

Understanding Spiritual Authority...

The Book ©

Journal Study - Guide

Written by:

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**DON WALKER
MINISTRIES**

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Series: Understanding the Apostle's Doctrine

Understanding The Apostle's Doctrine

Journal Study-Guide Series

Acts 2:41-43 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in THE APOSTLE'S DOCTRINE and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

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The Textbook (The book also available)

****Textbooks are in the outline format and were originally created for Kingdom Life University.***

About the Author

Dr. Donald F. Walker Jr. gave his life to Jesus in August of 2000 at 19 years old shortly after joining the United States Air Force, marking the beginning of a lifelong commitment to sharing the Gospel. In January 2001, Don and a friend led his basic training flight of 60 Airmen to Christ—an early sign of the evangelism that would define his life. Since October 2020, Don Walker and his ministry team have helped lead more than 26,100 people to the Lord, demonstrating his unwavering passion for soul-winning.

Early Ministry Formation

Dr. Walker began formal ministry training in 2003 at Victory Christian Ministries International (VCMi) in Suitland, Maryland. There he faithfully served in the Usher Ministry and on the Fishers of Men evangelism team. In 2006, he was consecrated as a minister. While stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi as an Air Force sergeant, he received prayer and a commissioning at Covenant Church (Jesse Duplantis Ministries), he received the fire of God and stepped boldly into urban evangelism in the Gulfport–Biloxi region. Partnering with Youth 4 Christ, he used rap music and preaching to reach incarcerated juveniles and people from all walks of life with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His music was played on the radio and YouTube in 3 nations. Don did not tally the thousands of people saved from April of 2001 to September of 2020.

In 2007, Don met a nonprofit attorney Khiedrae Walker, and the two were married in 2008. Together they founded a nonprofit and after-school program and were commissioned as lay ministers and missionaries through Refuge Temple Church of God in Christ in Gulfport, Mississippi. There they served local youth through Bible teaching, tutoring, mentorship, and hot meals.

Later, the Walkers joined Living The Word International (LTwI) in Slidell, Louisiana, where they served in multiple capacities—including media, new members' orientation teaching, and directing the Fire Starters Teen Ministry. They also facilitated CHOSEN, a teen purity program. At LTwI, they were encouraged to launch **The A.T.O. Outreach**, a global-humanitarian, evangelism and suicide-prevention ministry. In 2013, their youth campaign contributed to a 3-year freeze in teen suicides across St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

Leadership, Ordination, and Global Ministry

When the Air Force reassigned the Walker family to Woodbridge, Virginia in 2014, Don and Khiedrae reconnected with VCMi Church. They led the Chrisma Teen Ministry, helped organize three teen conferences, served in children's ministry, and were ordained first as ministers and later as pastors under TCBM (Apostles Tony and Cynthia Brazelton Ministries).

In 2018, following the final military relocation—this time to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa Bay—the Walkers served as leaders of the Prayer and Altar Ministry at Reach City Church (Assemblies of God). For nearly two years, they interceded faithfully for revival three times each week.

In the summer of 2020 after praying for revival, the Holy Spirit led Don to a farm in Plant City, Florida. At the farm he met Dr. Eric Gonyon of Revival Ministries International. Six months later in January 2021, the U.S. Air Force approved a six-month Outreach Ministry Internship (Skills Bridge Pastoral Training Program) at River University, where both Don and Khiedrae were later licensed and ordained under Drs. Rodney and Adonica Howard-Browne.

After 20 ½ years of honorable military service—including deployments to Uzbekistan, Jordan, and Kuwait—Dr. Walker retired from the U.S. Air Force in July of 2021. For three years, he and Khiedrae pastored Revival Center, an urban mission church in St. Petersburg, Florida. They were nominated for a Pinellas County humanitarian award for community service. Together they founded **Don Walker Ministries** (www.DonWalkerMin.com), spreading the Gospel internationally through global evangelism, training, and missions. Their ministry has impacted nations such as Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and India.

In Kenya alone, Dr. Walker's evangelism training has helped plant 20 churches in the Kisumu region, resulting in more than 7,000 new believers and church members. The Walkers continue to train bishops, pastors, and hundreds of parishioners worldwide.

