

Empowered Pt. II, Week 6 - August 2, 2026

Offices? Gifts? Both?

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- With both of these gifts we need to separate the office or role from the spiritual gift

Apostleship

- Apostle most commonly meant a messenger
 - Or more literally, “a sent one”
- At the core of what it means to be an apostle is “sent-ness”
- **Definition:** The gift of apostleship refers to a special leadership capacity to move with authority from God to create new ministry structures to meet needs and to develop and appoint leadership in these structures. (Clinton)
- This gift can be expressed in a couple of ways:
 - Those who pioneer new ministries
 - Those who exercise a broader spiritual authority

Indicators of Apostleship

- You are given unusual respect and influence among churches or Christian leaders without formal title or role in those places

- Doors open unexpectedly, leaving you wondering how you gained access or influence you did not pursue

Shepherding

- The Greek noun *poimen* is translated 23/24 times in the New Testament as “shepherd”
 - Ephesians 4:11-12
- **Definition:** A Spirit-given capacity to exercise consistent concern and care for members of a group, encouraging their growth in Christ through relational commitment and long-term investment. (Thompson)
- This gift is focused on people more than on tasks, strategy, or vision,
 - It involves spiritual maturity, protecting others from error, and faithfully sharing truth with those under your care to nurture their spiritual wellbeing.

Indicators of Shepherding

- You gravitate toward caring for a group of people, with a high level of concern for the individuals
- Or maybe you carry a sense of responsibility for the spiritual growth of a group
- You tend to attract those who need some extra care, support, advice, or guidance