

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Sermon Points

**Week 8 - 6.11.23 | Tyler Wilson**

**Title: Apostleship & Evangelism**

**Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-13**

Main Point: God gives missional gifts to keep His church externally expanding with the gospel.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-13 ESV - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

### Recap:

- 1 - Serving / Mercy / Giving - SUPPORTIVE - to empower our church behind the scenes
- 2 - Leadership / Shepherding / Administrative - LEADING - to guide, protect, and care for God's people
- 3 - Knowledge / Wisdom / Teaching / Exhortation / Prophecy - WORD - to direct & deepen our relationship with God by His truth
- 4 - Tongues, Interpretation, Discernment, Healing, Miracles, Faith - POWER - to display God's might in supernatural ways

### Apostleship Distinction:

**1 - OFFICE of apostle** - Capital A 12 apostles (+ Paul): unique, foundational authority directly from Jesus during the church's infancy

**2 - FUNCTION / GIFT of apostle** - little a messengers sent to preach and plant churches in ongoing assignments

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Apostles WERE a foundational office  
apostleship IS an ongoing gift

## **APOSTLESHIP**

1. Definition - the ability and assignment to break ground with the gospel in pioneer contexts for the sake of planting churches and establishing new ministry

2. In a word - Pioneer

3. Biblical Examples of the gift:

Office - 12 apostles + Paul

Gift -

- **Barnabas** - Acts 14:4, 14
- **Silas** - 1 Thess. 2:5-6
- **Timothy** - 1 Thess. 2:5-6
- **Epaphroditus** - Phil. 2:25
- **Apollos** - 1 Cor. 4:7
- **Church Messengers** in 2 Cor. 8:23
- Possibly **Titus**?
- Possibly **Andronicus & Junia** (Rom. 16:7), though it is doubtful.

4. Marks you may have this gift:

- Unique calling to be the leader of pioneer ministry, most often planting a church
- Deep desire to see disciples made / the Great Commission fulfilled
- Can effectively minister cross-culturally and to specific people / area assigned to - able to reach people with different cultural, racial, religious, and social backgrounds.
- Entrepreneurial / visionary bent to see new frontier ministry begun & barriers to the gospel broken through
- Burdened for the universal church & unreached peoples, not just local.
- Able to preach & teach the gospel effectively
- Can develop and empower other leaders around them
- Openly face risk and challenges for the gospel with boldness
- Often encounter many hardships and obstacles, but able to persevere & prevail through them by God's power
- Often accompanied with power-based gifts to help enable to gospel ministry
- Usually flexible and able to adapt to rapid changes or unexpected situations.
- Willing to devote their life with great sacrifice to planting and establishing the church or ministry God has called them to

- Carry leadership and influence with a God-given authority, not a self-promoted authority.
- That commissioned authority extends to a specific assignment with a specific boundary

5. Picture of the Church - Explorer

6. Character of God on display - Creator

7. Goal of this gift:

- Gospel expanded
- New areas and people are reached & saved
- Churches planted & established

8. Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it:

- Church Planting
- Missions / Missionary
- Starting new ministries or organizations outside the church or new ministry within the church
- Bible Translation

9. Ways to misuse this gift / warnings & weaknesses to watch out for:

- Operating without accountability or oversight - rogue worker
- Subtly confuse office and calling / gift and can elevate yourself (or allow others to elevate you) to an unbiblical level of authority
- Can become critical of those with less sacrifice or devotion or who simply don't understand the weight of the work firsthand like you.
- Pride - easy to feel superior because of the commitment or calling you have
- Temptation to comfort can be strong when so much comfort is laid down in carrying out the call.
- May sacrifice family or personal health for calling
- Open to resentment to the Lord for all the suffering and sacrifices incurred in serving Him.

10. Encouragement:

- Be reassured by God's calling & confirmation
- Don't go rogue - seek counsel, submit to spiritual authority, get accountability, surround yourself with other leaders

11. Everyone else:

- Pray for pioneers!
  - Appreciate and care for such people and their families for their sacrifice
  - Be open - this could be you in the future!
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## **EVANGELISM**

1. Definition - the ability to share the gospel in clear, compelling, and convicting ways that lead people to saving faith in Jesus

2. In a word - Herald

The saying: "Preach the gospel at all times - if necessary use words."

The problem: Words are necessary!

3. Biblical Examples:

- **Samaritan woman at the well** - John 4:28-42
- **Nameless Jerusalem Christians who were scattered** - Acts 8:4
- **Philip** - Acts 8
- **People from Cyprus & Cyrene who went to Antioch** - Acts 11:20-21
- **Mary Magdalene** - John 20:17
- **Peter** - Acts 2-6
- **Paul** - Acts 14:21
- **Barnabas** - Acts 14:21
- **Apollos** - Acts 18:24-28
- **Gospel Writers** - Matthew / Mark / Luke / John

4. Marks you may have this gift:

- Can't help talking about Jesus to people (Acts 4:20)
- Regularly think about, pray for, and are extremely burdened for non-Christians / hate the thought of them not being saved
- Seek out ways to make connections with lost people - if you're only around Christians start to feel down and frustrated / something's wrong.
- Competent to share the gospel clearly
- Can help others personally see their need for Jesus
- Can direct people towards actually responding to Jesus (not just sharing facts)
- Good at persuading people with the truth

- Typically pretty bold and confident when talking about Jesus
- Enjoys meeting and connecting with new people
- Can often sense when someone isn't saved and is drawn to them with compassion
- Overjoyed when you see someone saved
- Able to overcome normal fear of rejection in speaking truth to people
- Usually good at engaging lots of different types of people / relatable
- Intensely concerned for the church's mission to reach lost people

#### 5. Picture of the church - Search & Rescue

"Some may want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue ship within a yard of hell." - C.T. Studd

#### 6. Character of God on display: Savior

#### 7. Goal of this gift:

- People are saved!
- Church grows as new believers come in.
- City changes as the gospel changes people.
- Energy in the church as we are dialed into our mission & seeing God move
- Increases our praise as we see God save people

#### 8. Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it:

- Missions
- Personal evangelism - sharing the gospel
  - With family members & friends
  - With literal neighbors, roommates, apartment life, etc.
  - Regular overlap with people in community
  - More random people in our city or online
- Student Ministry
- College ministry
- Refugee Work / International Students
- Apologetics ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Advocacy Ministry

- Equipping others in the church

#### 9. Ways to misuse this gift / warnings & weaknesses to watch out for:

- Not being prayerful or reliant on the Lord in evangelism - assumption of His power, or assumption of your ability to communicate well.
- Easy to become judgmental towards those who have less passion for lost people
- Due to boldness and confidence, can sometimes come across as aggressive, abrasive, or arrogant.
- Sometimes get attached and stuck in a specific method or technique rather than personally hearing and adapting to the person you're speaking with
- Trap of falling into a debate and trying to win the argument rather than staying focused on the person's soul
- Can forget to follow up with people and ensure they get connected to churches for their discipleship

#### 10. Encouragement

- Be proactive - Let's go: we need you unleashed!
- Be a contagious culture setter
- Be an equipper of others

#### 11. Everyone Else:

- Prayer over passivity - Pray!
- Do the *work* of an evangelist - 2 Tim. 4:5
  - Equipping over Excuses
  - Delight over Drudgery
  - Sharing over Shame
  - Faithfulness over Failure
  - Announcing over Arguing
  - Freedom over Fear
  - Love over Laziness