



The Gifts of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit gives believers spiritual gifts for the purpose of ministering to the body of Christ and to the lost world. While His gifts may bless and encourage others they should never give anyone reason to boast or take pride in the gift the Holy Spirit has chosen to give us. The gifts are to be used to minister to others. To minister means to serve not to be served.

Paul doesn't give us a definite hierarchical ranking of the Gifts of the Spirit, though he does seem to put apostleship, prophecy and teaching above miracles, healings, helps, government and tongues as you will see in the DBR. This month we will be looking at the Gift of Apostleship and the Gift of Prophecy.

Apostleship

The basic root meaning of the word *apostle* is "one who is commissioned as the commander of a fleet of ships." The use of the Greek word in the New Testament does not depart widely from this basic meaning. The root of the Greek meaning is "commissioned; to set apart; to send out on a mission." So according to Strong's Greek Dictionary the word *apostle* or *apostleship* is "an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ; messenger; he that is sent." In fact some Bible translators translate the word "*apostles*" to "*messengers*" such as in Phil 2:25.

The Office Of An Apostle

Some form of the word *apostle* occurs 93 times in 19 of the 27 New Testament books. In the New Testament the word *apostle* has a two-fold meaning. One is the *office of an apostle* which Jesus instituted during his ministry According to Luke 6:12-16 this office was so important that he prayed all night before he called together his disciples and chose

twelve from among them to be named as the original apostles. This office was unique and those holding this title were to meet certain criteria.

- ✓ They had been with Jesus from the beginning. (Acts 1:21)
- ✓ They had personally been commissioned by Christ. (John 20:21)
- ✓ They were witnesses of the resurrection. (Acts 1:22)
- ✓ They were to lay the structural foundation of the church. (Eph. 2:20)
- ✓ They had power to work miracles. (Acts 2:43)
- ✓ Their names will be inscribed on the 12 foundations of the New Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:14)

Although Paul emphatically claimed to be an *apostle* and appointed so by the Lord, he never makes the claim of having been numbered with the Twelve. When he met the *apostles* in Jerusalem, he never made the slightest suggestion that he should be one of them. Rather, when Paul made his claim to be the last of the *apostles* his claim was that by his experience on the Damascus Road, he too had been personally commissioned by God to spread the Gospel, making him an apostles but not appointed as one of the Twelve.

The Gift of Apostleship

The second in the two-fold meaning is a much broader meaning which takes in the works of an apostle. It is one of the ministry gifts. In our day many call the gift of *apostleship* the *missionary* gift. The word missionary is rooted in the Latin “to send” as the word *apostle* comes from the Greek “to send.” Linguistically, *missionary* and *apostle* are equals. Both mean “sent ones.” However, today the word missionary is losing its original meaning significantly by including almost anyone in Christian service. Christian service is not the *gift of apostleship*.

The original meaning of missionary/apostleship was “to be *sent* to minister transculturally with the goal of sharing the Gospel, making converts and church planting.” The missionary was sent by the church that saw the ability and the gift in that person to love, evangelize and establish a church. The missionary is *sent* from, as opposed to being *called* to, a particular place or church. Although Billy Graham is invited to other countries by evangelical churches to hold crusades does not make him a missionary. Crossing geographical lines does not make a missionary. The gift of apostleship or missionary gift is the inner passion to go from ones homeland or home church to live, eat, breath and serve another culture. Not every one is able to do that. There have been numerous missionary casualties because a person has not been able to minister cross-culturally.

The missionary gift never comes alone. Other gifts are needed for effective overseas service, like teaching, evangelism and helps. Within the Church of God a large number of our missionaries are teachers, setting up Bible Training Stations for teaching and equipping the people of the country where they serve. Others are under the guise of

vocational training with an evangelistic ministry. The Church of God now has missionaries in 179 other countries outside the United States and Canada.

The Gift Of Prophecy

In Hebrew, the word for prophet (nabi) means to be a “mouthpiece,” or a “spokesman” for God. Thus, a prophet delivers the “word of the Lord.” Prophecy brings conviction, repentance, and worship to the body of Christ.

Usually people think of predictions when they hear the word prophecy. But foretelling the future is just a small part of the meaning. Daniel Black writes, *“In simplest terms, prophesying is Spirit-inspired utterance. That is, prophesying occurs when a person speaks words in response to the inspiration and motivation of the Holy Spirit. According to the New Testament, prophesying may take the form of a message of edification, exhortation or comfort to the hearers.”*

*“A **prophecy of edification** is aimed at promoting the spiritual growth, character development and ministry of believers in Christ. A **prophecy of exhortation** urges people to pursue a course of conduct that will be pleasing to God. Exhortation looks to the future with the goal of having people faithfully follow the will of God. A **prophecy of comfort** is concerned with giving encouragement and hope to those who are distressed by present or past suffering.”*

What is Prophecy?

Let’s simply define prophesying as the Spirit-given ability to spontaneously receive and deliver a word from God, at a particular time and place, to a particular people, for a particular situation for correction or edification. The prompting comes from the Holy Spirit, not from intellect, events, circumstances, needs, wants, or human ideas.