Education and Professional Background

Khiedrae Walker is a seasoned attorney, graduating from Tougaloo College in 2001 and Cooley Law School at Western Michigan University in 2007. She has served in both nonprofit and government roles. She has founded

Tightly Knitted (www.TightlyKnitted.org), a Florida nonprofit dedicated to strengthening marriages and families.

Dr. Don Walker Jr. holds:

- **Bachelor's in Pastoral Studies** from Southwestern College
- **Master's and Doctorate in Biblical Studies** from Kingdom Life University
- **Post-doctoral Ph.Ds. in Theology** with his wife at Kingdom Life University (minor concentration in Kingdom Business)
- **Associate Degrees** in Human Resources and Fire Science from the Comm. College of the Air Force
- **U.S. Air Force Humanitarian Service Medal**, 1,000 volunteer hours, post Hurricane Katrina
- **Project Management and Project Leadership Certificates** from Cornell University
- **Outreach Ministry / Pastoral Internship** through the USAF Skills Bridge Program at River University
- **Doctoral Apprenticeship completion (2025)** with Kingdom Life University President

As an online professor with KLU University has authored four graduate-level courses, three academic textbooks, and multiple books on Christian theological doctrine.

A Family Committed to the Gospel

With a steadfast heart for ministry and a powerful global vision, Dr. Don Walker continues to preach, teach, and advance the Kingdom of God with his wife, Khiedrae, and their missionary daughters, Gabriella and Alexandria. Together, the Walker family remains dedicated to leading, inspiring, and transforming lives through the love and power of Jesus Christ.

Study-Guide

How it works:

This Study Guide is designed to educate the reader on biblical concepts. This Study Guide series is part of "Understanding The Apostles' Doctrine" and provides study for each subject. Please Note: Each day, you will read a section entitled "In Depth". The "In Depth" section will contain the day's study material and scripture references to support the study. To read the full scripture, read the section directly above "In Depth" entitled "Scripture." Scriptures are italicized. For accuracy, I will only pull definitions of Hebrew and Greek words from Strong's Concordance and Lexicons. Both the Strong's and the Lexicons contain references from the original scrolls and manuscripts. Each day, we will uncover a different topic or a unique perspective. In approximately 20 to 30 minutes a day you will become a Subject Matter Expert in that area! You are encouraged to read the topic and write the answer to each question provided to you.

While reading each scripture, feel free to open your Bible and read it in context. There will only be studies from the bible in the King James with definitions from the original Greek or the Hebrew-Aramaic. We will never present teachings from any denominational teachings, theological norms, or dispensational world views. Everything will be taught in context with scripture and the cultural norms of the 1st century church and the Old Testament prophets. We have entered a day in age when the masses will not believe the truth of the Bible's teachings. 2 Timothy 4:3 states, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...*" When your studies are complete, you will no longer fall for false doctrine. You will be armed with the truth.

Understanding Spiritual Authority

5-Fold Offices and More

Table of Contents – Chapters

Ch. 1: Introduction: Jesus As
The 5-Fold Offices

- pg. 11

Ch. 2: The Anointing of God

- pg. 14

Ch. 3: Helps and Administration

- pg. 18

Ch. 4: The Apostle - pg. 129

Ch. 5: The Prophet - pg. 45

Ch. 6: The Evangelist - pg. 58

Ch. 7: The Pastor - pg. 68

Ch. 8: The Teacher - pg. 82

Ch. 9: False Prophets,

False Apostles, and

False Teachers - pg. 90

Ch. 10: Authority of Nations

- pg.106

Ch. 11: Spiritual Weapons

of Warfare - pg. 114

Ch. 12: Women in Ministry

- pg. 121

Conclusion – pg. 135

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

I will only cover concepts from the New Testament because the 5-Fold

Offices or gifts were given to the church according to:

Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:8 “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive,

And gave gifts to men.”

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he (Jesus) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

The complete 5-Fold Ministry Offices—Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers—remain fully available and operational today, contrary to modern religious views that have often questioned or limited their relevance. This comprehensive understanding affirms that the full leadership structure of Christ's body is intact, empowering the church with the necessary spiritual authority for effective ministry in the present day.

