

Sunday, September 10, 2023
THE HAND OF GOD: A STUDY OF THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY
PART 4: EVANGELIST

We have been studying the five-fold ministry. This series is entitled: “The Hand of God”. So far, we have studied the role of the five-fold ministry and its purpose. We have studied the ministry of apostle and prophet. Today, we study the role of Evangelist. First, let’s review our foundational scripture:

[Ephesians 4:11-16 \(NLT\)](#)

Evangelist: one who proclaims good news.

What is good news? The proclamation of Jesus sacrifice, death, burial, and resurrection. Since Jesus’ life began the NT period, the ministry of the evangelist is a NT ministry. There are 3 references to the evangelist in the NT. Philip is designated as an evangelist:

[Acts 21:8 \(NKJV\)](#)

Those studying the book of Acts on Wednesdays have been studying Philip. One of the seven deacons appointed to ensure fairness in the distribution of food to the needy in the early church, Philip preached the gospel in Samaria with signs and wonders attending. He preached to the Ethiopian eunuch and preached from Azotus to Caesarea. The Bible calls Philip an “evangelist”. No other first century literature mentions someone as an evangelist. The second mention of evangelist is Ephesians 4:11. Here, evangelist is listed with other roles/gifts. The final place that evangelist is mentioned is in:

[2 Timothy 4:5 \(NKJV\)](#)

Paul tells Timothy to “do the work of an evangelist”. He didn’t call Timothy an evangelist – he told him to do the work of one. When you take these three scriptures together, it appears that evangelist was considered a unique ministry in the NT. One difference seen between the evangelist and apostle is found in Acts 8. Philip traveled through Samaria preaching the good news. According to verses 6 & 7, God also did miracles through Philip. Yet the establishment of the believers in Samaria as an entity was done by the apostles.

The evangelist brought salvation. The apostle brought the kingdom. The evangelist is an important part of the ministry of Jesus. The evangelist keeps the church growing through salvation of the lost. Without the evangelist, the church can become focused on the believers within its walls. We all can do the work of an evangelist. But a true gifted evangelist doesn't have to be reminded to do the work – they do it because it is their calling and gifting.

Today's Scriptures:

- Ephesians 4:11-16 (NLT)
- Acts 21:8 (NKJV)
- 2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV)