

MINISTRY

Carroll Norwood

TH308: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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The guidelines for detailing Christ's teachings has been categorized as the following: (1) the Ninefold Purpose of Ministry Gifts, (2) the Fivefold Ministry Gifts, and (3) Elders, Deacons, H.E.L.P.S., and Governments. When the leaders of religious institutions align Ministry with those that have been called to assist in ministry, they will experience Ministry operating in harmony at another dimension. The scripture says “[c]an two walk together, except they are agreed?”¹ Those chosen must demonstrate harmony, and not division. Therefore, it is imperative that leaders equip those serving on their team in ministry, placing emphases on the Word of God, and the work of the ministry. When one sees a tabernacle, they only have the tendency to believe the church belongs to the pastor only. However, Ministry runs deeper than that, and the tasks at hand are broader than the two hands and the spiritual ramifications. One must be enriched and empowered to serve in ministry.

Ministry

Foremost, one needs to understand ministry. To have a ministry, one needs to know the who, what, when, and how to function in ministry. Further, the ministers in Ministry must understand the role in which they possess in ministry. With all clarity and understanding, they must understand Jesus Christ, the One who is the leader of the Church, called. In Ephesians, the God's Word Translation states, "God has put everything under the control of Christ. He has made Christ the head of everything for the good of the church."² The word "minister" in the New Testament—found in 2 Corinthians 3:6—is Diakonos, and the word "ministry"—found in 1 Corinthians 16:15—is Diakonia. Both mean to serve or servant; therefore, a minister must be a servant of God in their ministry.

1 Am. 3:3 (KJV)

2 Eph. 1:22 (GW)

In the scripture Paul says, "[t]herefore since we have this Ministry as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart."³ After receiving the call or commission to the ministry, do not faint or lose heart. Serving in Ministry will carry one from glory to glory and from faith to faith. It sounds like work, but it is rather an elevation in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Remember, as Ephesians states, it is not just written to the minister; but to the church in its entirety. So, one must understand Ministry is not just one individual or a certain group of people. The Body of the church was sent to do business for Him. All individuals are involved as servers here on earth. The Body of Christ should never consider doing Ministry work, serving, or worship by themselves. The scripture says, "every joint supplies." That means everyone is needed in ministry.⁴ Henry Blackaby states, "[b]elievers must let the full implications of the salvation work out into every area of life. Each must respond to Him as Lord over all of life, for it is how He who will be walking in the life of the believing, causing them to want to do his will and then working in their life to enable them to do it."⁵ In serving Christ, it must be clarified that all serve God as people are served. Luke 16 records Christ warning Christians and ministers not to look at the service to others for gain, but as pleasing God only. "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."⁶

The Ninefold Purpose of Ministry Gifts

As Christians embark upon receiving and functioning in the Ministry, one must know their purpose. There is nothing more encouraging, enriching, and empowering to a church or Ministry than knowing the Ninefold purpose of the Ministry Gifts. It is essential to know what

3 2 Cor. 4:1 (NIV)

4 Eph. 4:16 (KJV)

5 Blackaby, Henry , and Mel Blackady. *Experiencing the Spirit: The Power of Pentecost Every Day*. Portland , ME: Multnomah, 2009.

6 Williams, Benny. *Called Trained and Ordained: The Work of the Associate Minister in the Local Church*. Bloomington, IN: Author Solutions, 2009.

the Ninefold purpose of the Ministry gifts are and their functions. Seeing ministries operate in proper alignment, order, harmony, and through the functions of the Holy Spirit brings joy to the Lord. The following are a list of the Ninefold Ministry Gifts: (1) for the Perfecting of the Saints, (2) for the work of the Ministry, (3) for the edifying of the Body of Christ, (4) for the Unity of the Faith, (5) for the Knowledge of the Son of God, (6) unto a Perfect Man, (7) unto the Measure of the Stature of the Fulness of Christ, (8) that we Henceforth Be No More Children, and (9) but Speaking the Truth in Love. These Gifts are for the perfecting of the Saints.

The Perfecting of the Saints is a gift that is given to "the enrich others" in the ministry. According to Lester Sumrall, "when Jesus handed out the bread and fish to His disciples, it was for one purpose: to meet people's needs. It is not God's purpose to enrich just us, but to make us into people who can enrich others also."⁷ The Work of the Ministry is a gift that is given for "work." The Kingdom of Heaven is always employing those that are being perfected for the work of the ministry. Ministry is in high demand of "labors" to gather in the harvest. Edifying of the Body of Christ is a gift that does not deal with the selfish motives or what one can get out of it, but rather giving themselves away, and simply taking the time to be a blessing in the lives of others. If the gospel is hiding, it is hiding to those that are lost, and if one takes all the riches and wealth God has blessed us with and do not share it, how dwell the love of God in our hearts. This does not mean unload all one has naturally, but do share some material love with others too. Fourth, till we all come in the Unity of the Faith puts Satan to a flight when the Saints come into the unity of the faith. One must understand the command of being unified. There is no need or room for a division in the work of the Ministry. Working the Ministry of unity causes Ministry to be able to withstand the enemy, giving the Kingdom of Heaven the advantage here on earth.