Chapter 1: Introduction – Jesus in the 5-Fold

When Jesus rose from the dead he put all enemies under His feet, this makes Jesus in authority over all things. Jesus is not limited to the head of the church, but he also head over all things pertaining to the church. Jesus is head of all things pertaining to the body of Christ and is the example for all ministers in word and actions. Jesus is head Apostle and High Priest, the mighty Prophet, top Evangelist, over shepherd and Pastor, and Master Teacher. Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Jesus released gifts for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. Let's explore what the scriptures have to say about Jesus in the 5-Fold offices or ministry gifts.

Jesus as Apostle:

Hebrews 3:1 *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

Jesus as Prophet:

Luke 24:19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

Jesus as Pastor:

A pastor is a shepherd (Greek: *poimen*). One who herds and cares for the flock of sheep. Hebrews 13:20 *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.*

Jesus as Evangelist:

Jesus proclaimed a call to repentance, pulling people out of darkness. This is an Evangelist's #1 assignment. Matthew 4:16-17 *The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* Mark 1:14-15 *Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

Jesus as Teacher:

John 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Matthew 7:29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Jesus as High Priest and Minister:

Hebrews 8:1-2 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

The whole purpose of serving in ministry is in service to Jesus.
Jesus is our example. Jesus is our guide. Jesus is our reward

Chapter 2: The Anointing of God

The Presence of the Holy Ghost with a Believer,

The Manifested Presence of God

Anointed One (Greek: Christ) is translated as Christos, which means "anointed," and this term originates from the Hebrew word Messiah, signifying the "Anointed One," the high priest, and the King of Israel. The anointing refers to the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

A yoke symbolizes bondage or a curse. In Deuteronomy 28:48, it says, "*Therefore thou shalt serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.*"

Curses come in many forms. Certain forms include violence, diseases, addiction, lack, and bondages are considered curses. How can we break free from this yoke or curse? Many use programs and education over long periods of time. However, there is an anointing available that can break a curse with one prayer. This is done through the anointing of God, which comes from the Messiah.

Isaiah 10:27 declares, *"And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."* Jesus, the Anointed One, has the power to break every yoke. Acts 10:38 affirms, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."* Jesus had the Spirit without measure, meaning there is no limit to His power. John 3:34-35 states, *"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand."* Jesus' anointing was so powerful that He didn't always need to pray for people to be healed—His authority alone brought healing. Simply touching His clothing transferred His anointing and brought healing. In Matthew 14:35-36, it says, *"And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about and brought unto him all that were diseased; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole."*

The anointing of Jesus Christ is available not only to ministers but to all believers! Jesus grants power and authority, as outlined in Luke 10 and Mark 10. Luke 10:19 declares, "*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*" Jesus has entrusted His power and authority to believers, not just the Apostles. Mark 16:17 says, "*And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.*" This anointing is available to all believers, as stated in 1 John 2:20: "*But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.*"

Later in Chapter 12 we will discuss Spiritual Weapons of warfare like prayer and anointed items like handkerchiefs and more. However, when it comes to the anointing, to access this power the key is time spent in prayer and by abiding in God. Jesus gives us a model for receiving miracles through prayer in Matthew 6. Matthew 6:6 says, "*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*" We can also receive from heaven by abiding in Jesus and

meditating on scripture. John 15:7 states, *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."* We are to pray directly to the Father, in Jesus' name, to receive the miraculous, as outlined in John 16:23: *"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."* Regardless of whether you are an apostle, teacher, or disciple of Christ, you have access to the anointing power of God through the authority that Jesus has given you. Faith, at its core, can be summed up in one sentence:

Believe Jesus, believe in Jesus, and believe in His Word.

Chapter 3: Helps and Administrations

**Personal Assistant, Servant of the Poor, Steward in the House of
God, Minister of Ceremonies**

Helps (Greek: antilempsis) meaning to aid, help with mutual acceptance. A laying hold of, apprehension, perception, objection of a disputant. Ministration of the deacons, who have care of the poor and the sick.

