

Key Verse: Ephesians 4:7-16 [7](#)But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. [8](#)Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." [9](#)(Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? [10](#)He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) [11](#)And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, [12](#)for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

[13](#)until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. [14](#)As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; [15](#)but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, [16](#)from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Opening: The mission of proclaiming the gospel, making disciples, and thus expanding the kingdom of God in all nations of the earth is not an easy one. We were called to proclaim the truth of God's word to a world that has become deaf to God. The task can seem overwhelming and daunting. However, we have a great promise from God that "The gates of Hell will not prevail against the church." We have been given every resource, tool, and ability we need to finish the work each one of us has been called to do. The gifts God has given us to use are not difficult to receive, mysterious to the point we cannot use them or powerless that they do not make a real difference but are the grace of God to His church to fulfill the mission. Today let us examine the Holy Spirit's office giftings within His church.

1. **The Mission (What is our clear Mission from Heaven?) Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)**¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 - a. **Make disciples:** Disciple means to be disciplined, formed into something new,
 - b. Teach what was commanded: The words, teachings and revelations of Jesus and the scriptures are our textbook to teach and empower others with.
 - c. God is with us, but how? Jesus said He would be with us, through the Holy Spirit alive and working in our midst. He helps us carry out our mission.

2. **The Calling (Are all called?) 1st Corinthians 3:9-10 (BSB)** ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. ¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise master builder, and someone else is building on it. **But each one must be careful how he builds.**
 - a. We are **all called to build** people for the glory of God. Each of us is called to take what has been entrusted to them and invest it in someone else with the grace of God or empowerment of God upon their life.
 - b. **Matthew 25:14-15 (NIV) 14**“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called **his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.** **15**To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ****Each has been given Talents, treasures, or gifts from Heaven to use for God’s glory. Are you investing yours in others?**

3. **What are the Office Gifts (What are the 5 Offices of ministry?)** ****They are God’s leadership within the church body, empowered to establish the**

church in the grace of God, the truth of Jesus and for leading in the Great Commission.

- a. **Apostles:** An apostle is "one chosen and sent with a special commission." The 12 apostles chosen by Jesus were witnesses of the resurrection (Acts 1:15; 4:33), but there were many other true apostles (Acts 14:3-4; Romans 16:7; 1 Corinthians 15:5-7; Galatians 1:1,19), as well as false ones (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 2:2). The ministry of an apostle includes pioneering new churches (1 Corinthians 9:2; 1 Corinthians 3:6), grounding the Church in truth (Colossians 1:25), preserving unity in the Body (1 Corinthians 3:3-5), laying foundations in the Church (1 Corinthians 3:10), setting things in order (Titus 1:5), fostering a vision beyond the local (2 Corinthians 8), fathering new ministries (2 Timothy 1:6) and a breakthrough-type ministry of miracles (2 Corinthians 12:12). The apostle works with the other 4 offices and provides structure, government, and order. The Apostle moves the body from what is seen to what is unseen. **VISION**
- b. **Prophets:** The Prophets ministry is Predictive (Acts 21:10-11; 11:27-28) Directive (Acts 13:1-3) Corrective (Acts 15:22-23,27,32). The ministry of the prophetic word is to bring "strength, encouragement and comfort." Predictive is to tell the future, Directive is to give supernatural wisdom or knowledge for future dealings within the body. Corrective is to align the church back to it's true position and first love and therefore can correct errors within the church. All can prophesy but the office of the prophet is bigger than one church. A prophet's words are to be fulfilled and always are tested in the light of scripture to protect from false prophets. The prophet focuses the church back to God keeping its momentum Christ centered. **HEARING**

c. **Evangelists:** Evangelists extend the frontiers of God's Kingdom, they collaborate with the Apostle and Pastor's to equip the body to effectively reach and minister the gospel to the world. The evangelist is the reaper, the gatherer, the preacher, and the fire lighter. The Evangelist recruits and invites people to engage with God in salvation and ministry. **ARMS REACHING**

d. **Pastors:** The Pastor is given to the body of Christ to tend the sheep, feed the sheep, 1 Peter 5:1-4; John 21:15-17)(to protect the flock, comfort the people of God and lead them closer to Jesus. They are near and close to the people of God intimately involved in their daily lives. The Pastor "oversees" other ministers and ministries within the local church body. The Pastor is also given to equip and lead the body of Christ to shepherd its geographical region for God's glory. **HEART**

e. **Teachers:** The teacher is given to establish the Church in the knowledge of God's word. This is important to God because knowledge sets people free and protects them from the destroyer. (Hosea 4:6, John 8:32). All can teach but the teacher is empowered to instruct the entire body of Christ and not a single department. They can systematically break down God's word so that it is easily understood by all people. The Teacher integrates truth into daily living for greater expression. The teacher instructs and edits the lives of the believer. **MIND**

4. **What are the Offices for? (Why did God establish the ministry offices)**

a. **Ephesians 4:12** [12](#) for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

b. **Key Point:** The offices are given to bring structure, stability, oversight, power, wisdom, and direction to the body of Christ so that we can corporately express the fullness of Jesus Christ to the people of our world. ** It is important to note that nowhere in scripture have these offices ever been spoken of as being nullified as in they do not exist anymore. The reason they are not as active in the world today is because the leadership of the church has lost them. These are those who function in their capacities, and we call them by different names today. The body needs all 5 offices to be successful.

5. **Why does this matter to you? (The Holy Spirit empowers people not programs)**

a. **Romans 12:3-8** 3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, b do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

b. **The mission is front and center:** Church is about growing and going for God. God is challenging this local expression of His body to . . .

- 1. Teach and equip the young in faith through discipleship that leads to maturity.**
- 2. Provide leadership overseeing new ministries that fulfill the great commission.**
- 3. Build and expand our influence in our community for the purpose of bringing salvation to all.**
- 4. Pull the limits off what is thought possible, stretching towards new horizons constantly.**
- 5. Each member personally drawing near to the Holy Spirit and asking Him what must I do?**
- 6. Truly give yourself to the other members of this body by giving your gift freely to the building of the body.**

Closing: Hebrews 5:11-14 “You ought to be teachers” God is calling us to full maturity and full influence over our city for God’s glory. The church should be packed every week with the saved and lost alike. The church should be filled with the gifts of the Spirit. The church should be full of good deeds, acts of

service, learning and growing people and kingdom breakthroughs. **Change what you thought was your responsibility and then change your schedule to fulfill the mission the Holy Spirit has called us to.**