appointed as an official government representative of another*.119 Both the apostle and the prophet represent and bring God’s governmental authority within the church and upon the earth.

**No Nationality—Social Status—Gender Issues**

God alone calls and *sets apart* those He wants *sent forth* on His specific ministry missions; therefore they have the full backing and authority from God to do what their calling and mission requires. God chooses His ministers from all walks of life and He does not discriminate on the basis of nationality, social status or gender…

- *(Gal 3:26-28)* For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus…For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ…There is neither _Jew nor Greek_, (nationality) there is neither _slave nor free_, (social status) there is neither _male nor female_; (gender) for you are all one (and the same) in Christ Jesus NKJV

There are those who erroneously teach that females are not allowed to hold positions of authority in the body of Christ or operate in certain gifts such as that of teaching. As already mentioned — God does not discriminate on the basis of gender, therefore, it is imperative to have a correct understanding of the Scriptures on this subject. For this reason I have written a book entitled WOMEN IN MINISTRY: A Biblical and Historical Perspective.120 Whether women qualify for leadership roles as elders, deacons and bishops is discussed in the section of this chapter entitled: Elders, Deacons and Bishops.

The New Testament *pattern* for being *sent forth* is found in the following text…

- *(Acts 13:1-3)* Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain *prophets* and *teachers*…As *they ministered to the Lord* and *fasted*, the Holy Spirit said, "Now *separate* (set apart) to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which *I have called them*."…Then, having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away (forth). NKJV

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118 Strong’s #7926

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120 For more study on this subject see my book WOMEN IN MINISTRY A Biblical and Historical Perspective. This may be read on line or may be requested free of charge at: www.extendedlifeCTM.org
Two Important Keys for Being Apostolically Sent Out

The above text gives us two important keys for understanding what is involved in being sent out as an apostle by God. This is crucial for us to understand because too many are becoming “self-proclaimed” and “self-appointed” false apostles in the church today. Therefore we need to closely examine the criteria for these foundation layers as set forth in the word in order to know if one is truly an apostle. There keys mentioned in (Act 13:1-3) are...

1. Key #1. Those who are seasoned ministers were able to confirm the ministry call of Barnabas and Saul... Those who were operating in a ministry office and who had “ministered” through prayer and fasting unto the Lord—heard from the Holy Spirit as to who was to be SEPARATED and SENT. The word ministered is the Greek word leitourgeo (li-toorg-eh'-o) it means a public servant. Another form of this word is latreia, which means to minister publicly in a sacred office, to lead in public worship. It also came to mean performing priestly or ministerial functions. Another form of leitourgeo is the word latreúœ and it means to serve God, which is the duty of all, but to serve Him in special offices and ministries can be the duty and privilege of only a few who are called and set apart for such functions. The Antioch pattern then, requires those called to the ministry offices of fivefold equipping ministers, to have their ministry calling confirmed (by prayer and fasting) before being commissioned and set apart by God into their ministry position.

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121 Strong’s #3008

2. Key #2. They laid hands on them and sent them forth...
...Ministers must never be in a hurry to lay hands upon people and send them forth as appointed or ordained ministers. They must know them and their ministry. We are told to know those who labor among us (1 Thess 5:12). Likewise, those responsible for commissioning and ordaining others can only know them if they are in a real and intimate working relationship with them. This means those who are to be sent out or commissioned as ministers must be willing to let other seasoned leaders see into and speak into their lives and give whatever counsel and correction may be needed. It is a grave mistake to quickly promote someone to a leadership position, unless their ministry has been proven and tried and they have been found to be sound and mature believers. Ministers must really know those they are laying hands upon and sending forth into ministry and likewise we must also know those who lay hands upon us! There is always a spiritual impartation that takes place when there is the laying on of hands (good and bad).

- (1 Tim 5:22) Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure KJV.
- (2 Tim 1:6) Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands NKJV.
- (1 Tim 3:6) A bishop must...Not be a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. KJV
- (1 Tim 3:8-13) Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money...holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience... But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless...NKJV

It was Paul and Barnabas that God had called, separated and set apart as ones who were commissioned to the office of the apostle by Him. Both had hands laid upon them and were sent forth as commissioned ministers by God and by those who knew them and their ministry. They had proven themselves as qualified ministers who were mature saints of God. Paul had entered into close relationship with Barnabas and the other apostles in Jerusalem and had proven himself and his ministry as that of being called by God...

- (Acts 9:17-18, 20, 26-29) So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you may get your sight back and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ...Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized...And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, (doing the work of an
evangelist) saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!" ...When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They thought he was only pretending to be a believer! ... Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus. Barnabas also told them what the Lord had said to Saul and how he boldly preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus...Then the apostles accepted Saul, and after that he was constantly with them in Jerusalem, preaching boldly (to unbelievers) in the name of the Lord. NLT

Barnabas was also known as a godly man...

- (Acts 11:24) Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And large numbers of people were brought to the Lord (through his work of evangelizing) NLT.

The Antioch Pattern: an Apostolic Sending Body

The believers were first called “Christians” in Antioch (Acts 11:26). This church had its foundation built upon apostolic and prophetic ministry. This means that foundational ministers (apostles or prophets) were operational in this church...

- (Acts 11:20-23, 27) However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to Gentiles about the Lord Jesus...The power of the Lord was upon them, and large numbers of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord...When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas (apostolic ministry) to Antioch...When he arrived and saw this proof of God’s favor, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord...During this time, some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch (prophetic ministry) NLT (parenthesis mine).

When a church body has the apostolic and prophetic ministry in its foundation they will be qualified to become a sending body that can set those God has commissioned into their ministry. To be commissioned is defined as... the act of granting certain powers or the authority to carry out a particular task or duty. As we have seen God first calls and commissions those He wants to place in the equipping ministry offices (of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher). That means His power and authority is clearly seen in their lives through the gifts they possess and most importantly the Christ like character they demonstrate.

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When the called one has given evidence of their calling by doing the work of their ministry faithfully, then they are given an apostolic charge, which literally means those with apostolic authority bear witness to their calling and ministry\(^\text{124}\). This charge gives those receiving it their foundational (apostolic-prophetic) authority. It is imparted by the laying on of hands and being sent forth to minister while remaining in submission to the foundational and governmental church authorities who send them forth. The one apostolically sent forth from an Antioch type sending body, will have authority from God and His governmental ministers to carry out the duties of their office in a public ministry. This can include any of the five equipping offices. Timothy was called by God to be a “minister” and was ordained for his ministry by an apostolic—prophetic presbytery who gave him his prophetic charge...

- **(1 Tim 4:6, 11, 14)** If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed…These things command and teach…Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands by the presbytery KJV.