Administration (Greek: diakonia) service, ministering, esp. of those who execute the commands of others. Of those who by the command of God proclaim and promote religion among men. The ministration of those who render to others the offices of Christian affection esp. those who help meet need by either collecting or distributing of charities. The office of the deacon in the church. Also, the service of those who prepare and present food.

Scripture:

Luke 4:20 *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.*

John 13:3-5 *Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.*

1 Corinthians 12:28 *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

1 Corinthians 9:12-13 *For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;*

2 Corinthians 9:12 *For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;*

Ephesians 1:22 *And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,*

Ephesians 4:11 *...apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

In Depth: The ministries of Helps and Administration serve as the foundation for stepping into the five gifted positions outlined in Ephesians 4:11—the Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist, and Teacher. One cannot enter any of these five positions without first serving in the Ministry of Helps or Administration. Individuals who hold the title of "minister" can function within the Ministry of Helps, even if they do not yet occupy one of the five gifted roles.

The Greek word for administration, *diakonia*, translates to "service" or "ministering," especially in the context of executing the instructions of others. An example of this is seen in Luke 4:20, where a minister serves during a synagogue service on the Sabbath.

After Jesus reads the scroll of Isaiah, the minister's responsibility was to assist in administering the service. In this instance, the minister's role was to receive the scroll after the weekly Torah reading. The ministry of Administration encompasses various tasks, including but not limited to: collecting offerings, serving food, cooking meals, advertising, janitorial work, building and carpentry, organizing paperwork, and publishing.

Helps, as established by the church or ministry leaders, serves at least five purposes.

- 1) Assisting in serving the congregation and visitors during ministry events.**
- 2) Supporting the building and growth of the ministry or church, even through giving.**
- 3) An avenue to receive discipleship from leadership through ministry service via Helps and Administration. This includes volunteer and paid positions.**
- 4) To receive promotion from a position of Helps and Administration to a position that leads to roles such as Apostle,**

Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist, or Teacher. However, even those in a 5-Fold Office role should continue serving in some capacity within Helps. An example of this was how Jesus as the lead Apostle took time to wash his disciple's feet in John 13:3-5. As a ministry leader he humbled himself and took time to serve in the Helps capacity.

5) The Ministry of Helps is designed to foster spiritual growth and personal growth. Certain tasks will force an individual to operate outside of their comfort zone. This will help to overcome insecurities, fear, selfishness, and other personal barriers, maturing them through sacrificial service.

A clear example Helps and Administration is found when Jesus instructed His disciples to serve the crowds with bread and fish. In Matthew 14:19, Jesus took the loaves and fish, blessed them, and gave them to the disciples to distribute to the crowds. In this instance, the disciples were serving in the Ministry of Helps as they aided Jesus in fulfilling His larger ministry assignment. The disciples separated the crowds into groups and distributed food; Jesus taught the crowds. By serving Jesus and serving food they submitted to Jesus leadership, following the model of submission that Jesus exemplified in His relationship with the Father. While

they were serving a menial task, they also witnessed Jesus perform miracles. In John 14:31 Jesus said, "...I do as the Father has commanded me." Similarly, in John 5:19-20, Jesus teaches that He can do nothing of His own will, but only what the Father shows Him.

How to Lead by Serving

There are four steps to being a servant leader and helping others:

1. Do the work. A good leader first does the job themselves.
2. Next, show others how to do the work or task.
3. Instruct. A leader explains how to do it correctly, while the pupil is performing the task.
4. Empower. Finally, the leader trusts them to do the work on their own without oversight.

A leader's job is to train helpers so that the ministry can grow. Just like Jesus, who was a leader, still washed feet and served food, every leader should also serve.

Jobs in the Ministry of Helps can be anything from greeting people at the door and serving food, to doing building maintenance or

helping with paperwork. Every single one of these roles is important to the church.

True service involves self-sacrifice and a willingness to do what is needed, no matter how small it seems. It reflects the heart of Christ and helps the entire church family grow.

Humble acts of service are the foundation of the Ministry of Helps. Service, compassion and faith can eventually lead to signs, wonders, and miracles.

