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Special Gifts

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Special Gifts

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ^{NIV} **Ephesians 4:11**

Your SHAPE

poiema, "special or created works"
– we are made on purpose

- "For we are God's **masterpiece**. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." **Eph 2:10**

Categories and Reasons for the Gifts

Special Gifts

Apostles
Prophets
Evangelists
Pastors
Teachers



To Equip the church for service

To Explain the Truth of God's Word

Speaking Gifts:

Prophecy
Teaching
Exhortation
Word of Wisdom
and Knowledge

Gifts of Service:

Service, Helps
Leadership,
administration
Giving, Mercy
Discerning of
spirits, Faith
Hospitality



To Facilitate the Work of God

To Authenticate the Revelation of God

Sign Gifts:

Tongues,
Interpretation of
Tongues, Miracles,
Healing

4 View Points about Valid Gifts

1. All the gifts are valid today
2. All the gifts are valid except the sign gifts (healings, miracles, tongues and interpretations)
3. Today only those gifts that meet practical needs that the Bible, in hands of mature believers, cannot bring about. Some gifts terminated with the completion of the Bible were: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Prophecy, Discernment of Spirits, Faith, Apostleship and the Sign Gifts.
4. Today only the gifts of Romans 12 are valid: the problem here is the appearance of "prophecy" in the list

Five Special Functions

Gift	Definition	Illustration
Apostle	Those specially chosen by Jesus in order to found the Church in the world.	Paul Acts 13:1-4;14:4
Prophet	Those who receive the revelation of the infallible Word of God and proclaim it and/or wrote it under inspiration	Agabus Acts 11:27:30; 21:10-14
Evangelist	Those who teach - exhort the gospel with clearly and effectively to unbelievers	Philip, Acts 6:5; 8:4-8, 26-40
Pastor	Those who lead and are responsible for others in their Christian life	Elders in
Teacher	Those who can explain and apply the Word of God already revealed	Ephesus Acts 20:17-35

Concepts of the Special Gifts

- Describes a person as a “gift” to the churches and as someone “gifted” (Eph. 4:8, 11), *“It was he who gave some to be...”*
- Are designated to equip or train others and to develop the churches. “for the equipping...”
- Are responsible for the TRAINING of others how to minister with their gifts: “...for the work of the ministry” (4:12)
- Also are responsible for “building [or edifying] up the Body of Christ” (4:12)
- Can use their gifts in various churches
- Should desire the ministry, not the office, title or recognition

Apostol

- Requirement for the office**
1. Personal contact with Jesus and witness of the physical resurrection (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor 9:1-2)
 2. Chosen directly by Jesus (Lk 6:13; Rom 1:1)
 3. When Jesus choose an apostle, also He gave the capacity (gift) to be able to do it (2 Cor 12:12)

- Number of Apostles**
1. The judgment of "false apostles" indicate that others pretended to be apostles (2 Cor 11:13)
 2. The "12" (Lk 6:14-16) were a distinct group (1Co 15:5). Acts 1:26 the "11", then Acts 2:14 refers to 12 (Peter + 11), then "12" in Acts 6:2
 3. Twice included non-apostles but always closely associated with Paul (1 Cor 9:5-6, "apostles" refers to "Paul and Barnabas"; or Acts 14:14, "apostles Barnabas and Paul").

Apostoles²

Reasons for their absence

1. Had to **personally accompany Jesus** in His earthly ministry (Acts 1:21)
2. Few **witnesses of the resurrection** remained after 100 AD (Acts 1:22)
2. The authority to **speak and write with the authority of the Lord**, was not given except to the original apostles (Jn 14:26)
3. The possessor of this gift also had the **ability to show special signs**: healings (Acts 5:12-16), miracles (Acts 3:8-11), tongues (Acts 2:4; 1 Co 14:18). Miracles were the proofs of their apostleship (2 Co 12:12, "signs of an apostle").
4. They had a special function of **laying the foundation** of the church (Eph 2:20)—which is not being added to, but is **built upon** today!

Prophet ¹

- ❑ **Grammatical meaning:** (28 x in the NT), “to one who speaks for a God and interprets His will”
- ❑ **Definition:** The capacity to communicate to men the divine truth, having received their message by divine revelation (visions, dreams, voices, or audible communication directly with God, etc.) and sometimes included future events.

Prophet²

▪ Characteristics:

- ❑ A prophet speaks by direct commandment (i.e. revelation) from God
- ❑ The test of a prophet is his capacity to predict the future without failure – which is distinct from exhortation and teaching
- ❑ They interpreted the will of God in specific situations by divine revelation

▪ Dangers

- ❑ Pretend to have the authority of a prophet
- ❑ Presume that the impulses or impressions that are perceived are revelations from God

Prophet³

- **Ideas** about the gift:
 - ✓ The prophet receives direct revelations from God
 - ✓ Could be more than one in a local church
 - ✓ Is the gift of highest priority, tied to the gift of apostleship
 - ✓ Was given only to the Early Church during the Foundation time (Eph 2:20)
 - ✓ Attempts to define the gift in contemporary terms has no basis or example in the Bible

Apostles and prophets are the "foundation" of the Church



No more could
the Corner Stone
be continued
than the
revelations of
the Apostles and
Prophets!

Apostles and prophets put the foundation
or basics of the church with their examples,
teachings and revelations

Jesus Christ
Chief Corner
Stone

False Prophets

- ❑ Will rise up in the future (Mat 24:11, 24; 13:22)
- ❑ Some of them will be famous in the Tribulation period (Rev 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20)
- ❑ Existed in NT times (1 Jn 4:1; Mat 7:15-20)
- ❑ Try to deceive the people with miraculous signs (Mt 7:15, 21-22; 24:11, 24)
- ❑ Do not teach the incarnation and deity of Christ (1 Jn 4:1-3)
- ❑ Teach sexual immorality and liberality, as modern homosexuality (2 Pet 2:1-3, 14-19)
- ❑ Try to distance others from the obedience to the Word (Deut 13:1-5), teaching theories
- ❑ Are know for the failures in seeing their prophecies fulfilled (Deut 18:22)

Evangelist ¹

❑ Grammatical sense:



"**8** a bearer of a message of good news**9999**"

❑ Definition: It is the capacity and passion to proclaim and explain the gospel with clarity, persuasion and motivation resulting in many accepting the Lord

❑ Characteristics:

- ✓ Seems to have been a recognized gifted position, "work of an evangelist" (1 Tim 4)
- ✓ Is the capacity to model, train and motivate

Evangelista ²

❑ Dangers:

- ✓ Fail to recognize the need or priority of the local church
- ✓ Spend little time with individual unbelievers
- ✓ Tend to use psychological tactics to get decisions
- ✓ Depend on their hortatory, emotionalism and sentimentalism to persuade or get results.

❑ Ideas about the gift:

- ✓ Estimate that 10-15% of believers have this gift

❑ Misunderstandings:

- ✓ Is someone responsible to bring revival in the churches
- ✓ Is someone that only speaks to large groups

Evangelist³

- ❑ Philip is the only one called an “evangelist”
- ❑ His work is to communicate the gospel to unbelievers, and to motivate and train believers
- ❑ He can function in a church or outside (Acts 6:15; 8:4-5)
- ❑ Is motivated to speak to men of their need of Christ (Acts 8:26-30)
- ❑ Manifests a joy and habit of sharing the gospel wherever they are
- ❑ Known for their effectiveness in their ministry and how people respond to their message (Acts 8:5-6, 8, 12, 35-39)
- ❑ Is a gifted person who may or may not have a leadership position in a local church (Eph. 4:8, Philip in Acts 6:5; 21:8)

What is a missionary?

Apostle (*misio*) or cross cultural Evangelist?

