

Ascension Gift Ministries

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**“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high,
He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men...
And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;
And some, evangelists; and some, pastors and
Teachers;” ■ Ephesians 4:8, 11**

This morning the Spirit of the Lord came upon me as I was reading the Scriptures in Ephesians 4 and I began to speak in a Hebrew tongue the following: “My people have rejected their Messiah” over and over again. I felt the heart of the Lord breaking for His church and so many that have rejected Him in favor of “another Jesus, another spirit and another gospel.” One of the areas where most churches have rejected their Messiah is Five-fold or Ascension Gift Ministries. These ministries are an extension of Jesus Christ to His Body and when they are rejected Jesus is

rejected. The Spirit then showed me that the same was true today as in Moses' day—many have rejected God's chosen leadership and governmental structure in favor of those false five-fold ministers that have promised them their own "golden calves."

Then the Spirit of the Lord began to give fresh revelation on Ephesians chapters 4-6 and the Ascension Gifts or Five-fold ministries. He gave me 9 (the number of the Holy Spirit) things that He commissioned Five-fold ministries to accomplish in the Church, the Body of Christ. Then the Spirit showed me that the remainder of Ephesians is for those saints that He has sent His true Five-fold ministers to, i.e., what their responsibilities are as a result of receiving this ministry. This article will discuss the first portion—what Ascension Gift Ministries are supposed to accomplish and why Jesus gave them to the Church. A subsequent article will deal with the responsibilities of those saints who receive true Five-fold ministry from the true apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors and evangelists. If you'd like to know more (and you should) then be sure to read our two books—*The High Calling of God* and *The Prophetic Voice* as these two books discuss the five offices in detail.

I received a personal prophecy back in 1990 regarding my being "a voice crying in the wilderness" and this has certainly been the case where our ministry is concerned

because the main areas our ministry touches are deliverance, spiritual warfare and the establishment of the true Church first pictured in the Book of Acts. In all of these areas we feel we've been "crying in the wilderness" because it doesn't seem that people are listening.

Yes, I believe there are *more* people today who know something about Five-fold ministry than there were in 1990 yet the number of churches that *practice* God's government and the establishment of these Ascension Gift Ministries doesn't seem to have increased. In fact, on a percentage basis I would say there are less because there are so many more churches (not that they are all genuine churches) today than there were back then; however, there is also less anointing it seems on those churches that are in existence. And a lack of anointing is a big red flag that those churches are doing something drastically wrong!

It is rare today to be in a Pentecostal church where the gifts of the Spirit are in manifestation every service and back in the '70s and '80s this was not the case. And unless we follow the pattern established by the Spirit of the Lord in the early Church we will never see the anointing rise to the level seen in the first century churches. As I said in *The Prophetic Voice* God works by certain principles and just because we don't understand them doesn't mean He waits for us to get up to speed before He moves. That is the

history of Israel and indeed the Church—when the Cloud moves there are always many who are left behind worshipping their golden calves or the previous move of God.

And as spiritual Israel the Church must use spiritual warfare to take the Promised Land yet we find few churches today even interested in spiritual warfare much less know how to engage the enemy. Well, the day is now here when churches must learn and engage in spiritual warfare every day or they will cease to exist because the power of the devil is becoming stronger. In 1980 the Holy Spirit told me: “Son, in the last days the power of the devil will become so strong that only those Christians who are strong in the Word and prayer will survive.”

Many of you reading this are Five-fold ministers and many others have a calling in this area so it’s quite important that you understand it. In *The High Calling* for example we point out when discussing the office of Evangelist that if churches and ministries understood and practiced Five-fold ministry then they wouldn’t need to go to church growth seminars. I don’t know about your Bible but I don’t find any Scriptures that support having a church growth seminar. No, if you understand and follow God’s government and establish Five-fold ministries in your churches then they will automatically grow. We see it in the Book of Acts. The early church not only had evangelists such as Philip who was originally one

of the first Seven (deacons) but they also evangelized the cities. The job of the evangelist in the churches, however, is just like the other four offices in general—to “train the saints for the work of the ministry.” Now, because their anointing is to win the lost their job in training the saints is in the area of soul winning. Once they’re (the lost) in the Church then the other four offices are going to teach, train, shepherd and care for their souls to bring them on to maturity. But is that what we’ve come to expect from the evangelist in churches?

With an MBA in business I know a lot about business and business models, how to position your company for success, and strategic business planning along with all other aspects of business but if your business model is wrong then you won’t be successful. Similarly, if your ministry model is wrong it doesn’t matter what you do or how much good you do you will not be following the Holy Spirit and are, in fact, in rebellion to Him and the way the Lord Jesus established the Church. And if you’re in such a church then there are consequences to being in rebellion.