Although prophesying is spontaneous and unselfconscious, this does not mean it is irrational or disorderly. Although it is unrehearsed, unplanned and unprepared, it is not an irresistible divine compulsion that comes upon a person causing the person who prophesies to lose their senses of self-control. In fact Paul instructs that a person who has a direct message from God, a prophecy, has the power to stop himself or wait his turn. However, under the unction of the Holy Spirit a prophecy may reveal unrighteous motives or actions by presenting God’s truth. This is why the gift of prophecy was so prevalent in the church at Corinth. The Holy Spirit was using men and women of God to strongly speak out against the sins and false teachings in the church to bring it to purification. We certainly need more prophecies in our churches today. It is important to remember, with the gift of prophecy there must be the motivation, not just to expose the wrong but to restore and nurture. It is not a platform speech one has practiced or rehearsed to express their opinion about a situation.

IMPORTANT: The Spirit of God will never inspire anyone to say anything contrary to the Scriptures. Self and false prophecy is judged harshly by the Lord. A person who claims to have the gift of prophesy and only speaks truth part of the time should not be allowed to continue to prophecy. This will only lead to confusion not edification or exhortation or comfort or humble rebuke. Whatever a person prophesies must come to pass. The Word from the Lord is always 100 percent true.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

(Download or print)

The purpose of this Daily Scripture Reading is to help you encounter the person of the Holy Spirit as you personally pick up your Bible and read each scripture. Experience the joy of using your concordance for additional references and truths.

R-read scripture U-underline scripture Yellow-God Red-Jesus
Purple-Holy Spirit Blue-praise Green-myself Black-Satan
Brown-Sin, temptation, sinners
W-write in your journal () is cross references

Scriptures are King James Version

Psalms - Ps.	Corinthians - Cor	Mark - Mk
Matthew - Matt	Hebrews - Heb	Luke - Lk
Revelation - Rev	Ephesians- Eph	Romans - Rom
Timothy - Tim	Galatians - Gal	Thessalonians - Thess
	Deuteronomy - Deut	

Day

1. Start this new month with the prayer of David in **Ps 86:11**. UG

2. **MEMORY VERSE #5 - I Cor 14:40**

(Original 12 apostles)

3. What were the requirements to be an *Apostle of Christ* in **Acts 1:21-22; Mk 3:14-15**?

4. List the original 12 apostles named in **Matt 10:2-4**.
5. The purpose of the apostles was to tell the Gospel story and establish faith in Christ. How was this done in **Acts 2:43; 5:12; 8:18; 2 Cor 12:12** and **Heb 2:4**?
6. According to **Lk 22:28-30**, what will the original apostles do one day?
7. Where does **Rev 21:14** say the names of the original apostles are inscribed?
8. **R Acts 1:23-26** for the account of the replacement of Judas as an apostle.

9. MEMORY VERSE # 6 - Matt 28:19

(Missionary/apostleship)

10. Who are called liars in **Rev 2:2**?
11. **R Eph 2:20**. The church was built upon the foundation of the _____ and _____. What is Jesus Christ in this foundation?
12. **R Acts 15:2-6, 22-29; 16:4-5**. Where and for what is the last mention of the original apostles in their official capacity?
13. Use the following scriptures to list others who were not numbered with the original apostles. **Acts 14:14; Rom 16:7; Gal 1:19**.
14. What part did the church play in sending out its first missionaries in **Acts 13:1-4**? What 4 things did the church do in v:3?
15. According to **Acts 18:23**, what was the purpose of Paul's 3rd missionary journey?

(Gift of Prophecy)

16. MEMORY VERSE #7 - I Cor 14:32.

17. What are the 3 elements found in the gift of prophecy in **1 Cor 14:3**?

18. What prophetic word did Moses receive in **Deut 3:28** and for whom was it given? From **1 Cor 14:3** what two elements did this prophecy use?
19. If one has the gift of prophecy, with what proportion are they to prophecy with according to **Rom 12:6**?
20. Who was the 1st prophet mentioned in the NT found in **Acts 11:27-28; 21:11**? What two prophecies did he give? Who was the first prophetess as mentioned in **Lk 2:36**?
21. List others from the NT found in **Acts 13:1; 15:32** and **21:8-9**.
22. W out the prophecy of **Joel 2:28-29**. According to **Acts 2:1-18** is this prophecy fulfilled?
23. **MEMORY VERSE #8 - 1 Thess 5:20**
24. From **1 Cor 14:24-25** what will be the result of a prophecy?
25. R **1 Cor 14:29-33**. What is the true order of the gift of prophecy?
26. What did Paul tell Timothy to do in **1 Tim 1:18-19**?
27. In **1 Tim 4:14** what did Paul admonish Timothy not to do, and in **v:15** what was Timothy admonished to do?
28. What desire did Paul express for all believers in **1 Cor 14:1,5,31,39**?
29. R **Deut 18:15-22** for the test of a true and a false prophecy.
30. R all of **1 Cor 14** for an overall view of the gifts.

*(There are 14 prophetess listed in scripture.
If you feel you have this gift
you may want to do a personal study of each of their lives.
You can find them listed in a concordance under prophetess.)*