In Jesus' ministry, many individuals served Him with their time, energy, and resources. In Luke 8, we learn that while Jesus was traveling with His disciples, certain women, including Mary Magdalene, Susanna, and Joanna, also accompanied them. The scripture notes that these women, including Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward, "ministered unto Jesus of their substance" (Luke 8:3). Joanna and the women served Jesus' ministry through Administration. Which is also defined as "...those who help meet a need by either collecting or distributing of charities." The term "substance" in the Greek (*hyparchonta*) refers to one's possessions, goods, wealth, and property. The word "substance" is the same

word used in Matthew 19:21 to describe the great possessions of the rich young man who was unwilling to part with his wealth. This passage emphasizes that it is not enough to simply offer financial resources; the Ministry of Helps and Administration requires the giving of one's time, energy, and your heart to serve Jesus, who is the ultimate leader of the ministry established by God. As stated earlier, the Greek word for helps is *antilepsis*. It means to be a personal assistant, a servant to the poor, or a minister of ceremonies. It's about helping others with a willing heart. For example, when Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he was showing a perfect example of this ministry (John 13:5). He showed that no job is too small, and that true leaders serve.

The word for administration is *diakonia*. It means to serve and to carry out the commands of others. It also means to help those in need by giving out food or money. This is the same word used for a deacon in the church. This job is just as important as any other. It includes preparing and serving food, too. The Bible is full of stories that show how important helpers are.

Elijah and Elisha

In the Old Testament, the prophet Elijah was scared and sad after being threatened. To help him, God told him to find a new prophet named Elisha, who would be his helper (1 Kings 19:16). Elisha served Elijah for a long time. Even though Elisha would later perform twice as many miracles as his teacher, the Bible says he was known as "...the man who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah." (2 Kings 3:11). This shows that Elisha was a humble servant. This teaches us a special lesson: those who humble themselves in service to others will be raised up by God.

Moses, Aaron, and Hur

When the people of Israel were in a battle, God told Moses that they would win as long as he kept his hands raised up. But Moses' got tired. So, his friends, Aaron and Hur, stood on either side of him and held his arms up. They even put a rock under him so he could sit down. With their help, the Israelites won the battle (Exodus 17:11-12). This story shows that the Ministry of Helps will help to win the battle!

Why Helpers are so Important

The Bible says that the Ministry of Helps is so important that it is listed with other spiritual gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12:28, the Bible gives a list of jobs in the church. It says, “And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, and various kinds of tongues.”

Notice that helps is listed before governments and tongues! This means that serving others is a very important part of the church. Even Jesus needed helpers! When he fed 5,000 men with a few loaves of bread and fish, he used his disciples as helpers (John 6:11-13). They helped him pass out the food to the crowd. Helpers are needed to help ministry work get done.

The best way to get ready for a big job in the church, like being a pastor or a teacher, is to start by being a helper. All ministers should begin by serving in the Ministry of Helps.

People who help in the church by collecting offerings, serving food, making meals, or cleaning are all part of the Ministry of Helps and Administration. They are following Jesus' example of serving

others and helping the church to grow. The best way to get ready for a big job in the church, like being a pastor or a teacher, is to start by being a helper. All ministers should begin by serving in the Ministry of Helps.

The Bible even shows that the women who followed Jesus "ministered unto him of their substance" (Luke 8:3), meaning they helped him with their money and possessions. This shows that true service involves giving your time, energy, and heart, not just money.

Chapter 4: The Apostle

**Sent One, Military General, Commissioner of Christ
with Miraculous Powers**

Apostle (Greek: apostolos) a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle") with miraculous powers: apostle, messenger, he that is sent. This is a pastor of pastors and launches multiple ministries. Originally this word derived from a special type of high-ranking Roman military general that leads soldiers to invade a new region, to subdue the region and establish a kingdom into a new region.

Scripture:

Matthew 28:19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*

Mark 16:15 *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch...)

Acts 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:3 I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 And that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the

apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Characteristics and guidelines to become an Apostle,
according to scripture.

1) An Apostle must “be sent” by God as an ambassador and messenger of the Gospel. This is a uniquely different position from a basic missionary, evangelist, or a bishop. All of whom are also “sent ones”

2) An Apostle’s ministry must have miraculous powers. Healings, signs, wonders and miracles by God. This description “with miraculous powers” is found in definition within the original scrolls and in 2 Corinthians 12:12. Also Acts 5:12 mentions how signs and wonders wrought through the apostles’ hands.

3) A pastor of pastors means the Apostle is to have multiple churches established under their leadership using the Apostles' doctrine. This is a series of teachings that is coordinated with the teachings of the 1st Century church. At least one church (including house churches) must be built from the ground up by an Apostle, meaning souls won for the Lord. Ministers must be discipled and the church established from this doctrine.

4) An Apostle is also a "Commissioner of Christ", meaning they receive deeper and more abundant confirmations from the Holy Spirit. They function in all five of the ministry offices: Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist, and Teacher. They have the authority to anoint and ordain others, enabling them to operate under God's anointing. In Acts 8:17, we see how the Apostles laid hands on new believers, and the Holy Spirit came upon them, marking their baptism in the Holy Spirit.

5) This qualification is referenced in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8. Some denominations argue that the office of Apostle is no longer available

today, claiming that an Apostle must have physically walked with Jesus. They often point to 1 Corinthians 15:5–8, where it is stated that Jesus appeared to “all the apostles.” This passage was written by Paul, who himself encountered Jesus—not in the flesh, but in the form of a radiant, divine light. For nearly 2,000 years, Jesus has continued to appear to aspiring ministers around the world in similar supernatural ways. From Iran, to Saudi Arabia, to China, Jesus is still appearing to and commissioning Apostles.

Let’s sum up all 5 qualifications for an Apostle: An Apostle is

- (1) sent by God
- (2) with miraculous powers
- (3) a pastor of pastors transferring leadership and anointings
- (4) as a commissioner of Christ operating in all 5 offices
- (5) with Jesus appearing unto them physically or spiritually.

In Depth: I would like to use the Apostle Paul as an example of a New Testament apostle. It is important to note that Jesus never

encountered Paul during Jesus' earthly ministry, yet God chose Paul to become one of His apostles. Walking with Jesus during His earthly ministry is not a requirement to becoming an Apostle. Before his conversion to Christianity, Paul was known as Saul. He was a Pharisee and studied under Gamaliel, a prominent first-century elder and leader of the Pharisees in the Sanhedrin court (Acts 22:3). Saul had the approval of the Jerusalem leadership to arrest Christians in the surrounding regions and bring them to Jerusalem for persecution. However, while on his way to the Syrian city of Damascus to carry out this mission, Saul experienced a life-changing encounter. This was the moment when Saul came face to face with Jesus.

Instead of walking with Jesus in the flesh, he met the Lord as a brilliant light and heard his voice on the road to Damascus. This type of experience continues to happen today, particularly in regions like the Middle East and Africa, where persecution is intense, and the presence of clergy is limited. I personally know of instances in Iran, these modern-day supernatural encounters are raising up end-time ministers and leading tens of thousands to embrace Jesus. However, some theological groups have developed

doctrines that lack biblical support, such as the idea of the "Apostolic Age." These groups assert that the apostles of the first century spread Christianity throughout Europe and Asia—areas where the gospel had not yet reached. While this historical fact is correct, they wrongly claim that once churches were established in these regions, the "Church Age" began, marking the end of the "Apostolic Age." Several key points must be considered in response to this claim:

- a) The Bible has NEVER divided time into these distinct periods called Church or Apostolic "ages".
- b) The Bible has NEVER indicated that the work of the Apostles is complete.
- c) Jesus instructed that the Gospel of the Kingdom be preached to all nations (examples: Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15). Jesus never said this instruction should be limited to the known world of the 1st century. The Apostolic power that planted churches in the 1st century is currently planting churches today with many signs, wonders, and testimonies of miracles.

I know of a remarkably humble man in Ethiopia who embodies all of the characteristics mentioned above, including the ability to speak accurate prophecy and perform legitimate miracles. This man has planted over 500 thriving churches—more than the Apostle Paul himself. Yet, why should this Ethiopian man be denied the title of Apostle simply because certain theological doctrines claim that the role has ended? This false theological thinking is rooted in Cessationism, a relatively modern theological perspective. Cessationists, believe that many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, along with the offices of Apostle and Prophet, came to an end at the start of what they call the "Church Age." Much of Cessationist teaching is based on what can be observed with the physical eye. However, just because church leaders in America have not witnessed miracles such as the dead being raised or tongues being supernaturally translated does not mean these gifts have ceased to exist. The fact that some American churches are devoid of miracles does not imply that miracles are no longer possible. Perhaps it is time for us to walk by FAITH and not by sight. We must trust in the promises of God's Word, which affirms His ability to work miracles, rather than allowing man-made theological doctrines to limit God's power in our lives.

The Christian journey is rooted in FAITH. To experience salvation, we must first have FAITH in the resurrection of Jesus. Likewise, to see miracles occur, we must exercise FAITH. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God... God rewards those who diligently seek Him." Without using FAITH we will cease to seek God for miracles. It is entirely possible to believe and have FAITH in our salvation yet still struggle to have the FAITH needed to witness these miraculous. If Jesus Himself states that faith is required to see miracles, who are we to call Him a liar with frail theology. (Matthew 17:20-21 and Mark 11:22-24)

Modern Day Example: Apostle

A modern-day Apostle I have had the privilege of knowing personally is Apostle Tony Brazelton, a man of remarkable humility and deep spiritual integrity. One of the humblest individuals I have ever met, Apostle Tony's ministry journey began in an unexpected place—while he was working an office job in the Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) area. During his lunch breaks, he felt compelled to pray for his coworkers, and remarkably, people began to experience healing from various

medical conditions. This became so common that a line would form at his desk during lunch, with individuals seeking prayer and healing. It was evident that Apostle Tony was operating in the power of miracles, signs, and wonders, and his ministry had an undeniable impact on those around him.

Apostle Tony proved to be an exceptionally effective evangelist, leading many to Christ through numerous street crusades in Prince George's County, Maryland. His outreach efforts were powerful, and many souls were won to Jesus through his ministry. Over time, Apostle Tony transitioned into full-time pastoral ministry and even had a life-changing vision in which Jesus appeared to him, further affirming his calling. He became a well-respected teacher of the Bible, and through his church, Victory Church in Suitland, Maryland, he established a Bible college, solidifying his position as a master teacher in the scholastic realm.

Apostle Tony has over 40 years of ministry experience with leadership networks as far as Nigeria, Mozambique, Brazil and more. In 2006, he prayed for me regarding my future in ministry. During this time, he prophesied about aspects of my music and ministry that would unfold in the years to come. As I reflect on the

past 18 years, I can see that his prophetic words have indeed come to pass, further confirming the accuracy of his gift.

Apostle Tony and his wife have been instrumental in establishing eight churches in the United States and the United Kingdom. Two of these churches are 2,000+ seater churches about 1 hour apart. These church locations are personally overseen by Apostle Tony, with a team of elders under his leadership. Additionally, he has raised up two pastors, mentoring them into apostles themselves. His dedication to nurturing leaders and expanding the kingdom of God has had a lasting and profound impact.

List of The Original Apostles in Scripture

1) The Original Twelve Apostles

The original 12 disciples were promoted to the position of Apostle by Jesus himself. Please note: Jesus had over 70 disciples. He promoted 12 disciples to the title of Apostle, to include the one who later betrayed Him, Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:2-4, Luke 6:13-16, Luke 10:1)

Matthew 10:2-4 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Luke 6:13-16 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

2) Matthias, The Replacement to Judas Iscariot

After Jesus ascended up into heaven from Mount Olives many of his followers went to the upper room in Jerusalem. While meeting in the upper room Peter recalls a prophecy from the Book of Psalms. (Acts 1:15-26) Peter identifies a prophecy about the fate of

their former colleague, Judas Iscariot. The culmination of the prophecy mentioned Judas being replaced with another to take his office, establishing the Apostleship as an office. The disciples immediately prayed, cast lots and Matthias was selected among the 11. Matthias became one of the 12 Apostles, literally the 13th Apostle selected. (Psalm 109:6-9, Acts 1:26)