Now because it’s Jesus who *gave* these five offices to the Church then who are we to just ignore this and not recognize God’s means of government for His Church of apostolic rule and Five-fold ministry? Even the Apostle Paul recognized this early in his ministry when he first went to Jerusalem and met the men he called “pillars of the church.”

They were James, Peter and John all of whom were apostles. And Paul even submitted his ministry to them. Is Ephesians 4 no longer applicable to the Church or are we in rebellion when we ignore it? I submit it's the latter. And without the establishment of this principle of God's government we will continue to have so many saints continue to be "children who are tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine."

Now I want to take a look at the nine aspects or purposes why Jesus gave these five Ascension Gifts Ministries and what they are supposed to accomplish in the Church, i.e., the full corporate Body of Christ without regard to denomination or affiliation.

1. For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry. If you're not equipped then you cannot accomplish ministry. No army sends their troops onto the battle field without first equipping them with weapons, knowledge and basic training regarding their enemy and warfare among other things like the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

2. For the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ. Although the Lord can use any of the five, what main office(s) might you expect God to use for this?

3. To bring “unity of the faith.” Many churches and ministries have talked about unity for years and have even sought to bring it about through a forced or false unity when if they would simply follow the Lord Jesus’ model there would be a unity of the faith. According to this Scripture, there will never be true unity without fully functioning Five-fold ministries in each church.

4. To bring “the knowledge of the Son of God.”

5. To mature the saints so that each is “a perfect man”; i.e., they look just like Jesus and they act just like Jesus. As I wrote in *The High Calling of God*, the Holy Spirit told me in 1997, “The world is waiting for a true demonstration of the gospel.” This sin-sick, crying, dying world doesn’t need to hear about Jesus—most have already heard. They want to *see* Jesus. Remember, it’s “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).

6. To work with the Holy Spirit—listen to and follow Him—so that each Five-fold minister is assisting the Holy Spirit in bringing each of the saints “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Again, this relates to maturity and a mandate to mature all Christians so that they are not babies or carnal Christians.

7. To spiritually enable each saint through maturity not to “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.” There are so many gullible, foolish Christians who invest God’s money in “christian” television or false ministries who will have no reward but rather a rebuke when they get to Heaven. Why is it that all of these T.V. networks have become the same in that they have the same false prophets on each one who lie and manipulate the people into “sowing a seed” for your 58 miracles of the Bible or other nonsense. So many “ministries” today are nothing more than fundraisers to support their extravagant lifestyles. And many of these Pentecostals—because there are many more of Pentecostal persuasion than denominational—will not be going to Heaven but will hear the words of Jesus, “I never knew you.” Frankly, the catholic and Seven Day Adventist channels have more integrity than any of the Pentecostal ones.

8. The picture/essence of the completed work of Five-fold: To bring the saints to the place where they are mature and look like Jesus—they are the main vessels the Holy Spirit uses to bring this to pass. He also uses other tools, of course, such as the Word and other Christians who disciple and train the saints. When we are brought to the place that we look and act like Jesus we are able to “speak the truth in love” and have grown “up in all things into Him who is the

head—Christ.” The main reason the Lord had Eve and I write *The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit* was for this purpose and I’d suggest you read it through at least three times if you’ve not done so. You see, you must develop both the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit or you cannot possibly *look* like Jesus.

9. “Every joint” or part of the Body is “working by which every part does its share”—that’s ministry isn’t it? The old Baptist model I learned where the pastor, evangelist and deacons did everything was (is) wrong. Friends, Christianity is not a spectator sport! As I wrote in the second edition of *Mysterious Secrets*, “Have you ever seen an army where there were people who didn’t do anything? The general comes for inspection and asks, ‘Major what does that enlisted man do?’ The major replies, ‘Oh, he doesn’t do anything.’ What do you think would happen to such an army in real combat?”

The Lord began to show me in 1989 that this is the reason the Body is weak and it’s discussed in 1 Corinthians 12. When “every joint” does their part and operates in their gifts then this “causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (Eph. 4:16)

I want to encourage you today to spend some quality time meditating on Ephesians 4 (for this teaching) and let the

Holy Spirit give you some revelation. Then please move on to chapters 5 and 6 for the next teaching on the responsibilities of the saints (4:17-6:18). The better you understand Ascension Gift Ministries the better the Holy Spirit can use you as a “change agent” in the Body of Christ to bring back the original model of the Church of Acts and we will see the Glory of God return upon the Church in the measure seen back then. Praise the Lord—what a glorious day that will be!