⁷ Sumrall, Lester. *Gifts And Ministries Of The Holy Spirit*. (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2005) 202.

The Knowledge of the Son of God shows that all must be knowledgeable of Christ and His works. "Everybody ought to know who Jesus is" is a song taught to believers in childhood. This is so true with this Ninefold Gift. How can one minister if they do not know who He is, what He is, what He has done, and what He can do? Lester Sumrall states, "[w]hat a tremendous thing it will be when all of us really and truly know the totality of what Jesus Christ can do for us."⁸ Unto a Perfect Man means that one is to continue until all are united in faith and in knowledge about God's Son until they become mature and measure up to Christ, who is the standard. Ministering in this gift, the Lord is not looking for one to demonstrate imperfection or defeat; but demonstrate perfection in Christ.

The Measure of the Statue of the Fullness of Christ is a work of art, but it is possible to bring the total body into. The body of Christ is to demonstrate the strength, and confidence as Jesus, who is the captain of our salvation, did and continues to do until this day. That We Henceforth are No More Children is the gift in which one must exemplify maturity and grow up. One cannot and should not be moved by every little thing that challenges them. The Body of Christ should demonstrate sound doctrine. If there were ever a time to raise the church must do so in such a time as this. To know in whom the saints believe, the scriptures in their meaning of the dispensations and the church age, and context. This defines a sound individual, ministers, and church. Speaking the Truth in Love is also attached to "that we henceforth are no more children," because one needs to speak the truth, not displaying anger. Everything one says and does must be done in love. Nothing moves a person or pushes them to grow-up than the person demonstrating love when bringing correction, sermon, and fellowship. Know who the Head is, know that He is in control, and He brings the saints together as one, fitly joined together. The Lord wants this gift

⁸ Sumrall, Lester. *Gifts And Ministries Of The Holy Spirit*. (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2005) 204.

to be displayed in Shepherds with a rod and staff for comforting and leading the sheep, not a lasso as in herding cattle.

The Fivefold Ministry Gifts

The Fivefold Ministry Gifts are for the equipping of the Saints, beginning with the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers. Instruct on their position, Sumrall wrote, "the Bible says the Holy Spirit is the One who establishes these ministries in the church."⁹

Fivefold ministers are meant to cooperate in their special gifting and abilities and together govern, guide, gather, ground and guard God's people. This responsibility is for actions, preaching, teaching, healing, nurturing, giving, administering, building, and many other responsibilities.

Beginning with the Office of the Apostle's Gift, the Greek word is Apostolos has the meaning to delegate or one sent with full the power of attorney to act for another.¹⁰ The Apostle is the highest office in the Ministry of the church. Ultimately, these individuals are the messengers and ambassadors of Jesus Christ. Many individuals believe that Christ's twelve Apostles are the only to truly fit this role; however, some also believe that apostles hold the roles of missionaries in the church, spreading the word of God to those who do not know it.

Next is the Office of Prophets. The Hebrew word for prophet is Ra'ah, which means to see or to perceive tells us what the Ministry of the prophet is all about.¹¹ Also, the word Chozeh means beholder of visions is used of a seer or a prophet.¹² The office of Prophet functions in revelation and points the way for believers. Remember the office of Prophet is different from the gift of prophecy. The gift of prophecy has a governmental authority and role with higher

⁹ Sumrall, Lester. *Gifts And Ministries Of The Holy Spirit*. (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2005) 208.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid, 217.

¹² Ibid.

responsibility. The Gift of Prophecy is for edification, exhortation and comfort, whereas the Office of Prophet flows in areas of guidance, instruction, rebuke, judgment, and revelation.

The Office of Evangelist is the proclaimer of the Gospel. That is his purpose of ministry, and he does not deviate from it.¹³ This is an outreach Ministry of the church, with the purpose of helping to evangelize the world. In a church, an evangelist is a coordinator of the outreach, evangelism team, soul winning action team with one goal in mind; bringing salvation to those who do not possess it. The purpose as an evangelist is to win those souls to Jesus. As Paul says to Timothy "...[w]atch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."¹⁴

The Office of Pastor is to shepherd God's people here on earth. The Greek word for pastor is Poimen, meaning that they are a shepherd and protector over their flock.¹⁵ Ephesians 4 expresses that a pastor is to be the shepherd of his flock, which is the church he was called to pastor at the local assembly. A pastor demonstrates his position by remaining with the sheep of his pasture, as he shepherds them and has a sheep and shepherd relationship. Some of the activities of a pastor's duties are to perform weddings, funerals, visitations, prayer, counseling, and other ministerial capacities as the need arise within the local church.

The Office of Teacher is one who gives instructions of the Word. A teacher can be in one location or travels freely. Through the teachings, this gives an enrichment and understanding to the people that are listening to God's Word. The teacher grounds the church in truth through instruction in the principles of the Word of God. The teaching department in a church would oversee the educational and training ministries, including writing and developing curriculum and

13 Sumrall, Lester. *Gifts And Ministries Of The Holy Spirit*. (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2005) 239.