### Apostolic-prophetic Ordination

The above text gives us important information regarding the apostolic-prophetic ordination of one called and commissioned by God. First of all Timothy was given a gift (which literally means he received an impartation)... at his ordination by the prophetic word spoken over him by a presbytery. The word presbytery is the Greek word \(^\text{125}\) presbuterion (pres-boo-ter'-ee-on). The CWSD says this of the presbytery...they are a governing body (apostles-prophets) comprised of elders (or mature ones) including their ministry work and the authority of their office. They are the collective body of elders from area churches. The church,(in this region) although existing in separate fellowships with their respective ministers, is here considered a single entity. The presbuterion represents this body unity and together they shepherded the church (in their region).\(^\text{126}\)

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\(^{124}\) Strong’s #1253 dialmarturomai (dee-am-ar-too'-rom-ahee)

\(^{125}\) Strong’s # 4244

LESSON FOUR: The Five Equipping Gifts

Karen Connell

The presbytery then is made of those who hold fivefold ministry equipping offices, who have been given authority to govern and rule over the body of Christ in their city. Apostles and prophets are the governmental agents of God to His church, so there needs to be apostles and prophets in a presbytery. The ministers in a presbytery will have ministries of their own, which are either itinerate (traveling ministries—such as apostles, prophets, evangelists) that go from fellowship to fellowship or they are stationed within a local fellowship as pastors and teachers in their city. These five fold equipping ministers have the foundational apostolic-prophetic authority to rule over the church in their city…

- (Acts 20:17-18, 28) From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church...When they arrived, he said to them...Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood KJV.

In the above text Paul called for a meeting with the elders from the city of Ephesus. These elders were from many local fellowships in Ephesus, each having their own ministry. Notice how all of these ministers (the presbytery of Ephesus) were given the apostolic charge of overseeing one another and of overseeing the flock (believers) in their city. How wonderful it would be if the ministers of all the fellowships in our cities would follow this pattern for church government. Leaders would be watching over other leaders to insure God’s standard of holiness and righteousness is being upheld, as well as making sure God’s people in their city are being properly fed and equipped for their ministries. What a difference it would make in the cities of our nations! The above text states that it is God who makes leaders overseers over ALL of flock in their city, not just the flock that is found in their own local fellowship. If leaders think of their local fellowship as “their flock” they will not want other ministers involved in the lives of “their sheep”. Leaders must understand those they are called to serve were purchased by Jesus Christ, they are HIS SHEEP and belong exclusively to Him. Therefore “stealing sheep” from another minister is impossible and should not be an issue.

Duties of the Apostle as an Ambassador of God

As mentioned one of the functions of an apostle is that of being an ambassador which is defined as... an authorized messenger or official representative of the highest rank appointed and accredited... by one government or sovereign to another. The government of God comes from the shoulders of our chief apostle and “chief cornerstone” Jesus Christ...

- (Isa 9:6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders...NIV

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127 ibid.
To stand in the office of a true apostle who lays a sure (true) foundation in the lives of the saints, means one will function in various foundational ways. This is stated by the Prophet Isaiah...

- (Isa 28:16-18) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone,(this corner stone has) a sure foundation (made up of apostles and prophets): he that believeth shall not make haste...Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet...And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand KJV (parenthesis mine).

The word foundation holds the key to how a true apostle does function. It is the Hebrew word 128 yacad (yaw-sad'). The meanings to this word describe how those who are called to apostolic ministry will function in their ministry. This means those who are foundation ministers are called to lay the foundation in the lives of those in Zion (God’s chosen people—including the church). They are sent forth by God as messengers and ambassadors appointed from the government of God, to govern those who live under other governments of this world. When we accept the governing power of true apostolic authority we will find them functioning according to all the definitions of yacad. This means apostles will represent God’s government by...

* Setting (in place, position or order, adjusting, restoring)
* Founding (to set up the basis or foundation for something)
* Consulting (to take into account and consider)
* Appointing (to select and fill a position—equip or furnish)
* Counseling (give advice and guidance)
* Instructing (to teach and give direction)
* Ordaining (to authorize, appoint or invest with priestly or ministerial authority)
* Making sure (to remove doubt or wavering—become firm, dependable, reliable, safe)

### Two Key Functions of Apostles

According to the text quoted above in (Isa 28:16-18), the foundation of apostolic ministry will annul the covenant with death that is made because of embracing error or lies. You can be sure that errors and lies will be dealt with by true apostles. That is why we need apostolic ministers to set—found—consult—appoint—counsel—instruct—ordain and make God’s people sure (upright and stable). According to this same text these foundation layers accomplish their ministry in two key ways...

128 Strong’s #3245
KEY #1. They bring judgment by laying God’s line ... CWSD says the word LINE literally means God’s standard for measuring and distributing his sovereign power and judgments. The word JUDGMENT is the Hebrew word mishpat (mish-pawt) which means to have the legal right or control in a situation. This word also denotes the legal decisions, plans, instruction or penalties that have been decided upon. In other words in order for God to lay a “sure” (right) foundation in our lives as saints, He will use apostolic ministry to measure us and determine according to His standard (not ours or the worlds) the JUDGMENT or the decisions, plans, instruction or penalties that have been decided upon by Him as He deems necessary in our life. Those with apostolic authority have been given the legal right or control over the situations that require God’s judgment. It would be to our best interest to obey and submit to God’s appointed apostolic authorities...

- (Heb 13:17) Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. NKJV

KEY #2. They bring righteousness by the plummet ... The word PLUMMET is the Hebrew word mishqeleth (mish-keh'-leth) which means to have the authority to examine—evaluate—or weigh. When there is true apostolic oversight from those who stand in this ministry office, they will be required by God’s authority, to which they are submitted, to evaluate and examine the standard of righteousness in the lives of God’s people and in His church. This way the foundation for righteousness is kept firm and stable and is not allowed to be shifted or undermined by sin and compromise. True apostles are adamant adherents and promoters of God’s standard for righteousness and holiness. True apostles and prophets have paid a great price to stand in these foundational offices of ministry. Satan hates the ministry of true apostles and prophets because they expose and threaten his strongholds in the earth more than any other ministry.

The Office of the Foundational Prophet—an Apostolic Kingly Role

It should be noted that all true prophets speak under the divine influence of God’s Holy Spirit. There are two types of prophets mentioned in the New Testament, the intercessory prophet, representing the “priestly” role of the saints and the apostolic prophet, representing the “kingly” role or that of being a “ruler” ...

- (Rev 5:10) And hast made us (all true saints) unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth KJV.