- E-0 Evangelize those who will attend your church function (focus on platform or services)
- E-1 Evangelize those who are culturally similar, but will not attend your church, thus must be won outside of church functions (focus on outside activities of mutual interests)
- E-2 Evangelize those who are ethnically different, but culturally similar. English may be a second language to them. (focus on serving and caring)
- E-3 Evangelize those who are ethnically, linguistically and culturally different. Requires much adaptation. (focus on incarnation, adaptation and relocation)

Pastor ¹

- **Grammatical Sense**: The construction signifies a close relationship between the two functions in the church.
- **Definition**: Synonymous words used
 - , *poimenas*: To pastor, lead, protect, care for, guide (Eph 4:11)
 - , *presbuteros*: “elder”, mature, wise, respected, authority (Acts 15:6; 1 Tim 5:17)
 - , *episkopes*: overseer, superintendent, responsible (1 Tim 3:1; Acts 20:28)
 - , *proistemi*: to be in front of, care for, direct, govern, have authority over, manage (1 Thes 5:12; Rom 12:8)
 - , *hegeomai*: to be head of a province, military leader, provider, commander (Acts 15:22; Heb 13:7, 17, 24)

To be a leader in a local church...

- ❑ It is not necessary to have a specific gift since none are required in 1 Tim 3
- ❑ Should be mature and having gained the confidence of others by his character and reputation
- ❑ Should have an ambition or vision with strong desire or heart to be responsible for others.
- ❑ The church has to recognize his qualities and desire to be submissive to his leadership (Acts 6; 14:23; He 13:7, 17).
- ❑ Should seek the best person for the benefit of the congregation.

Pastor²

- **Characteristics**: Is the capacity to exercise influence over a group for the purpose of accomplishing a goal.
 - Willing to make decisions that affects others
 - Leads by example, teaching and preaching
 - Feeds others through giving the understanding of the Word.
 - Matures the congregation through making disciples.
 - Edify the through his teaching

Pastor ³

- ❑ **Dangers**: Will not dedicate himself to individuals in the local church.
- ❑ **Preference** of special people (Jas. 2:1-3)
- ❑ **Ideas** about the gift:
 - Pastors are leaders, some govern or manage better than others (1 Ti 5:17)
 - Some scholars understand this as an office, not as a gift, because the qualifications never refer to a gift.
- ❑ **Misunderstanding**: His principal function is to care for people, visit, lead, disciple and equip other for their ministry

Pastor-teacher: more info

- ❑ The pastor is related to the gift of teaching for his function in the church (Acts 13:1, “prophets and teachers in the church”; 1 Co 12:28; Eph. 4:11)
- ❑ The requirement to be able to teach (2 Tim 2:2, 24, “competent to teach others”).
- ❑ Implies that he should be a diligent student of the Word of God and be committed to an in-depth study of the Scriptures (2 Tim 2:15; “..teaching the message of truth accurately” 1 Tim 4:13-16)

Pastor

- ❑ More than knowledge, the maturity of character is necessary for the role (1 Tim 3:1-7)
- ❑ As *pastor* this person has three responsibilities: **feed** and **protect** the church (Acts 20:28-30) and **train leaders** (2 Tim 2:2)
- ❑ Those who have a “heart to pastor” should not be “forced” or “pressured” to serve, neither should he do it for financial motives beyond his family needs..
- ❑ The chief purpose for the pastor is to equip or train the members of the church for their ministry (Eph. 4:11-12)

The Roles in the Churches

Person	Function	Consequence
JESUS CHRIST Eph 1:22-23 Col 1:22-23 Eph. 4:15-16	HEAD of the direction and authority through the understanding of the revealed Word of God	EQUIP EVERY BELIEVER for their part in the service and leadership through Special Spiritual Gifts
BISHOP/ELDER/PASTOR/TEACHER Acts 20:17,28; 1 Pet 5:1-4; 1 Tim 5:17	LEADERSHIP of the local church by administration, teaching, disciple-making, and applying the Word	GIFTED MEN that God raises us in every church to serve as evangelists, pastors and teachers
DIACONS Acts 6:1-7 Phil 1:1 Rom 16:1-2 1 Tim 3:8-13	SELECTION and SUBMISSION to the leaders and SUPPORT to the ministries of church	SERVE THE NEEDS of the congregation by facilitating the needs to fulfill the vision that God gives the leaders
CONGREGATION Acts 6:3-5; 14:23 Eph 4:12-16	BACK UP the leaders and serve the need of each other and the church 1 Co 16:15-16	SERVE THE NEEDS of each other and those outside the church

Qualities of Bishop-Elder-Pastor (1 Tim 3)

Qualities	Greek	Basic Meanings
Above reproach 1 Ti 3:2; Tito 1:6,7		“Not to be laid hold of,” blameless, What cannot be criticized.
Man		Man or husband; distinct from , could be generic.
Of one wife		Literally “one woman man”
Vigilant, sober temperate wine”)		Holding no wine, without wine, abstinent (, “to drink no
Prudent, self- controlled 1 Ti 3:2; 1:8		Sound healthy, wise mind; curbing his desires and impulses, self- controlled

Qualities of Bishop-Elder-Pastor (1 Tim 3)

Qualities	Greek Word	Basic Meanings
Respectable behavior orderly		Well-arranged, well-ordered, of good honorable, respectable
Hospitable 1 Ti 3:2; Tito 1:8		“Stranger-loving,” housing people, friendly
Able to teach		Skillful in teaching, well-trained to know sufficient
Not an addict of drunkard		Not a drunkard nor drinking too nor much wine; also abusive or brawler
Not pugnacious, violent (1 Ti 3:3)		Bully, violent, loosing control from rage, quick tempered, striker
Gentle		Equitable, fair, mild, patient, reasonable, opposite of contentious

Qualities of Bishop-Elder-Pastor (1 Tim 3)

Qualities	Greek Word	Basic Meanings
Not a brawler not contentious		Not disposed to fight or quarrel, peaceable, not conflictive,
Not a lover of of money		Not greedy for wealth; not greedy, but liberal, generous
Manages well leadership his own house have authority protector	1 Ti 3:4	Should demonstrate his first in his family, over, superintend,
Keeps his children obedience under control rebellion nor		His children respond in with no evidence of rejection of the faith
Not a novice 1 Ti 3:6		Should have maturity and experience without ego temptations

Qualities of Bishop-Elder-Pastor (1 Tim 3 & Titus 1)

Qualities	Greek words	Basic Meanings
No tendency to pride or conceit		Not swollen with pride, arrogance or self-importance to be disciplined
Good reputation with those outside the church and integrity with non-members.		Must have a good reputation with unbelievers
Has faithful or believing children	Tito 1:7	As a sign of good leader, his children follow his faith
His children not immoral		Not legally charged with
accused of riot or rebellion	avswti,aj h'	incorrigible, wild or reckless life, not subject to control or authority
Not arrogant self-willed		Not self-pleasing, self-willed, stubborn, thinking one is better than others, looking down on others

Qualities of Bishop-Elder-Pastor (Titus 1)

Qualities	Greek Word	Basic Meanings
Not quick-wrathful, tempered		Not prone to anger, hotheadedness, generates
Not greedy profit, nor for dishonest benefit		Not driven for personal greedy, seeking personal
Lover of what honorable, is good (Tit 1:8) (men/things).		Liking what is good, moral, decent
Just		Conforms to the standard, upright, committed to moral, honest
Santo		Conducts himself in a God-like manner and fidelity to God
Self-controlled, disciplined		Has a firm hold over one's desires both sensual and anger
Holds firm to the all		Singularly focused to fulfill

Qualities of Deacons

Qualities	Greek Words	Basic Meanings
Grave, dignified 1 Ti 3:8		Respected, honorable, and serious esp. in form of thinking (Phil 4:8)
Not double- tongued		Two-faced, insincere, saying one thing to one person, then another view to some else. Speak without exaggeration
Not indulging addicted		Not near wine a lot. Not
Not greedy of material sordid gain		or “attached or devoted to” wine Not shamefully greedy of gain, willing to cut corners
Holds the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience		Totally convinced of the revealed truth and a commitment to facilitate its purposes and values ³⁰

Qualities of Deacons

Qualities	Greek Words	Basic meanings
Tested, proven		Examined, put to the test (5:22,24,25) with the result to be approved or qualified
Serve as deacons others, if they are beyond ministry,		Continually waiting on meeting the needs of the
Husband of one wife (3:12)		Be devoted and loyal to one wife and will to be accountable for it beyond any doubt
Rules well his leader- his family and discipline of household		Should demonstrate his ship in the family and his children

Qualities of a diaconesses (or wives)

Qualities	Greek Words	Basic Meanings
Women, wives		Women, not necessarily married
Grave, dignified		Serious, good character, worthy of respect, honorable
Not slanderous, gossiper,		Not slanderous, defamer, or injurious nor critical of others
Sober, worthy		Temperate, self-control, restrained, “has a halter on himself”
Faithful in every-faithfulness in thing serve		Should demonstrate all areas of their lives to others

The Ministry of Women

- Their spiritual position in the Body of Christ:
“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Gal 3:28 (1 Cor 11:11)
- Has Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor 12:7, 11, 18 “each one”)
 - Daughters of Philip (Acts 21:8-9)
 - Priscilla (Acts 18:26)
 - Dorcas (Acts 9:26)
- Place of leadership in the local church
 - “Even so, in the same way” , same requirements
 - “Phoebe, a *servant* of the church...” , not an office
 - Epaphras called (Col 1:7), but was servant
 - Paul called Timothy (1 Tim 4:6) but was

The Ministry of Women

- ❑ Relation between husband and wife (Ef. 5:22-24)
- ❑ The problem of authority over men (1 Tim 2:11-12)
- ❑ The problem of silence (1 Cor 14:34, "...in the congregations... it is not permitted for them to speak")
- ❑ The problem of teaching men (1 Tim 2:12)
- ❑ The same obligation to exercise their gifts (1 Pet 4:11)
- ❑ The impossibility to become a bishop or pastor (1 Tim 3:1-2, "husband of one wife") (See also Tit 1:5-6; 1 Pet 5:5)
- ❑ The Potential of the Single Woman (1 Cor 7:34-35, "An unmarried woman or a virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord to be holy both in body and spirit. ...
³⁵ I am saying this for your benefit, not to place a limitation on you, but so that without distraction you may give notable and constant service to the Lord.")

How does a woman use her gifts and remain submissive?

- ❑ The gifts are not offices, nor positions of authority in the churches.
- ❑ Maintain an attitude of submission to their husbands and the leadership of the church at all times
- ❑ Upon discovering their gifts, the husband should be in agreement with how they will use of their gifts, or if not, she should be willing to wait.
- ❑ The gifts of leadership, administration, teaching, exhortation (when given to the woman) can create conflicts if they are exercised without submission and approval of her husband and pastor.

Teacher

❑ **Grammatical sense:**



"⑧ an instructor who easily uses didactic or teaching methods to communicate⑨⑨⑨⑨"

❑ **Definition:** It is the capacity and passion to clarify and explain the entire Word of God, carefully comparing all of the revelation of God

Teacher²

□ Characteristics:

1. A strong conviction that to know and understand the revealed Word of God is the highest priority and the key to life
2. A willingness to spend hours studying the Bible to assure correctness in teaching content
3. A life-style that shows the value of knowing the Bible

Teacher³

□ Dangers:

