

Sunday, August 20, 2023
THE HAND OF GOD – A STUDY OF THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY
PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The Bible gives us an interesting command:

1 Peter 5:5-6 (NKJV)

How do we humble ourselves under the “mighty hand of God?” The Scripture explains that one way is through submission to those over us in the Lord.

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

Let’s review something regarding the “hand of God” by looking at another scripture:

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

God has released grace upon the church in the form of a five-fold dispensation with the goal being that this five-fold dispensation will play a role in God’s equipping, edifying, maturing, and unifying of the body of Christ.

This dispensation is released upon a group of people called “some” releasing gifts which “call” them into the ministry of the saints. Just because one has one of the five-fold ministry giftings does not mean they will operate in that role.

Gifts call you. Character qualifies you.

Many quibble over the question: Is the five-fold ministry a listing of ministry positions or a list of ministry giftings?

Gifts reveals position. Position releases gifting.

According to Ephesians 4:11-16, who is doing the equipping? Who is doing the ministry? According to scripture, this is how God has ordained to equip the church for ministry. Does it replace your solitary time with God? No. Does solitary time with God replace the five-fold ministry? No. Both are required to get to the depths of where the revelation of God and obedience to Him reside. The word used in Ephesians telling us that “some” have

these giftings also tell us that not everyone has all of them. Why? This is done to reflect the Godhead.

God is a triune Being: three Persons operating as One. Each are God. Each has a distinct role in the Godhead. Each works together in unity in common love, honor, and toward a common goal. We are to operate in common love, honor, and toward a common goal. The problem is that often, we use the gifts that God has given us to bring division rather than what they were given for. We are different with different gifts but are to operate out of love. We are different with different positions but are to operate out of honor. We are different with different methods but are to operate toward a common goal.

The people with the five-fold ministry giftings/callings are not perfect. They are not God – they magnify Him. Yet, God’s way to glory is love, honor, unity. You can’t get to the glory of God through any other pathway. So, we finish today with the truths of recognition and submission. Recognition of the gifting/position. Submission to the chosen plan of God.

Next week, we begin the study of the first five-fold gifting: the apostle.

Today’s Scriptures:

- 1 Peter 5:5-6 (NKJV)
- Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)
- Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)