14 2 Tim. 4:5 (KJV)

15 Sumrall, Lester. *Gifts And Ministries Of The Holy Spirit*. (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2005) 241.

performing teaching duties.¹⁶As one humbles themselves and receive the fivefold Ministry gifts, the church will be empowered and blessed.

Elders, Deacons, Helps, and Governments

The Elders, Deacons, Helps, and Governments are all laborers in the body of Christ who are appointed by the spiritual leaders of the Christian church. Ultimately, they are parishioners and congregants of the church who further coordinate in an area of ministry. They have been assigned to the task to help, bring order, and other serves in the church. They must demonstrate both physically and spiritually maturity. These titles of service are given by the laying on of hands, for the purposes of spiritual, and some purposes are to serve naturally.

The Office of Elder is an awesome ministry. The word of God states in 1Timothy 5 “[l]et the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine...the laborer is his reward. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”¹⁷ The Greek word for Elder is presbyteros, which closely references to the Hebrew word zaqen. It refers to a mature man, this does not mean according to the years of an individual; but his or her spiritual discernment.¹⁸ Serving in this area of Ministry does not require a certain age. Noting that Jesus began his Ministry at the age of 30, a good age to begin the journey as an Elder could be between the age of 25-35.

When thinking of the Office of Deacons, the first to come to mind is the minor tasks, as in the physical and logistical tasks of the church ministry; however, there is so much more to their role in ministry. There are vast responsibilities of being a Deacon. We need to understand that the office of a Deacon is not to be misunderstood. The scripture expresses the qualifications

16 Lake, Diane. "Do You Know Why Fivefold Ministry is Essential?" Generals International. October 12, 2015. Accessed November 29, 2017. <https://www.generals.org/articles/single/do-you-know-why-fivefold-ministry-is-essential/>.

17 1 Tim. 5:17-19.

18 Morrison, Chris. "Elder, A Word Study." THINKING THEISTICALLY. August 6, 2010. <https://cmmorrison.wordpress.com/tag/presbyteros/>.

of Deacons. First, they are not greedy for ill gain and must be blameless. Further, they must be the husband of one wife, be mature, and above reproach. Also, a Deacon cannot be double-tongued. A Deacon does not need to be able to teach, but are called to "hold" to the faith with a clear conscience.

The Ministry of H.E.L.P.S are the arms that wrap around the ministry, the legs that run the ministry, the fingers that propel ministry, the toes that help the Ministry to stand, and all other organs, and muscles. They are not heads in the ministry. If everyone were the head in ministry, then there would be an experience of lawlessness as it was in the days of the Judges.¹⁹ The acronym H.E.L.P.S stands for having enough loving people serving. This proves faithfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, and reliability in the Ministry. One cannot consistently have people starting and stopping their duties in the Ministry, causing others to have to pick up from where they left off. One needs to help fulfill the assignments and callings of God to the church. By doing so, it helps to free the hands of the Fivefold, that they may give themselves to prayer and the word. If there are no H.E.L.P.S. in the church, then Ministry becomes stagnate, with no productivity occurring. Acts 6 expresses that it is not desirable for the Fivefold to leave the word of God and serve tables.²⁰ Further, one is not called to a Ministry to become a consumer only, but servants as well. The saints are there to help further bring Ministry to its manifestation by from volunteering or by employment in the Ministry.

Governments derives from the word kubernesis which means to govern, and is usually applied to the government or steering of a ship.²¹ It is not easy to determine what office or function is intended here. Many suppose that distinct offices may not be here referred to, but that the same persons may be denoted in these expressions as being distinguished in various ways.

¹⁹ Jdg. 21:25

²⁰ Acts 6:2-4

²¹ Sumrall, Lester. *Gifts And Ministries Of The Holy Spirit*. (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2005), 254.

This could mean that the same persons were called "helpers" in reference to their skill in aiding those who were in distress, and "governments" in regard to their talent for doing business, and their ability in presiding in counsels for deliberation, and in directing the affairs of the church.²²

Conclusion

In summary, the Ministry of the Christian church possess many essential roles and parts and none should be overlooked or seen as unimportant. These roles help the gifts and purpose of Ministry come to past. They further help establish leaders to properly led the saints of God. All parts of the body are essential to properly spread the Word of God to the rest of the world. It is with great joy to know that all have can be used by the Ministry and serve value within the church. By serving in ministry, one can be enriched and empowered by the Lord, maturing in their walk of faith. It is essential to continue to obtain a comprehensive understanding of God's word and continue to "rightly divide the word of truth."²³ Regardless if one is called to Ministry or assigned to a ministry, everyone should always be ready to engage themselves with the work God has given the saints to do. As people of God, all should humble themselves under the mighty hand of God and assist those He has empowered to represent Him in ministry. Furthermore, those He has called to lead Ministry should do so in proper alignment of the Heavenly Father.

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²²Barnes, Albert. *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament*. 8th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Classics, 1962.

²³ 2 Tim 2:15 (KJV)

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