- ✓ Dedicate your studies to insignificant or pet issues
- ✓ Follow the teachings of a system, a man or a church denomination, over the Bible
- ✓ Convince people of ideas, concepts or doctrine that are not Biblical (2 Pet 2:1)
- ✓ Confuse psychological principles with Biblical truth
- ✓ Get ideas from notions or impressions instead of Biblical study

Teacher⁴

❑ Ideas about the gift:

- ✓ Though few may develop this gift, it is apparent that many should practice it (Heb 5:12)
- ✓ Teaching and evangelism are closely related (Paul was a “a teacher of the true faith [evangelism?] to the Gentiles” 1 Tim 2:7)
- ✓ The privilege to teach has higher accountability (Jas 3:1)

❑ Misunderstandings:

- ✓ Is someone who is infallible or always right
- ✓ Without great intellectual capability should not be tried

Symptoms of the Special Gifts

□ **Apostle and prophet:** Since no one can qualify as an Apostle, nor receive new revelations there are no symptoms

□ **Evangelists**

- Has the liberty to speak the gospel before others
- Easily persuades and influences others
- Has a strong passion to win unconverted to Christ

□ **Pastor**

- People look to him to make decisions, leads, decisive
- Desires to maintain order, discipline, and direction
- Sees the problems in others and accepts the responsibility to help them. Desires to see others grow

□ **Teacher**

- Has the passion and ability to clarify and apply the Word
- Is a communicator, studious, and personal disciple

Relation and Difference between Gifts and Offices

- Apostles can be Elders (pastors)
 - 1 Pet 1:1 “Peter, an apostle...” with 5:1, “as your fellow elder”
 - Also 2 John 1; 3 John 1
- Apostles can be teachers (2 Tim 1:11, “...appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher.”)
- Elders can be designated by Apostles (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim 5:22; Tit 1:5)
- Spiritual Gifts are recognized by the elders (1 Tim 4:14, “Do not neglect the spiritual gift you have, given to you and confirmed by prophetic words when the elders laid hands on you”; cf. 2 Tim 1:6)

Relation and Difference between Gifts and Offices

- ❑ Apostles were recognized as prophets and teachers (Acts 13:1-3)
- ❑ Elders can function as Bishops (Acts 20:17, 28)
- ❑ Elders are called to Pastor (1 Pet 5:1-2)
- ❑ Evangelists can be identified as Elders or Deacons
 - Acts 6:5, Philip was chosen as a deacon
 - Acts 21:8, “Philip the evangelist”
- ❑ Can have elder or deacon that is neither of the five gifted men in Eph 4:11. See 1 Tim 5:17, “Elders who provide effective leadership must be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching.”
- ❑ **Gifts:** Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor, Teacher
- ❑ **Offices:** Bishop—Elder—Pastor, and Deacon

Falsification of the Special Gifts

Carnal Falsification

1. **Apostle:** Determination to sacrifice his life in remote places to gain fame for himself
2. **Prophet:** Preach with impressive words of human wisdom depending on oratory and emotionalism-sentimentalism (1 Co 2: 1,4)
3. **Evangelist:** Use human and psychological methods to secure decisions, esp. emotionalism and manipulative techniques to get people to make decisions
4. **Pastor:** Motivated for the glory of leadership, a sense of being important and willingness to manipulate others for selfish ends
5. **Teacher:** Desire to be important, famous, or to communicate a pet doctrine with little interest in people

Satanic Falsification

1. Appears as a pious person, but committed to false doctrine, ascetic and powerful in the twisting of the Word (2 Cor 11:13; Rev 2:2)
2. Persuasive and deceiving preaching of false doctrine, under the inspiration and direction of evil spirits (1 Tim 4:1)
3. Guided by Satan to convince the ignorant of false doctrine. Powerful in persuading with arguments unfounded in the Bible. Uses the Bible but with a perverse sense
4. Guided by Satan to deceive and lead people in a false sense of security, and human sense of worth
5. Convinced of new doctrines or ideas recently revealed to him as being more authentic