DESCRIBING THE FIVEFOLD EPHESIAN MINISTRIES

APOSTLES *(apostolos)*

Apostles are God's builders (*architekton*) of the glorious church.

Words associated with the apostle include: *impart, confirm, activate, strengthen, strategies, the church, design, plan, structure, architect, ordain, reform, proton, demand, builder, doctrine, administrate, father, govern, pioneer, trailblazer, foundation, sent-one, warrior, first, order, messenger,* and *ambassador.*

Apostles are the most panoramic of the fivefold ascension gifts. They can see the whole picture. Whereas a pastor might be more local church-minded, the apostle has more of a world (universal) church vision. His heart is to mobilize the local church into a fine-tuned, invading, and occupying army.

- *The grace of the apostle is to impart to the believer a heart to build Jesus' church.*

All these words best describe the different attributes of the various ascension *(doma)* gifts. Once we understand their differences, we can benefit from their uniqueness.

PROPHETS *(prophetes)*

Prophets are ascension gifts set in the church to produce a hunger for the voice of God.

Words associated with the prophet are: *see, hear, say, seer, mouthpiece, messenger, watchman, revelation, decree, proclaim, prepare the way, burden, announce, pray, utterances, turn, prophesy, foretell, forthtell, root out, intercession, repentance, holiness, deliverance, dreams,* and *visions.*

Prophets receive and communicate the mind and will of God. Jesus uses them to announce His will, unlock mysteries of His Word, bring conviction of sin, and focus the believer on an intimate spiritual and holy life. Prophets are spokespeople of God. The primary foundational function of a New Testament prophet is for edification, exhortation, and comfort.

- *The prophet's grace is to impart to the believer a hunger for the rhema Word of God (the voice of God).*

EVANGELISTS *(evaggelistes)*

Evangelists tell the Good News that Jesus Christ died for sins, was raised from the dead on the third day, and is now extending forgiveness of sins to all who would believe.

Words associated with the evangelist ascension gift include *go ye, souls, the lost, Gospel, Good News, herald, glad tidings, salvation, Great Commission, reconciliation, signs,* and *wonders.*

Without the evangelist's ascension gift, we would quickly forget about the Great Commission. The evangelist's grace is focused on the harvest. However, the evangelist's grace ends after a person is born again. Then, that person needs the grace of the other ascension gifts to mature fully.

- *The grace of the evangelist is to impart a heart in the believer for the lost.*

PASTORS *(poimen)*

Pastors are shepherds called to love and nurture God's people.

Words associated with pastor include *shepherd, nurture, tend, feed, comfort, lead, protect, guard, sheep, nice, still waters, green pastures, patient, longsuffering, serve, counsel,* and *compassionate.*

Pastors are wonderful gifts from Jesus and greatly benefit the local church. They are typically full of mercy, love, and compassion. They offer wise counsel, sound godly wisdom, and advice. There are many times when we need loving grace and compassion for the pastoral ascension gift.

- *The grace of the pastor is to impart to the believer a love for God's people.*

However, we need more than compassion and love. We also need to become disciples. For that, we need a teacher. (Even though a teacher has a unique ascension gift, that does not mean the pastor cannot teach. See 1 Timothy 3:2.)

TEACHERS *(didaskalos)*

Teachers are set in the Body of Christ to instruct us in the Word of God.

Words associated with teacher include *explain, train, instruct, educate, simplify, academic, prepare, mature, tutor, expositor, disciple, steps, keys,* and *how to.*

Teachers have a unique grace to break down Scripture into easily understood and attainable steps. It is not enough for a person to only be born again. They must be instructed in the Word of God and the ways of righteousness.

- *The grace of the teacher is to impart a heart in the believer to make students of God's Word.*

References

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