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130 Strong’s #4941, ibid

131 Strong’s #4949. ibid
Like the office of the apostle the office of the prophet is also a foundation layer for the body of Christ. Being a prophet is not just having the ability to prophesy through the gift of prophecy by giving personal words of knowledge or encouragement. A prophet is a person that has been called by God to stand in a foundation laying office which is a place of immense responsibility. Like the apostle he is standing for God Himself as His representative and speaking what is from Him. Prophets have been mantled with God’s authority because the true prophet speaks the mind and heart of God concerning His people. They are the interpreters of what is happening in the present—from a perspective which is future and eternal. Prophets see the significance of present situations and circumstances as to how it will affect the future and eternal condition of those they are called to Minster to. True prophets will carry the word of the Lord within them, which means they bear the weight (responsibility and burden) of that word from God and all that it requires. When a true prophet brings forth a word from God to His people it will be a requiring word. This means what God is saying requires something on the part of the hearer...

- (Ezek 33:6-9) But if the watchman (prophet) sees the enemy coming and doesn’t sound the alarm to warn the people, he is responsible for their deaths. They will die in their sins, but I will hold the watchman accountable… "Now, son of man, I am making you a watchman for the people of Israel. Therefore, listen to what I say and warn them for me… If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to warn them about changing their ways, then they will die in their sins, but I will hold you responsible for their deaths… But if you warn them to repent and they don't repent, they will die in their sins, but you will not be held responsible NLT.

Those who stand in the ministry office of a foundation layer for God’s people as apostolic prophets go through much shaping and forming by God in their lives. God will not send anyone who has not been crushed, humiliated and shaped by great trials and testing. They will have a painful history with God that uniquely qualifies them for their calling. God needs vessels of honor that have gone through His many purifying fiery trials in order shape and mold them for their calling. A person may have a true calling as a prophet but must never be in a hurry to prematurely step out into that calling. True prophets spend many years of preparation in their “wilderness places of training.” It is there that God reveals Himself to them and brings them through a deep examination of their inner most being. Our true and living God needs to be accurately represented by those who can stand in the office of a prophet who allows God to properly prepare and mold them. Even as they operate and progress in their ministry office as a prophet the fire of God through testing and trials is continually burning up anything that would be a hindrance to Him. Prophets cannot expose what is false and harmful if they themselves are defiled by what is false and harmful...

- (Jer 23:14) But now I see that the (false) prophets of Jerusalem are even worse! They commit adultery, and they love dishonesty. They encourage those who are doing evil instead of turning them away from their sins. These prophets are as wicked as the people… NLT
If prophets are false—the church will be harmed by subscribing to what is false, and if the church is false how can Christ be truly made known to a lost world that is perishing for lack of truly seeing God and His standard for righteousness.

Prophets are God’s watchmen and they will “see” problems from God’s perspective that He wants to correct in order to avert danger or disaster. That is why prophets are essential in our local bodies for our protection. Prophets who function as watchman are often accused of being troublemakers when in reality they are troubleshooters in God’s kingdom. A troubleshooter is defined as... one who is an expert in discovering and eliminating the cause of trouble. Sometime times of trouble are from God Himself with the purpose of accomplishing His will in our lives and upon the earth. Therefore we need prophets to interpret present problems in light of God’s eternal purposes...

- *(1 Thess 5:6)* Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but *let us watch* and be sober. NKJV

In order find protection we must heed their warnings; it will save us from the destruction and judgments that God has said in His word must come...

- *(Isa 26:8-10)* Yes, in the way of Your judgments, O LORD, we have waited for You; The desire of our soul is for Your name And for the remembrance of You...With my soul I have desired You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; *For when Your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness... Let grace be shown to the wicked, Yet he will not learn righteousness* NKJV.

### Intercessory Prophets—a Priestly Role

One who stands in the office of a prophet can also function as an **intercessory prophet** who sees the sin and delusion that God’s people are living under. This prophet identifies with the sins of the people that have opened them up to experiencing God’s divine judgment in their lives. Listen to what the Prophet Isaiah said regarding this...

- *(Isa 59:12-16)* For our *transgressions* (he includes himself in this statement) are multiplied before You, And our *sins* testify against us; For our *transgressions* are with us, And as for our *iniquities*, we know them... In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood... Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And justice cannot enter... So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey... Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice... He saw that there was no man, *And wondered that there was no intercessor*...NKJV
The prophet who stands in the gap as an intercessor is willing to sacrifice their personal reputations, and even the love and respect of those they stand in the gap for. They are willing to suffer and sacrifice personal comfort and ease, go without food and sleep in order to identify with and share in the distress of those trapped in sin and slated for divine judgment by God. These sacrifices that God’s prophetic intercessors endure are representative of the divine judgment and suffering they take upon themselves, in order to build a spiritual wall of protection for those they intercede for. This priestly role of the prophet is hated by the demonic forces that bring forth insult, slander, and persecution, often through the mouths of the very ones prophetic intercessors are interceding for. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel is an example of an intercessory prophet. Intercessory prophets are compelled to intercede for God’s mercy as they stand in the gap for those in their territory or nation who need to be awakened by God to their sin …

- (Ezek 22:29-30) The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger… So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, (of protection) and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land .(territory-nation), that I should not destroy it; but I found no one NKJV (parenthesis mine)

The intercessory prophet is one whom God reveals the “gap” to. The word gap comes from the Hebrew root word parats (paw-rats’) which refers to an opening, a place that is broken, or broken down. This kind of a prophet is called to stand in these places. The word stand is the Hebrew word ‘amad (aw-mad’) and it means to wait, ordain, establish, repair, make firm, to delay and hold back, restrain, protect ones life, CWSD: says it denotes waiting on God to receive a message, and the causative form refers to… causing people to do something, to endure and become upright. Prophetic intercessors have two primary functions…

- #1. To Wait upon God concerning the “gap” which represents the problems in a nation, territory or individual that has caused a “breakdown” in the people’s relationship with God thus opening them up to divine judgment and destruction from Him. As these prophets intercede for the “gaps”, their intercession has the authority to restrain or hold back and even protect the lives of those they intercede for.

- #2. To Give prophetic messages from God …to those in sin—so “if” the message is received by those they have been interceding for—it will cause them to be repaired, and made firm so they can endure, become established, upright and blessed and not cursed. This priestly prophet is involved in a healing and deliverance type ministry that will repair (restore) and make firm (bring strength and healing) those who are oppressed and unhealed.

This intercessory prophet is depicted by the prophetess Anna in the New Testament…

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132 Strong’s #6555

(Luke 2:36-37) Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess... who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day NKJV.

