

# Vocational Gifts from the Son

The Sons' Diakonia (Ministry) Giftings  
To Facilitate and Equip the Body of Christ  
(Resource: *The Bible Handbook* by J.W. Hayford)

The Spiritual Gifts from Christ (diakonia) are listed in Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:28. These are Vocational giftings. They are for those Christ calls to prepare, build up, equip His Body, the Church. Unlike the Gifts from the Father (energemata) and from the Holy Spirit (charismata), these gifts are for those called into a vocation of ministry.

Yes, that does mean they are not for everyone. It is a personal calling to fulfill. We have an example in Timothy. 1 Timothy 4:13-14 "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you."

Ephesians 4:11-13 (This listing is sometimes referred to as the Five-fold ministry giftings.)

*"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers. To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

## **Apostle: Delegate, Ambassador, Commissioner, Messenger, He that is sent**

- In apostolic days referred to a select group chosen to carry out directly the ministry of Christ; included the assigned task given to a few to complete the sacred canon of the Holy Scriptures.
- Implies the exercise of a distinct representative role of broader leadership given by Christ.
- Functions as a messenger or spokesman of God.
- In contemporary times refers to those who have the spirit of apostleship in remarkably extending the work of the church, opening fields to the gospel, and overseeing larger sections of the body of Jesus Christ.

## **Prophet: Foreteller, Inspired speaker**

- A spiritually mature spokesman/proclaimer with a special, divinely focused message to the church or the world that has been received from the Lord God. Speaking the Word of God. (Forth-telling)
- A person uniquely gifted at times with insight into future events. (Foretelling)

## **Evangelist: A preacher of the gospel**

- Refers primarily to a special gift of preaching or witnessing in a way that brings unbelievers into the experience of salvation.
- Functionally, the gift of evangelist operates for the establishment of new works, while pastors and teachers follow up to organize and sustain.
- Essentially, the gift of evangelist operates to establish converts and to gather them spiritually and literally into the body of Christ. (They have special ability to diagnose a sinner's condition, probe the conscience, answer objections, encourage decisions for Christ, and help the convert find assurance through the word.)

## **Pastor: Shepherd**

- The word "pastor" comes from a root meaning "to protect," from which we get the word "shepherd."
- Implies the function of a shepherd/leader to nurture, teach, and care for the spiritual needs of the body. (Theirs is a ministry of wise counsel, correction, encouragement, and consolation. )

## **Teacher: Instructor, Doctor, Master**

- In classical Greek, the root meaning of *didasko* suggested the idea of causing someone to accept something. It can be translated "to teach, inform, instruct, demonstrate or prescribe."
- It has as its aim that of systematically communicating knowledge and skill so as to develop people.
- Teachers give themselves to facts and systematic instruction. In the New Testament, the focus of teaching is how to live out God's will. (Teachers are those who are divinely empowered to explain what the Bible says, interpret what it means, and apply it to the hearts and consciences of the saints.)

## 1 Corinthians 12:27-29

*“Now you are the body (bodily, slave...used in a very wide application) of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has **appointed (set some in)** first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, **then** workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.”*

Notice the vocational giftings of apostle, prophet, teacher are numbered in the beginning of this verse (first, second, third) followed by the adverb THEN which means “for the rest”. It appears there is a break in the list of vocational giftings. Followed by a list of gifts sent to the church/body for its operation. The belief is this is a partial listing.

Workers of Miracles: Miraculous power, ability, abundance, power, strength

Healing: A cure, healing

Helps: Relief, help, assist

Administration: Directorship, government

Speaking in tongues: The tongue, implies language unnaturally acquired