

09/18/22 Message

Part of Gifted - Expect to be Empowered

September 17, 2022

Message: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers

Series: Gifted: Expect to be Empowered

This is our ninth message in the series Gifted: Expect to be Empowered!

The goal of this series is to bring you closer to the Holy Spirit by understanding who He is and what He can do for you. Hopefully you will understand the different spiritual gifts and by the end, be able to identify and employ your giftedness within the church.

Review

- Power comes from God's HOLY SPIRIT
- We believe in ONE God (we are a monotheistic religion)
 - made up of THREE persons
- We call it the HOLY TRINITY
 - God the Father
 - God the Son (Jesus)
 - God the Holy Spirit (God's Holy Spirit)
- Jesus PROMISED to give us the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus' promise is fulfilled at Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit gives LIFE
- The power of the Holy Spirit allows us to restrain EVIL and do GOOD

God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves.

—A.W. Tozer

- Supernatural power is given to us through spiritual gifts!
- Working definition of Spiritual Gifts
 - When the Holy Spirit manifests His presence and imparts His power through believers to enable them to exceed the limitations of their finite humanity so they will faithfully and effectively fulfill tasks of ministry to build up the body of Christ.

Know this – in every area of your life where Satan is telling you, “You can’t!” God is telling you, “All things are possible!”

—Pastor Chad

Introduction

We’ve discussed motivational gifts and manifestation gifts, today we’re introducing ministry gifts.

- Ministry gifts are callings and various abilities given to certain believers enabling them to equip the church and build up the body of Christ.

That word ‘calling’ has a unique meaning. It means no one can put themselves in one of these offices or positions. A calling is a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action, accompanied by conviction of divine influence. It’s when God calls, He invites, He appoints – to do something for Him!

—Pastor Chad

Matthew 22:14 (NLT)

For many are called, but few are chosen.

Ministry gifts are discussed in Ephesians 4:1-16 (NLT):

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NLT)

1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.

3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding

yourselves together with peace.

4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all.

7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.

8 That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people."

9 Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world.

10 And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

God gave ministry gifts to the church:

- To EQUIP the church (v12)
- To BUILD UP the church (v12)
- To UNITE the church (v13)
- To MATURE the church (v13)
- To PROTECT the church (v14)

These things are possible when the gifts are used:

- To SPEAK the truth (v15)
- To BE more like Jesus (v15)
- To GROW closer together (v16)
- To DO the work of ministry (v16)
- To LOVE like Jesus (v16)

Paul says:

Ephesians 4:11 (NLT)

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

Apostles

This person has a calling and an anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by launching and leading new ministries to advance God's purpose and expand the Kingdom.

Strengths:

- Visionaries and see the big picture
- Church planters
- Willing to work hard to see churches mature and reach their full potential
- Overseers of multiple churches or multiple ministries
- Known to welcome risky new challenges and encounter many hardships
- Known to operate in the supernatural

Prophets

This person has a calling and an anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth.

Strengths:

- Recognized by the church for communicating God's Word through a variety of means
- The ones with God given spiritual vision for the church
- Sharing strong Biblical convictions to challenge others
- Able and willing to apply church discipline and correction for sin and

false teaching

- Passionately desiring others to hear God's voice and know God's heart

Evangelists

This person has a calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by sharing the love of Jesus in such a way it draws people to respond.

Strengths:

- Looking for ways to build relational bridges with nonbelievers
- Sensing when a person or geographical region is open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Leading people to faith in Jesus
- Encouraging the body of Christ to focus on, pray for, and have a heart for reaching the lost
- Equipping the church to share the Gospel with others

Pastors

This person has a calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centered lives.

Strengths:

- Driven to help others reach their maturity as believers
- Leading and caring for a community of believers
- Desiring for people to walk in their calling and gifts
- Watching over the church, meeting needs, and giving their time to help with spiritual issues
- Diligently overseeing and watching over their flock

Teachers

This person has a calling and anointing to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by studying and teaching the Bible and sound doctrine.

Strengths:

- Driven by a passion for Biblical truth

- Given to hours of studying the Bible to best apply its truths
- Effectively sharing the Word in a variety of ways
- Teaching others how to study the Bible
- Capable teachers and enjoy imparting knowledge, making things clear, relevant, and understandable

Summary

Do you have any of the spiritual gifts mentioned today?

John 14:12 (MSG)

The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it.

Never doubt that God can use you – regardless of your giftedness – to build up the body of Christ. If you're gifted – you have a greater chance of being successful because you've been selected – handpicked – and given a gift by your Creator for you to use to build up His church.

—Pastor Chad