The above text states that Anna “served” God. The word served is the Greek word latreuo (lat-ryoo'-o) CWSD: says it refers to a sacrificial divine service for God. It is interesting to note that God wanted us to know not only her name but her lineage. Anna’s name comes from the Hebrew word chanan (khaw-nan’) which means to pray, implore (to make an urgent request for help) and to appeal for pity, mercy and grace. It goes on to say that her father’s name (representing her source) was Phanuel which means face of God. We are also told that she was from the tribe of Asher, which means to lead, guide and relieve with reference to following a path of honesty, uprightness and blessing. Anna’s name and lineage give us wonderful insight into the office of the prophetic intercessor. It also confirms what was stated concerning “gap standing” as described by the prophet Ezekiel. Her name and lineage reveal that the intercessory prophet will...

- Be seekers of the face of God—this is the only source for the prophetic insight for their ministry.
- Have spiritually sensitive natures (they are a mercy motivated prophet) and will be compelled by God’s compassion to bring true relief to God’s people and intercede for God’s help, mercy and grace (all that this word implies) for those needing to be saved from sin and judgment.
- Have a strong sense of righteousness and integrity that will be used to lead and guide those they intercede for and give God’s counsel to.

The Bible tells us that Anna was married only seven years as a young woman before her husband died. At the time she is mentioned in this text she was eighty four years old, therefore she had devoted herself to God after the death of her husband by serving Him in the temple through prayer and fasting. Intercessory prophets must be submitted to a local body of believers, where they can be protected and supported in their ministry. Anna like all true prophetic intercessors, are willing to sacrifice their secular life so they can live in a place of spiritual communion with God. Personal unbroken communion with God is the life blood of their ministry. The text states that Anna was a prophetess, therefore she stood in the office of the prophet and spoke under God’s divine influence concerning those things she received through her times of intercessory prayer and fasting. God reveals much to intercessory prophets who spend time serving Him in prayer and fasting ...

(Amos 3:7) Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. NKJV

134 Strong’s #3000, ibid.
135 Strong’s #2603, ibid.
The minute Anna saw the baby Jesus God revealed His secret to her concerning who He was. He was the answer to her years of interceding for God’s for help for His sinful people. It is going to be crucial for God to have prophetic intercessors like Anna, in these coming days of His judgments upon the earth. There will be many who will be looking to be saved from the pain and misery of God’s judgments that have befallen them. The true intercessory prophet will lead them to redemption through repentance from sin by faith in the true gospel of Jesus Christ...

- (Luke 2:38) And coming in that instant she (Anna) gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem NKJV.

In their priestly function a true prophet is motivated to turn people to God and not create followers for their selves. True prophets are zealous for the glory of God because they see the ultimate purposes of God, and become the guardians of God’s word and ways. Like the priests of old prophets will spend most of their time waiting upon the Lord to receive the prophetic revelation needed for the defensive strategy against enemy invasion...

- (Hab 2:1) I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me... NKJV

Without prophets God’s people will remain focused upon the present and upon what is happening within their personal sphere of influence and specific culture. True prophets are counter culture in their perspective. Their prophetic words from God are intended to break God’s people out of their traditions and cultural bondage and lead them into God’s ways and eternal perspective. Prophets expose a false reality and they do this by sounding the alarm and bringing God’s warning to people...

- (Ezek 33:2-5) When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman (prophet)... when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people...then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head...He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. NKJV

Prophets like all those who stand in any office of ministry also need to be accountable to local bodies of believers for their own protection as well. If a prophet resists being subject to scrutiny by other brethren and chooses to remain isolated they run the risk of getting into deception and error. Correction is essential especially for those who stand in a foundational ministry office. Such was the case with Peter and Paul, when Peter a leading apostle was confronted by the “new kid” on the block, Paul...

- (Gal 2:11) But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him publicly, speaking strongly against what he was doing, for it was very wrong. NLT
False Apostles—Prophets—Teachers

True apostles—prophets—teachers will make known to the church “who” God really is and what His ways really are. It has been said that God is not as we think Him to be, more often than not we see God as we would like Him to be. That is why we focus on certain attributes of God and avoid or ignore others. The key to true knowledge is coming to know God in His fullness—as He really is. Apostles, prophets and teachers as ruling ministers are given the ability to communicate to the church the true knowledge of God. He is both kind and severe in His dealings with people…

- *(Rom 11:22)* Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe to those who disobeyed, but kind to you as you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. NLT

False apostles—prophets—teachers will only prophesy and teach that which makes people feel “comfortable”. They are more concerned with attracting followers for personal gain and building their reputations. God is exposing and bringing judgment upon these false prophets and ministers who are bringing great shame and harm to His church and His reputation. False ministers won’t tell people the truth for fear of not getting what they really want—which is our money…

- *(1 Tim 6:3, 5)* Some teach what is false and deny these things, but these are the sound, wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they are the foundation for a godly life…These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they don’t tell the truth. To them religion (ministry) is just a way to get rich. NLT

- *(Titus 1:11)* By their wrong teaching, they have already turned whole families away from the truth. Such teachers only want your money NLT.

- *(2 Peter 2:2-3)* Many will follow their evil teachings and shameful immorality. And because of them, Christ and his true way will be slandered…In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction is on the way NLT.

The Apostle Paul warned us that false apostles and prophets would be a problem…

- *(2 Cor 11:12-13)* But I will continue doing this to cut the ground out from under the feet of those who boast that their work is just like ours. These people are false apostles. They have fooled you by disguising themselves as apostles of Christ NLT.

- *(Rom 16:17-18)* And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people’s faith by teaching things that are contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them…Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people NLT.
(2 Cor 2:17) You see, we are not like those hucksters — and there are many of them — who preach just to make money. We preach God’s message with sincerity and with Christ’s authority. And we know that the God who sent us is watching us NLT.

Jesus also addressed this issue as found in the Gospels and in His letters given to the seven churches in the book of Revelation. This is what He said this to the church of Ephesus...

(Rev 2:2) "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars NLT.

(Matt 24:24-25) For false Christ’s (anointed ones) and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect... See, I have told you beforehand NKJV.

It would be wise for us to do what the church in Ephesus did and that is to closely examine the claims of those who say they are apostles and prophets. Because the offices of the apostle and prophet are called to lay the foundation for the entire church to build upon, Satan therefore works overtime to either counterfeit these ministries or strives to remove them from individual church bodies. We need to highly honor these gifts which are crucial to the foundation in our lives and for the corporate body of Christ...

(1 Thess 5:12-13) Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong... Think highly of them and give them your wholehearted love because of their work. And remember to live peaceably with each other NLT.

