



# Support Gifts

A Biblical Study of Spiritual Gifts #3 (Eph. 4:11-12)

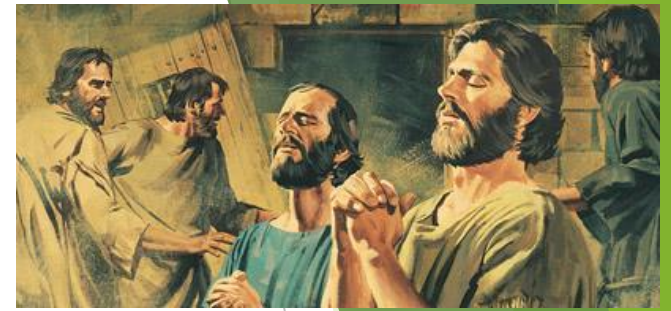
Support Gifts	Service Gifts	Sign Gifts
Apostles	<b>Faith</b>	Miracles
Prophets	<b>Teaching</b>	Healings
Evangelists	<b>Serving (ministry)</b>	Tongues
Pastors Teachers	<b>Exhortation (encouragement)</b>	Interpretation of Tongues
	<b>Giving</b>	Discerning of Spirits
	<b>Helping</b>	Word of Wisdom
	<b>Administration (government)</b>	Word of Knowledge
	<b>Leading (ruling)</b>	
	<b>Showing mercy</b>	

# The Origin of Apostles



- ▶ (Luke 6:13) Jesus called the Twelve and “named them apostles”
- ▶ Jesus gave those twelve a unique **authority** that was limited to those holding the office of apostle (Luke 9:1; Matt. 10:1).
- ▶ (Acts 1:21-22) The first qualification—have walked with the Lord from the baptism of John until the ascension of Christ.
- ▶ (1 Cor. 9:1) The 2nd qualification—must have seen the risen Christ.
- ▶ Paul’s situation was unique; he referred to himself as “untimely born” (1 Cor. 15:8-9). He had seen the risen Christ, and the signs of a true apostle were also performed by him (2 Cor. 12:12).

# The Function of Apostles



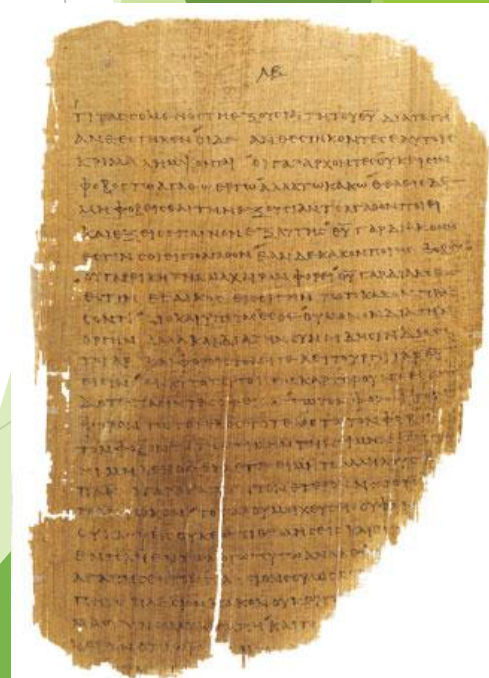
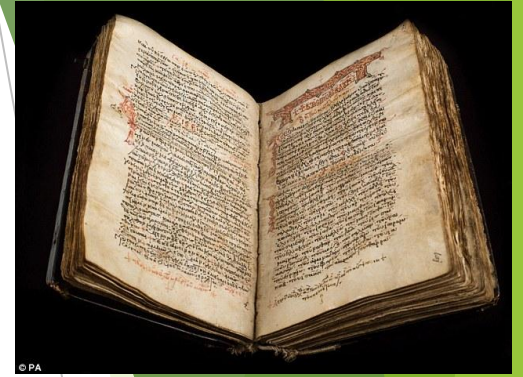
- ▶ It is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11.
- ▶ The word apostle comes from *apo*, meaning “from,” and *stello*, meaning “to send.” Hence, an apostle is one that is “sent from”
- ▶ Limited to the Twelve and Paul—a **foundational gift** to the formation of the church (Eph. 2:20).
- ▶ They had absolute, un-questionable authority in the church, because Christ had ordained them. (Luke 6:13; Gal 1:1)
- ▶ Just as the office of apostle has ceased, so the gift of apostle has also ceased. There is no apostle today because no one can meet the qualifications.

# The Gift of Prophecy



- ▶ The only gift mentioned in all 4 lists of spiritual gifts
- ▶ The gift of prophecy allowed the person to **receive divine information** through the **direct revelation from God** (e.g. Agabus (Acts 11:28, 21:10-11))
- ▶ Through direct revelation the prophet received knowledge of divine “mysteries” (Col. 1:26) that we would not otherwise know
- ▶ Prior to the completion of the Bible, the gift of prophecy was very important for the **edification** of the church (1 Cor. 14:3).

- ▶ Note: If a revelation is from God, it must be **totally true** and **free from error** (Deu. 18:20, 22)
- ▶ A prophet is responsible for both foretelling the future events and forthtelling of God's word in terms of exhortation and instruction. (1 Cor. 14:3) Either case the primary responsibility of the gift of prophet is to **proclaim God's word**
- ▶ The gift of prophets and apostles are the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20) because the word of God is essential as our foundation (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- ▶ Because the foundation of the church has been laid and the canon of Scripture is **complete** (Rev. 22:18), the main function of this gift has ended. (see 1 Cor. 13:8-10)





# The Gift of Evangelism



- ▶ The word evangelist, mentioned only once in the NT, meaning “one who **proclaims the good news**”
- ▶ One definition of the gift of evangelism is “the gift of proclaiming the **Good News of salvation effectively** so that people respond to the claims of Christ in conversion and in discipleship”
- ▶ Several things are involved in the gift of evangelism:

# To Be An Evangelist



(1) It involves a burden for the lost. One possessing this gift has a great desire to see people coming to know Jesus

(2) It involves proclaiming the good news. The evangelist is one who proclaims the good news. While men such as Billy Graham undoubtedly have the gift of evangelism, it is not necessary to limit this gift only to **mass evangelism**. An evangelist will also share the good news with unbelievers on a **one-to-one** basis.

(3) Because it is his burden and passion, the evangelist **rejoices** in seeing men and women coming to faith in Christ.

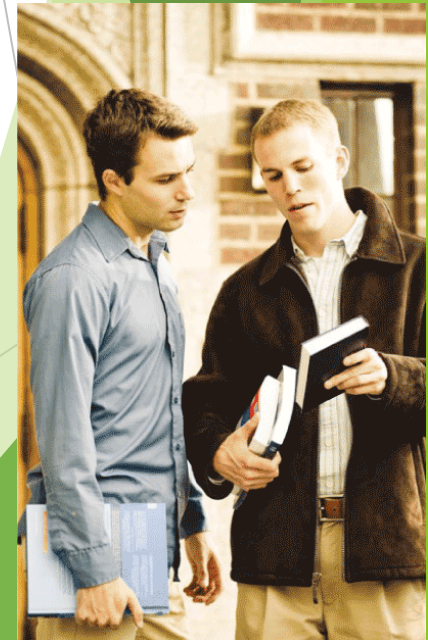




## To Be An Evangelist

(4) The person develops ability to give a clear presentation of the gospel so that people can respond in faith. The evangelist has the ability to present the gospel in a **simple and clear fashion**; he proclaims the basic needs of salvation: sin, the substitutionary death of Christ, faith, forgiveness, reconciliation—in a way that unbelievers without a biblical background can understand.

(5) It involves **encouragement** to other believers in proclaiming the gospel. It is a clear indication that the person has the gift.





- ▶ Although only some people have the gift of evangelism, no believers are exempt from proclaiming the good news. All believers are called to do the work of evangelism (2 Tim. 4:5).
- ▶ We must be faithful in whatever gifts we are given and not be discouraged if we do not have a particular gift. (e.g. giving, administration)
- ▶ A person may only bring 5 peoples to the Lord in a lifetime. Yet God only requires us to be faithful stewards to the blessings and opportunities that are given to us (1 Peter 4:10).

# The Gift of Pastor Teacher



- ▶ This gift is mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 as one gift and not two.
- ▶ The Greek word for *pastor* appears 18 times in the NT, but only once as a gift. All the rest refer to the literal meaning of shepherd. (Jesus is our shepherd John 10:11, 14, 16; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25)
- ▶ As a pastor (shepherd), he must care for the flock. He **guides, guards, protects, and provides for those under his oversight.** An example is found in Acts 20:28 where Paul exhorts the elders “to shepherd the church of God.” It is to be done voluntarily, neither for material gain nor by lording it over believers but rather by setting an example with humility (1 Pet. 5:2-5).

# The Ability to Teach



- ▶ There is a second aspect to this gift; it is the ability to teach.
- ▶ A person can have the gift of teaching and not to be a pastor, yet a pastor in the church must teach God's word and put this as his highest priority.
- ▶ As a pastor teacher, he guides his flock to mature faith by the teaching of the Bible. Paul exhorted Timothy to faithfulness in teaching the Word (1 Tim. 1:3, 5; 4:11; 6:2, 17).

*Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*

*(1 Peter 5:2-3)*



# Conclusion

- ▶ (Eph. 4:11-12) This is for the **equipping** of all believers for the work of ministry, so that the church may be **built up**—the key is the **word of God**
- ▶ You may not be called to be an evangelist or pastor, nevertheless you are responsible to share God's word to others. Have you?
- ▶ Please take a serious moment to consider this: Has God **called** me to serve Him full time as an evangelist or pastor? (Matt. 9:35-38) The key is **prayer**

