

PRAYER STUDY #82
EQUIPPING THE SAINTS, PART 1

And He gave some apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, who is the head, even Christ, from which the whole body fitly jointed together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increases of the Body unto the edifying of itself in love.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16 King James Translation

He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the Body of Christ, until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. Instead we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of His Body, the church. Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16 New Living Translation

Why did Jesus give the five fold ministry: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to the Church?

1. For the perfecting or equipping of the Saints
2. For the work of the ministry
3. For the edifying or building up of the Body of Christ
4. So that, we come into unity and knowledge of Jesus as the Body of Christ
5. To a perfect or complete or mature person

Why is this necessary?

Because Jesus is coming back for "a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish," - Ephesians 5:27 - *the church he loved and gave Himself for*(Ephesians 5:25).
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The Fivefold Ministry Descriptions as given by Dr. Bill Hamon in his book
The Day of the Saints pp.183-187

How Apostles Equip the Saints: *Apostles specialize in supernatural signs and wonders. They give building strategy and lay foundations, along with the prophet, in the lives of people and the local church. The prophet receives the blueprint for the building of the Church, but the apostle is the master builder. Biblical examples of apostles' ministry to the Saints reveal that they help found and ground the Saints in foundations of the faith and present truth. Apostles' miraculous signs and wonders enable Saints to be delivered from evil spirits, disease, and strongholds in their lives. Some apostles not only demonstrate the supernatural but are able to activate the Saints in their power gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

As part of the foundation of the Church, apostles are often sent to establish new works and then to support those works. Apostle Paul founded many of the local churches in the New Testament. Apostles in the marketplace may be those who launch a business or who form a network to accomplish certain purposes. As initiators and those who help provide structure and leadership, apostles make a place for the Saints. They provide platforms where others can serve God through their unique giftings. The apostles have a special ability to be master builders of the Saints in their callings and ministry. Apostles will be key in helping transform Saints from pew-sitters to active participants in the Day of the Saints. (pp. 183-184)

How Prophets Equip the Saints: *The prophets help bring vision, spiritual insight, revelations, impartation, and activation of the Saints' supernatural gifts and calling. They do this best with their prophesying and revelation knowledge. All fivefold ministers are to minister the Logos Word to the Saints, but the prophets have a special ability to minister a Rhema word that personally enlightens and activates faith in the Saints. Prophets help bring God's direction and vision to the Church at large, to local churches, to business, cities, and nations, as well as to individual Saints. Some prophets use their gifts of discernment to bring warnings about the plans of the enemy*

or of potential pitfalls to be avoided. The value of hearing their revelation from God is beyond measure. (p. 184)

How Evangelists Equip the Saints: *Evangelists have a special anointing to stir up the zeal of the Lord in the Saints. They have an anointing and passion for winning the lost and making them active members of the Body of Christ and Saints of the Most High God. As well as helping to gather the Saints, evangelists help keep them focused outwardly on the need for bringing the Kingdom of God to the entire Earth. Without their enthusiasm for tearing down the works of darkness and building up the Kingdom of God, churches would be in danger of becoming "bless me clubs" that are so inwardly focused they become stagnant. Evangelists impart to the Saints the need to take the blessing we have received and use it to be a blessing to others, including those who are not yet part of the Church. Their ability to train others in soul winning is vital to growing the Church. Testifying to others about Jesus Christ strengthens our own faith. (p. 185)*

How Pastors Equip the Saints: *Those truly gifted as pastors have the ability to nurture, stabilize, grow, and mature the Saints. They specialize in building character, faithfulness, and family relationship in the local church family. No matter how many prophecies you have received about mighty ministry, you will never fully reach your destiny without maturity. This is best developed by being submitted to godly leadership, and being allowed to develop little by little, just as a child learns and grows little by little. Even those who have reached spiritual adulthood need to remain in committed relationship with those who have been charged to keep guard over their souls. We tell all those who receive prophetic words through the ministry of Christian International to write out their prophecies and submit them to their pastoral covering. (pp. 185-186)*