(Gal 6:6) Let him who receives instruction in the Word (of God) share all good things with his teacher (contributing to his support). AMP
The Office of the Evangelist

As mentioned previously all apostolic and prophetic authority and anointing come from Our “Chief Cornerstone” Jesus Christ. It is through the foundation of the government of God which is established by those called to be apostles and prophets that the other ministry equipping offices also function. This includes the office of the evangelist which is the Greek word euaggelistes (yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace’). The CWSD says: An evangelist, is a preacher of the gospel. He was often not located in any particular place but traveled as a missionary to preach the gospel and establish churches (Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5). Evangelists were Christians possessing a good testimony and who were filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom. The only one mentioned by name is Phillip. He had a powerful ministry that caused many to accept what he preached. He not only preached the gospel, but was able to confirm the word with many signs and wonders which were done through the power of the Holy Spirit…

(Acts 8:5-8) Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them…And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did…For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed… And there was great joy in that city. NKJV

It is evident that Philip was a powerful and renowned preacher among the church. His name and work are also mentioned in (Acts 21:7). He was called the evangelist because of his good work in preaching the gospel to the heathen.

In (Eph 4:11) the five equipping ministers which have been given by Christ as gifts to His Church, list the evangelists as being third (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers). The first three of these (apostles, prophets and evangelists) are seen in the New Testament as itinerant ministers, or those who traveled from place to place preaching wherever they found an opportunity, while pastors and teachers were attached to some congregation or location. Philip was a traveling evangelist-missionary.

In the New Testament those who acted as missionaries to the Gentiles and to those who never heard the gospel were called evangelists. An evangelist knew the gospel narrative thoroughly and was capable of explaining it, as Philip the evangelist did to the eunuch.

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136 Strong’s #2099

In (2 Tim 4:5) Timothy is charged to "do the work of an evangelist" in addition to his other duties as an apostolic minister at the church at Ephesus. Although he was ministering for a while as a pastor at the church of Ephesus, he was told by the Apostle Paul not to neglect the work of an evangelist, preaching the gospel to unbelievers. A local ministry should never in any way neglect evangelism.

All of the apostles in the New Testament church were evangelists, but not all evangelists were apostles such as Philip. Evangelists in their ministry office are subordinate to the apostles. Again in (Eph 4:11) the evangelists are mentioned only after the apostles. A distinction must be made between the office of an evangelist and the work of one. All true saints will be involved in evangelizing those who need to hear the message of the gospel. Personal evangelizing is more of a one on one type of witnessing. Not all saints who evangelize however will stand in the office of an evangelist. Evangelists are called to a “public preaching” ministry, whereby they go from one public gathering to another.

In the New Testament prophets preached and brought the word of the Lord to believers and evangelists preached and brought the word of God to unbelievers, while apostles addressed either. **An apostle is a prophet that will be an evangelist, pastor or teacher** but a prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher are not necessarily all apostles. Again, apostles govern the other ministry offices in the body.

**A ministry is identified by the work that is done by individual workers, and is dependent upon their personal gifts, which often overlap one another.** When apostles send forth other equipping ministers such as evangelists, they will carry with them and apostolic and prophetic authority to demonstrate many supernatural gifts, such as the Evangelist Phillip did. Just as apostles and prophets operate in signs and wonders, those given an apostolic and prophetic charge will do the same…

- **(Acts 8:5-8)** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them…And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and **seeing the miracles which he did**…For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsy, and that were lame, were healed…And there was great joy in that city. KJV

- **(2 Cor 8:18-19)** We (the apostles) are also sending another brother with Titus. He is highly praised **in all the churches** as **a preacher of the Good News** (an evangelist)…**He was appointed by the churches to accompany us**…NLT.

- **(Phil 4:3)** I ask you, my true teammate, to help these women, for they worked hard with me in **telling others the Good News** (doing the work of the evangelist). And they worked with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life. NLT
Please notice in the above text in (2 Cor 8:18-19) how the apostles sent out an un-named evangelist who received his apostolic commission from a “sending body” (other churches from his region). This as another example of how apostolic church government was operating through a city presbytery (council of elders). Therefore, one standing in the office of an evangelist is to be apostolically given a charge for their ministry office. This means they and their ministry will be under the oversight of apostolic-prophetic authority.

The Office of the Pastor

As mentioned, apostles, prophets and evangelists usually have *itinerate ministries*, whereby they travel from place to place and from church to church. The office of the pastor however is a “stationary” office. One who stands in the office of a pastor becomes attached to a local fellowship of believers. The Greek word for *pastor* as used in (Eph 4:11) is the Greek word 138 poimen (poy-mane’) and is defined as *one who watches over and provides for the welfare of a church (group of Christians), or the spiritual guide of a particular church*. In Hebrew the word *pastor* is 139 ra`ah (raw-aw’); meaning to tend a flock; i.e. pasture it; generally to rule; to associate with (as a friend). These definitions give the three main responsibilities of a pastor...

- **Rule by guiding** ... A guide is defined as… a. *One who shows the way by leading, directing, or advising*. b. *One who serves as a model for others, as in a course of conduct*. c. *A person employed to conduct others and give information about points of interest encountered*.140 Pastors are to lead, direct and advise those God has called them to serve according to God’s Holy Spirit and the word of God. A pastor must be an *elder* who will set the example of a godly life for the flock.

- **Feed and tend to** ... To *feed* the sheep as Jesus instructed Peter to do (Jn 21:16), means to make sure they are feeding upon the truth of God’s word and not something that is false or harmful. To *tend* is defined as… a. *take care of; watch over; look after*. b. *To manage the activities, transactions or business of*.141 These definitions give us the two kinds of pastors that are needed in a church. A preaching or teaching pastor and one who oversees the business and activities that are required in order to take care of the sheep. Such as meeting their physical needs.

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138 Strong’s #4166

139 Strong’s #7462

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141 Ibid.
o **Know as a friend** ... Whatever capacity pastors serve in, they must *know their sheep.* A pastor cannot guide or properly *take care of* or *watch over* those they serve unless they know them as a friend. There are far too many churches where the pastors have never even personally spent time with the people they are called to serve. Therefore they do not know their sheep.

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**Elders, Deacons and Bishops**

In the New Testament the terms *elders, deacons* and *bishops* are used when referring to leadership positions found in the local churches. It is necessary to understand how these terms apply in connection to the equipping ministry gifts mention in (Eph 4:11). The Greek word for *bishop* is 142 *epískopos* which means to *watchman over, to oversee, or to superintend.* Those who function in the duties of a *bishop* (overseers) of God’s people are *apostles, and pastors.*

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**Those who function in the role of a bishop are ruling elders who are ordained by God to rule over (i.e. oversee) God’s people.**

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o **(Heb 13:17)** Obey them that have the *rule over* you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. KJV

Apostles oversee the pastors they have ordained as overseers of local fellowships. These elder pastors, are set into their ministry positions by apostles — just as Timothy for instance, was set into his ministry by the Apostle Paul. Also Titus, whose duties describe those of being an apostle, was commissioned by Paul to ordain elders over new fellowships that Paul had started.

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o **(Titus 1:5-13)** For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should *set in order* the things that are lacking, and *appoint elders in every city* as I commanded you —

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The word for *elder* is 143 *presbúteros* and is defined as an *ambassador* (this is also a ruling term for prophets and apostles), and it also means *someone who is mature and experienced.* The two titles *elder and bishop* are used for the same official.

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*Bishops* and *elders* are never mentioned as two separate ministries, as opposed to *bishops* and *deacons,* which are *two different ministries* — as mentioned in *(Phil 1:1)... "To all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with ("sun" i.e. united with) bishops and deacons."* This verse makes reference to those saints who were united with those who were *functioning in leadership positions* of overseers or bishops and as deacons — who are elders.

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142 Strong’s #1985  
The following texts give the qualifications for the leadership positions of bishops, deacons and elders. It is often mistakenly taught by those who do not look to the Bible’s original Greek and Hebrew texts for greater translation clarity—that these offices can only be held by males and that females are disqualified from holding any leadership position in the body of Christ. However, the Greek text does not support this idea. In the following texts that deal with the qualifications for leadership, I have underlined in bold the English phrase if a man as used by the King James translators, which can be mistakenly understood to apply only to the male gender in the text—unless it is understood that the Greek text uses the “neuter pronoun” eítis144 which can also be translated as if any person, or if anybody, or if whosoever—rather than if a man. The phrase if a man is also an accurate translation if the word man is understood to refer to a person—male or female, such as when talking about “God and man”—meaning God and people” and not just “God and males.” In addition, any pronoun such as “he” that is not found in the Greek text but has been inserted by the translators is in gray. Words are often inserted to make the translation read smoother. However, the pronoun “he” should also be understood as neuter.

○ Qualifications of Bishops ...(1 Tim 3:1-7) This is a faithful saying: If a man (if any person) desires the position of a bishop, (he) desires a good work…A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife,145 temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach…not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous…one who rules his own house well, having (his) children in submission with all reverence…for if a man does not know how to rule (his) own house, how will (he) take care of the church of God?…not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride (he) fall into the same condemnation as the devil…Moreover (he) must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest (he) fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. NKJV

○ Qualifications of Deacons ...(1 Tim 3:8-13) Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money…holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience… But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless…Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well… For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. NKJV

The bishops described by the Apostle Paul in (1 Tim 3:2) above, are called the elders who labor in the word and doctrine as mentioned in (1 Tim 5:17) below ...

○ (1 Tim 5:17) Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine KJV.

144 Strong’s #1536

145 This phrase literally reads “husband: one wife” relaying the idea of “one wife per husband”—meaning anyone in this leadership office should only be involved in a marriage where there is only one wife—a monogamous marriage—not a polygamous (more than one wife) marriage—which many of the pagan cultures embrace.
The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed... **Shepherd the flock of God** which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly...nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock...and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away NKJV.

**Acts 20:17, 28** But when we landed at Miletus, he sent a message to the elders of the church at Ephesus, asking them to come down to meet him...When he arrived he declared...Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, (bishops—epískopos) to shepherd the church of God (pastors) which He purchased with His own blood NKJV.

The elders of (1 Peter 5:2) in the above text had the same **pastoral functions** as the elders mentioned above in (Acts 20:17, 28), where they are called overseers (bishops—epískopos). Similarly, in (Titus 1:5) in the text below, the elders are used synonymously with reference to the bishops—who were to be engaged in the **pastoral duty of teaching** (v. 9). It is evident that these people are called **bishops** and **elders**. As we have already pointed out, an elder denotes the dignity of **character** required for their ministry office, and a **bishop** (epískopos or overseer) denotes the **duties** and authority of the ministry office. It is important to note that the **apostolic authority imparted to these elder bishops** by the Apostle Paul, gave them the authority to confront false prophets and false doctrines that were affecting the believers in these cities...

**Titus 1:5-13** For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders in every city** as I commanded you — if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money...but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled...holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, **that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict**...For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision...**whose mouths must be stopped**, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain...One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ...This testimony is true. **Therefore rebuke them sharply**, that they may be sound in the faith...NKJV.

In the above text Titus had been given an **apostolic charge** by the Apostle Paul, which gave him the authority to **appoint** (KJV—“ordain”) elders “in every city”. These elders would make up the **presbytery** (council of elders) in their region. Paul describes the **character qualifications** of an **elder** (or a mature saint who is spiritually experienced in their ministry).
These elders functioned as *bishops* and were given *apostolic authority* to watch over and rule over the churches in their territory. This is the Biblical pattern for governing individual assemblies (churches). These assemblies met in homes and were to be attended by those of like mind and like faith. They did not open their doors to anyone who wanted to attend, because the purpose for their assembling together was to exhort (warn and encourage) each other as believers in Jesus Christ.

**Heb 10:25**

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

KJV

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**The Duties of Elder—Bishops**

In (Acts 20:28), referring to the elders of verse seventeen and to the bishops of verse twenty-eight, Paul says, "*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock.*" This as already mentioned indicates a mutual superintendence among the elders and an overseeing of the entire flock. The word here is ¹⁴⁶ *poimnion* (be a pastor to) the entire group of believers.

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¹⁴⁶ Strong’s #4168
What follows in this verse indicates the supremacy of the call by the Holy Spirit to the office of “pastor who was a bishop” (vs. 28) … "over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Above everything, it was the Holy Spirit, not the church, placing these men into the office of a Pastor. Their duty was to oversee the general care of the flock.

Pastoral care includes visiting the sick (James 5:14) and offering hospitality and caring for the poor (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8). While elders that are bishops in the office of a pastor must be apt to teach, not all elders will do this as their primary ministry. There seems to be a distinction made in favor of those elders who are bishops (overseers) in the office of a pastor who labor in the word and teaching as expressed in… (1 Tim 5:17) "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine." The phrase "that rule well" is the Greek word proestœ¡tes which means to stand before.

These elders have been chosen for this position of a bishop (ruling elder), because the Holy Spirit has called them to stand before and oversee others because of their teaching gift. The Greek text indicates that these are not inexperienced elders, but those who have been in good standing for some time and have proven and distinguished themselves by their personal example and ministry… (1 Tim 3:10)… But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons being found blameless. Such elders who have proven themselves and are teachers deserving double honor.


148 Strong’s #4291
That there were elders other than those involved in teaching the word, is evidenced by the word 149málista which is interpreted as especially in (1 Tim 5:17). This tells us that there were other elders who excelled in other ministries other than the ministry of teaching or preaching the word. There were elders who tended to or were pastors over the general business of the local fellowship such as the finances, feeding the poor, or visiting the sick. They were pastoral elders but they were not ruling elders who made spiritual decisions as did the elder pastors who were bishops. In (Eph 4:11), we find that the Lord Jesus gave the gifts of pastor—teachers which gifts are united in one person. Linguists have debated the precise relationship between teachers and pastors in this text. There is a growing consensus that pastors are a sub-group within the larger body of teachers. This seems to be true because of what is stated in (1 Cor 12:28). The ruling elders named in this verse are first apostles—second prophets and third teachers (the pastor-teacher). The Greek text in (Eph 4:11) does not use the word AND to separate pastors and teachers as it does with the first three gift offices of apostles—prophets—evangelists. The word AND was inserted by the English translators between the words “pastors” and “teachers”. Bishops then, in the equiping office of the pastor are ruling elders called by God to teach and preach and to make sure that all-around care was given for the flock. In (1 Tim 3:5), which is talking about ruling elders who were bishops we read, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" In order for a bishop, in the office of a pastor, to insure those he serves are being taken care of, other ministry gifts must function in the church to help that pastor with this task.

Elder Deacons

The Apostle Paul mentioned two gifts which are necessary in a local church if there is to be proper care of the church. The first is 150kubernesis (koo-ber'-nay-sis) the Greek word for governments, which means: to steer; pilot, having directorship (in the church), it also represented the ruling elders appointed to examine those professing faith in Christ. Those with a ruling anointing (Rom 12:6-8) such as bishops, would operate in the gift of governments within the church. The second gift mentioned by Paul is 151antilepsis (an-til'-ape-sis) which is translated helps…

- (1 Cor 12:28) And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues KJV.

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149 Strong's #3122


151 Strong's #484
The Greek word for helps is also translated deacon. Another word for deacon is the Greek word\textsuperscript{152} diakonos (dee-ak’-on-os) which means to be a helper, minister or servant. In this sense deacons were helping or serving the bishops or ruling elders as pastors. They did not, however, possess any ruling anointing or authority as did the bishop elders. The care of the churches fell upon the deacons as the helpers of the ruling bishop elders—who held distinct offices...(first Apostles—second prophets—thirdly pastor/teachers). The gift ministry of helps (1 Cor 12:28) then refers to the functions of local elders that are deacons appointed to domestic service as well as duties toward the poor and sick in the church …

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{(Acts 6:1-4)} But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. Those who spoke Greek complained against those who spoke Hebrew, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food...So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. \textit{"We apostles} (ruling elders) \textbf{should spend our time preaching and teaching the word of God, not administering a food program," they said..."Now look around among yourselves, brothers, and select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this business...Then we can spend our time in prayer and preaching and teaching the word."}...seven were presented to \textbf{the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them} NLT.
  
  \item \textit{(Rom 16:1-2)} Our sister Phoebe, a \textbf{deacon in the church} in Cenchrea, will be coming to see you soon...Receive her in the Lord, as one who is worthy of high honor. Help her in every way you can, for she has helped many in their needs, including me NLT.
\end{itemize}

Ruling elders need the ministry of the elder deacons to fill the other serving or ministry functions which meet the variety of needs of the flock. Then the ruling elders can do the most important job of preaching, teaching and admonishing God’s people. Paul asks that those who labor and rule in the Lord must be loved especially for their works sake...

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{(1 Thess 5:12-13)} And we urge you, brethren, to know those who labor among you, and are \textbf{over you in the Lord and admonish you}...and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake... KJV.
\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{152} Strong’s # 1249
The Office of the Teacher

The word teacher is the Greek word 153 didasko (did-as’-ko) The CWSD says this… to admonish or to set the mind right. In this connection it is used in a pastoral and moral connection – when one teaches it is the shaping of the will of the one taught by the communication of knowledge. It is an awesome responsibility to know that when one stands before God’s people in the office of a teacher that they have been given a gift that can shape the mind and the will of those who hear and receive their instruction...

- (Prov 9:9) Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning KJV.

Those who stand in the office of a teacher are ruling elders that are given the mandate to lead the church by teaching the ways of God. Is it no wonder that Satan tries so hard to raise up false teachers to lead the church away from the paths of righteousness. Teachers are given by God as gifts to the church to not only teach the word of God, but set the minds of God’s people right when they believe what is wrong...

- (Heb 13:7, 17) Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation…Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you KJV.

The phrase "them that have the rule over you" is the Greek word \( \text{hegeomai} \) (hayg-eh'-om-ahee) which means to lead, or be leaders. Thus the teaching elders or bishops must have the \text{motivational gift of ruling} \( \text{Rom 12:8} \). In \( \text{Acts 15:6} \), we find that the Apostles/prophets (the non-local elders) and the local elders (pastors/teachers) gathered together to discuss the \text{teaching} of those who taught the heresy of the Pharisees, demanding that believers be circumcised. When the Apostle Paul and others were received in Jerusalem, it was not only by James but also by all the local elders \( \text{Acts 21:18} \). These rulers knew it was their responsibility to see that right teaching was safeguarded because what the teachers taught would \text{set the direction of the church}; therefore teachers become the \text{pilots} who keep the church on a right course. A distinct function of \text{ruling teaching elders} is that they are "apt to teach" or capable of teaching \( \text{1 Tim 3:2} \) which means they will be given the \text{motivational gift of teaching} \( \text{see pg. 38 in Lesson #2} \). This means that teachers will have the anointing to explain and accurately communicate the mind and heart of God by imparting understandable, practical information and insightful revelation from God’s word. As true teachers "they labor in the word and doctrine" \( \text{1 Tim 5:17} \), because they are motivated to seek out the “meat” or deeper meaning of God’s word. Therefore those who stand in the office of a (foundational—apostolic/prophetic) teacher will impart God revealed knowledge from His word. Many “religious” teachers in Christendom simply impart facts and philosophical or theological opinions regarding the Scriptures...

- \( \text{1 Tim 1:5-7} \) The purpose of my instruction is that all the Christians there would be filled with love that comes from a \text{pure heart, a clear conscience, and sincere} (true) \text{faith}… \text{But some teachers have missed this whole point}. They have turned away from these things and spend their time arguing and talking foolishness… \text{They want to be known as teachers}… but they don’t know what they are talking about, even though they seem so confident NLT.

