

Sunday, September 17, 2023
THE HAND OF GOD: A STUDY OF THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY
PART 5: PASTOR

We are jumping into our next part in our study of the five-fold ministry called, "The Hand of God."

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

So far, we have studied the apostle, prophet, and evangelist. Today, we study pastor. The term *pastor* is found only once in the English text of the NT – the text we read in Ephesians. The Greek word that is used is:

poimén – properly, a *shepherd* ("pastor" in *Latin*); (figuratively) someone who the Lord raises up to *care* for the total well-being of His flock (the people of the Lord).

This Greek word is used 18 times in the NT to describe this gift/role in the church. It is the same word used in John 10 to describe Jesus:

John 10:11 (NKJV)

There have been many studies done on the duties of a shepherd in the days of Jesus to help understand the duties of a shepherd. Some of those duties are: *leading, feeding, protecting, overseeing, healing*. The day-by-day leadership of the church is assigned to elders.

Acts 14:23 (NKJV)

These are the instructions given to the elders:

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NKJV)

Three different terms are used to describe these men:

- *presbýteros* – properly, a *mature man* having seasoned judgment (experience); an *elder*.
- *poimainō* – properly, to *shepherd*, caring for (protecting) the flock.
- *episkopéō* (from /*epí*, "on, fitting," intensifying /*skopéō*, "look intently") – properly, focus on, look at with real (caring) interest. The prefix (*epi*)

implies "looking with *fitting, apt* concern," a looking *on* that requires what that naturally leads to. Word from which we get *bishop*.

The elders are to shepherd/pastor the flock of God with love and attentiveness. There is another interesting thing to look at: in the Greek text of Ephesians 4:11, an article proceeds each of the ministry roles, but the article is omitted before *teachers*. There are two primary articles in Greek: specific – the and nonspecific – a. For instance, in Ephesians 4:11 it reads this way:

Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους.
And He gave some indeed [to be] apostles, some now prophets, some now evangelists, some now pastors and teachers.

Notice that it reads: "**the pastors and teachers.**" This omission has led some to believe that the role of pastor and teacher are the same. Remember, an elder is to shepherd/pastor the church. The qualifications for a bishop/elder include the ability to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:5-11). Another interesting scripture is found in:

Acts 13:1 (NKJV)

No pastors are listed. Are pastors/teachers the same role? Next week, we'll study teachers more fully. Nevertheless, the pastor/shepherd is a gift to the church given by Jesus not to replace Him but to reflect Him.

Today's Scriptures:

- Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)
- John 10:11 (NKJV)
- Acts 14:23 (NKJV)
- 1 Peter 5:1-4 (NKJV)
- Acts 13:1 (NKJV)