How Teachers Equip the Saints: *Teachers help prepare the Saints in the milk and meat of the Word of God. A true teacher, who is an extension of Christ the Master Teacher, has the special ability to teach the truths of God with simplicity and revelation, enlightening and enabling the Saints in the Word of God. A wise teacher brings out of his treasure both old, foundational truths and newly restored present truth. We are all to study the Bible for ourselves. And we can all offer something to bless others. But we can also benefit greatly from the years of study, revelation, and gift of expression that teachers have been given by Christ. James 3:1 states that*

teachers will receive a stricter judgment. Therefore, it is important for them to know and rightly divide the Word of truth. The Saints can be blessed by the wisdom teachers have gained as they have developed to a point of commissioning. (p. 187)

The **apostles**, in particular, are the fathers and mothers who impart to the Saints and raise them up as sons and daughters in the faith. The **prophets** bring supernatural revelation and insight concerning the calling and ministry of the Saints. They give vision and reveal the times and seasons of God so the Saints know what to do. The **teachers** teach the Word of God with simplicity and wisdom as a mother feeds a growing child. The **pastors** nurture the Saints with counseling, clothing them with their Christlike armor and garments. They help the Saints become a family of God meeting in the local churches. The **evangelists** impart zeal for souls to be saved and equip the Saints with wisdom and anointing in winning the loss. (pp. 182-183)

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I have known men and women who walk in power in more than one office, but only one man operated in all five offices without measure, and that man is JESUS. Since God is no respecter of persons, I personally believe that all members of the Body of Christ have been birthed to walk in one of these offices, but many do not, either through ignorance(my people perish from lack of Knowledge) or prejudice rather following the religious traditions of men than searching out what the scriptures say concerning these things. I believe that we must be activated in one or more of the 5 fold ministry callings to be effective in this critical generation.

This is a multi-part study. Next week we will be looking at the Major Church Restoration Movements and the restoration of the 5 fold ministry gifts, taken again from the word of Dr. Bill Hamon of Christian International and specifically from his book *The Day of the Saints*. I think some of you will find his work very interesting. The following week we will revisit the Gift of Prophecy showing scripturally that this gift did not pass away. Absolutely nothing in scripture supports the view that prophecy has passed away. Still, we must respect those in authority over us who hold to this position and pray that the eyes of their and our understanding be opened, according to Ephesians 1.

Conclusion: Jesus is ready to come NOW. What is holding Him back? He is waiting for a Bride that has made herself ready (By any stretch of the imagination, *she is not ready!!!*) The Word says, *For the Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.* (Psalm 110:1 and repeated in Mathew 22:44, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13). Are His enemies His footstool? *and* Who is going to make His enemies His footstool? I know there are still many enemies of Christ Jesus on the earth today, and I believe the Sons of God, the remnant of the Last Days, the Bridal Company that is making herself ready is called, as Mighty Warriors, to do warfare against these enemies. This is what the creation is waiting for. *For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.* (Romans 8:19) Galatians 4:1 speaks of immature saints who are children, not the mature bridal (or sons') company that has made itself ready: *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.* The children are in contrast to the sons: *Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.* (Galatians 4:7) The children have grown up. They no longer have a servant mentality but a son's mentality, a son who is in covenant relationship with the pattern Son, and walking in maturity. So, why did the Lord give the gift of the five-fold ministry:

Again,

1. For the equipping of the Saints
2. For the work of the ministry
3. For the building up of the Body
4. So that, we come into unity and knowledge
5. To a mature Body

So I have concentrated on one of the prophetic fulfillments that must take place before the coming of Christ, i.e. the Church that must come to maturity and fullness of Christ. At the same time we will see Christians delivered up to be afflicted and killed, false prophets, iniquity abounding, the Gospel of the Kingdom preached in all the nations, the characteristics of the Days of Noah, etc. (Matthew 24), and we will see the restoration of Israel.