

- We return to our study on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit by looking at a set of gifts listed in Eph4 ... A high-altitude view of Ephesians: Paul writes to the faithful saints in Ephesus – this is who you are in Christ, this is what you have been given by Christ, this is how you are to live in these realities as belonging to Christ and united to one another, in the world in which you find yourselves ... 4:2-6 ... When Christ ascended to Heaven, the Spirit was sent to the Apostles and disciples of Jesus (Acts2), and today, when one comes to life and faith in Jesus, the Spirit is sent to indwell them and empower them to live as Christ calls us to live
 - Christ ascended into Heaven victoriously ... “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them” by the Cross and empty grave (Col2:15) ... Kings who won in battle would typically share the spoils / treasures with their soldiers ... What do we share in with Christ – united by His Spirit, empowered by His Spirit, commissioned by His Spirit
 - Paul then gives examples of what has been given and the reasoning for such gifts ... Each of these have a commonality of word ministry – meaning, the word of God is proclaimed and taught and shared by each, establishing churches and equipping believers, who in turn do the work of ministry, building up the Body of Christ ... A way in which we grow in Christ is by participating in word ministry with one another – speaking truth in love ... (Growth Groups, Sunday School, Discipleship, Youth Group, Kid’s Ministry, every Sunday AM) 1Cor14:26

Prophets and Teachers

- The gift of Prophecy is where the Spirit gives someone a word or revelation that is to be shared with another person for the purpose of strengthening, encouraging, counseling, and comforting them (1Cor14:3) ... The gift of Teaching is ability to explain Scripture to others in such a way that they understand and are able to grow in their faith

Apostles

- Means a messenger sent in and with the authority of the Sender ... There are a few uses for the word Apostle: 1) all followers of Jesus are messengers of the gospel sent into the world around them (Jo20:21) ... 2) specific people sent to go into unreached and underdeveloped places with the gospel, making disciples and establishing churches ... 3) refers to the Twelve men appointed by Jesus, who established the foundations of the Church
 - Eph2:19-20 ... Paul refers to the Twelve Apostles (others?), and a specific group of Prophets, who received authoritative revelation from the Holy Spirit concerning Jesus Christ – His Identity, Work, Teaching (3:5) ... Luk24:44 – Jesus opened the Scriptures to the Apostles by opening their minds to understand ... Thus, the Doctrines of the Church were established ... The Apostolic line died with the Apostle John in 100AD
 - Others in the NT referred to as apostles – Barnabas (Acts14:14), Silas and Timothy (1The2:7), James (Gal1:19), Apollos (1Cor4) ... Meaning, function of apostle wasn’t limited to just the Twelve, nor limited to NT (Eph4:13)
- **Dent**, “Common use of apostle emphasizes authority, while common use of missionary emphasizes task; however, both words originally described someone who had both an assigned task and the authority to accomplish it” ... Gift of Apostleship: church planters, pioneer missionaries; passion to teach, make disciples, go to unreached

Evangelists

- Means one who brings the good news (the gospel) ... All Christians are to share the gospel with people ... The Great Commission is a mandate from Jesus that is placed upon every person who takes on the name Christian ... We can overwhelm ourselves with the idea of evangelism by believing that the person’s response and salvation is dependent upon us, that if the person rejects our message, we have in some way failed God ... Jesus is looking for us to engage the opportunities He brings before us ... He takes care of the salvation ... He’s given you a testimony to declare ... He will give you the next words to say, and the confidence to say them

- More often than not, the person God wants you to engage in conversation and relationship is someone you have already crossed paths with ... Yes, sometimes He wants you to share something with a stranger, but most times He wants you to share something with your neighbor, the same person who waits on you at the restaurant, the store clerk who's always working when you run to the store ... These are not coincidences ... These are divine appointments God brings before you to engage ... **Soper**, "God opens new webs of influence (circles of influence) to the gospel by preparing divine appointments – providentially arranged encounters with people who have been prepared by the Holy Spirit to receive the gospel."
- For the person with the Gift of Evangelism, conversing with people about Jesus, and what He has done in your life, and what He desires for anyone, comes naturally ... You have a deep burden for those who do not know Jesus ... You have a way of talking to people about Jesus that is received well by those who do not yet believe

Pastors

- This is the only place where this word is used as a noun, referring to a person or a specific gifting ... In **Acts20:28** and **1Pet5**, elders are called to shepherd / pastor those under their care ... Today, Pastor refers to someone who cares for and teaches and leads a congregation, or a specific ministry within a local church ... Typically, this person is paid for the work they do ... In the way God has established leadership in the Church, men are to lead as elders, and as the main pastor who teaches ... This doesn't mean that women cannot do ministry, or teach others; they can and should ... In the MC, a woman can hold a pastoral position of a particular ministry ... The main leaders, though, are to be men, as the NT prescribes churches to follow
 - In regard to gifting, though, can pastoring / shepherding be a gift others have who are not called pastors ... Yes ... When we discussed the list in **Rom12**, I mentioned that the gift of leading that Paul refers to is not the same as leading by administration ... Rather, leading by guidance and example, with a concern for a person's well-being ... This type of leading is more relation-oriented than task-oriented ... I believe this gift of leading is connected to, if not the same as, the gift of pastoring ... While all pastors and elders should have this gift, this gift is not limited to only these people ... Anyone can have this gift
 - A person with this gift attentively cares for other Christians who are struggling ... They seek to serve others rather than have others serve them ... They are more apt to extend grace to others than to criticize or judge them ... They know how to speak truth in love ... Regularly encouraging and guiding others with Scripture
- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers ... All still needed in local churches today, because the work of equipping the saints for ministry and building up the Body of Christ remains unfinished ... These gifts all share the work of speaking and teaching the gospel to those who have never heard it and those who need to hear it again ... Every day you and I need to be reminded of the gospel that has saved us and is saving us ... It is what the Church is built upon and what our lives rest in