On the other hand \text{foundational teachers} who operate under the prophetic/apostolic anointing will operate in divine wisdom and knowledge imparted to them from the Holy Spirit. There will be life \text{to their teaching} that will not exist in the teaching of those that lack this dimension of the God’s Holy Spirit. In \( \text{Titus 1:9} \) \text{ruling elders who are teachers} are responsible for teaching \text{sound doctrine}, to \text{exhort} and to \text{convince} the gainsayers…

- \( \text{Titus 1:9} \) Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by \text{sound doctrine} both to \text{exhort} and \text{to convince} the gainsayers KJV.

The word \text{doctrine} is the Greek word \( \text{didaskalia} \) (did-as-kal-ee'-ah) which refers to both the \text{act and the content of Christian instruction}. It also stresses the \text{authority of the teacher}. This authority comes by being commissioned to the “office” of a teacher by apostolic/prophetic ordination. Therefore the office of a teacher can be filled by any of the \text{ruling elders} (apostles—prophets—pastors). The Apostle Paul said this of himself...

\[ \text{154 Strong's #2233} \]

The content of what is taught by the teacher must be sound which is the Greek word 157 **hugiaino** (hoog-ee-ah'-ee-no) which means to be pure and uncorrupted. There can be no compromise, mixture or error. Teachers are the mind molders of God’s people and will therefore be held to a higher standard of accountability by God when they stand before Him in judgment regarding their ministry...

**o (James 3:1)** Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged by God with greater strictness NLT.

The teacher who is commissioned by God will operate in two aspects relegated to the office of the teacher. As teachers in this office they will...

**o #1. Exhort** ...Teachers will operate in the motivational gift of exhortation. 158 This means those given the motivational gift of exhortation will be motivated to find practical steps to solve problems in order help encourage others. It is very important for them to help others find peace and satisfaction when they sense disturbance, irritation, lack of security or safety in the lives of others. They delight in seeing others make progress in their emotional, physical and spiritual lives. Those with the exhortation anointing make wonderful counselors and advisors, because they have learned to walk in peace so they can impart that peace to others in crisis and to those in conflict. They are very strong, loving and positive people who desire to produce abundant living through growth and maturity in others. They will exhibit the FOUR Characteristics of the Exhortation Anointing (mentioned in Lesson #2).

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156 AMLT (denotes a more literal translation of this verse)

157 Strong’s #5198 ibid.

158 See Gift #4 in Lesson #2 on page 42.
#2. Convince ... Teachers must have apostolic/prophetic authority and anointing to operate in this aspect of their office. The word “convince” in (Tit 1:9) is the Greek word 159_\textit{elegcho} (el-eng'-kho); and is defined as: to confute, admonish, convict, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove. The CWSD says it means to prove one in the wrong and thus to shame him; and by implication it is spoken of hidden things that are detected, demonstrated, made manifest. These are strong words and in order to do the above requires apostolic/prophetic anointing and authority. To operate in this kind “teaching” one must be healed and mature enough to face the rejection and opposition that their ministry will receive. Teaching that brings correction and refutes the teachings of popular false teachers will be targeted by Satan in order to hinder the true teaching ministry. This kind of strong teaching is confrontational because it condemns “gainsayers” — which is the Greek word 160_\textit{antilego} (an-til'-eg-o) which means those who oppose, disobey, revile, and contradict i.e the truth that is being laid out before them. Therefore those who stand in the office of a teacher will carry the needed authority and backing from God to expose and confront through anointed teaching from His word, those who are operating in error and rebellion to the truth. It is interesting to note that the phrase cruel messenger as used in the verse below can also be interpreted brave teacher. Teaching the truth when it is not popular or welcomed takes great courage that comes from the apostolic “sending” authority given to the teacher...

- (Prov 17:11) An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a \textit{cruel messenger} (brave teacher) \textit{will be sent} against him NKJV.

If believers, who are not commissioned by God to stand in the ruling office of a teacher, try to take upon themselves the task of confronting and correcting other leaders — who are teaching error or who are in rebellion to the word of God; these believers may find their attempts to confront and bring correction ineffective because they do not have the delegated authority to correct or confront elders, no matter how sincere they believe their motives may be for trying to confront or expose error. This task is ONLY for ruling elders whom God has commissioned for His equipping ministry offices, and who have been ordained or set in their office by apostolic/prophetic authority. Such was the case when Paul confronted the Apostle Peter (Gal 2:11). When this occurred Paul had been in his ministry for at least fourteen years (Gal 2:1) and was accepted as an apostle to the gentiles by that time. This means he possessed the foundational ministry authority to confront Peter. Timothy was also instructed by the Apostle Paul as to what he was to teach believers regarding the rebuking of elders...

- (1 Tim 5:1) \textit{Rebuke not an elder}, but entreat him as a father...KJV

\footnotesize{159 Strong's #1651 ibid. \\
160 Strong's #483 ibid.}
Conclusion

By studying the purpose and function for all of the different categories of spiritual gifts, it becomes clear how necessary these gifts are for bringing the body of Christ to perfection so God’s end time purposes can be accomplished through His church. Spiritual gifts are more than something to be put on display for our mere personal gratification or to impress others with our spirituality. It is vital that the body of Christ take seriously the operation of His gifts within our churches, otherwise we will not be able stand strong and be found blameless before the Lord when we face Him in judgment in the end…

- (*1 Cor 1:4-8*) I can never stop thanking God for all the generous gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus… He has enriched your church with the gifts of eloquent speaking and every kind of knowledge… This shows that what I told you about Christ is true… **Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ**… He will keep you strong right up to the end, and he will **keep you free from all blame on the great day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns** NLT.

Those who reach spiritual maturity are those who have exercised their spiritual senses through the use of spiritual gifts. It is only through the use of these gifts that God’s people will not fall into sin and deception in these end times…

- (*Heb 5:14*) But strong meat belong to them that are of full age, (mature perfected — saints) even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. KJV

May you seek God concerning your spiritual gifts and ministry within the body of Christ, and become fully equipped and prepared for what lies ahead in the days in which we now live. There is a special sense of urgency and immediacy from the Holy Spirit in these times because too many of God’s people are not prepared for the horrible times of trouble and deception that we are now in. More than ever before God is looking for those few faithful ones that He can invest His authority in to give warning to those who have fallen asleep because their complacent and carnal ways…

- (*Eph 5:11-16*) Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, rebuke and expose them….But when the light shines on them, it becomes clear how evil these things are…**And where your light shines**, (because you are using your gifts) it will expose their evil deeds. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, (from complacency and carnality) and Christ will give you light." …So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise…**Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days** NLT (parenthesis mine).
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