Psalm 109:6-9 Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

Acts 1:26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

3) James, The Brother of Jesus

Biological brother of Jesus. There are several individuals associated with Jesus' ministry who bear the name James. Among them, two men named James were part of the group of Apostles during Jesus' earthly ministry. One was James, the son of Alphaeus, and the other was James, the son of Zebedee, who was killed by Herod with the sword (Acts 12:2). However, there is

another James who became an Apostle after the resurrection. This James was not only an Apostle, but also the biological half-brother of Jesus, as well as the brother of Joses (or Joseph), as mentioned in Matthew 13:55. This particular James became an Apostle after Matthias replaced Judas, making James the 14th Apostle. He was appointed to this position before the Apostle Paul and is recognized as the author of the Epistle of James, or the Book of James, found in the New Testament. Beyond his role as an Apostle, James also served as the Bishop of Jerusalem from around 63AD until his martyrdom in 69AD. His leadership in Jerusalem was crucial during a pivotal time in the early Church, and his faithfulness ultimately led to his martyrdom for his testimony of Christ. (Galatians 1:19, Matthew 13:55, Acts 12:2)

Galatians 1:19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's (Jesus') brother.

Matthew 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

Acts 12:2 And he (Herod) killed James the brother of John with the sword.

4) Paul, The 1st Apostle Who Never Met Jesus In The Flesh

Contrary to popular belief, Paul was not a replacement for Judas. Instead, Paul became the 15th Apostle mentioned in scripture after Matthias (13th), and James (14th). Paul will certainly not be the last. Some theological groups argue that an Apostle must have contributed to the canon of scripture or doctrine in order to be considered a legitimate Apostle, which would certainly qualify Paul. However, it is important to note that many Apostles did not leave behind any written scripture to be added into biblical canon. Among the original Apostles, several did not author any epistles of the Bible. This group includes Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, and more—all of whom are not associated with any written scripture or doctrinal contributions within the Biblical canon. As a matter of fact there are two men whose writings were added into scripture who were not Apostles, Mark and Luke. Paul's selection as an Apostle was not based on his contribution to scripture, but rather for a variety of other important reasons that we have outlined earlier. Christ's appearance to Paul was not in the flesh but in the form of a glorious light, a spiritual manifestation. Jesus appears to Paul spiritually,

not physically. In Galatians chapter 1, Paul himself clearly states that it was Jesus Christ who personally selected him to be an Apostle, affirming the Apostolic calling and commissioning. (Galatians 1:1)

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;).

Once again, these are the 5 qualifications for an Apostle:

An Apostle is

(1) sent by God

(2) with miraculous powers

(3) a pastor of pastors transferring leadership and anointings

(4) as a commissioner of Christ operating in all 5 offices

(5) with Jesus appearing unto them physically or spiritually.

Chapter 5: The Prophet

Prophet (Greek: prophetes) foreteller, an interpreter of oracles or of other hidden things, moved by the Spirit of God, hence his organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation G4396.

Characteristics and guidelines to become Prophet, according to New Testament Scripture

- 1) Treating others with love is essential to the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

- 2) Will experience unjust persecution.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

- 3) Prophets are often killed in persecution

The devil does not want God's people to have the ability to hear directly from God. Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Luke 11:50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

4) New Testament prophets are called to be set within churches, not just on their own.

1 Corinthians 12:28-29 *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?*

5) Often rejected, but will be rewarded and avenged by God.

Luke 6:22-23 *Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.*

Revelation 11:18 *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

Revelation 18:20 *Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

6) Will teach and prophesy in agreement with the scripture.

1 Corinthians 14:37 *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

7) Reveals the mysteries of Christ.

Ephesians 3:4-5 *Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ. Which in other ages was not made*

known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

8) They can control their spirit and bodies

1 Corinthians 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

9) They honor other prophets and receive a prophet's anointing.

A prophet's reward is the anointing of God. God blesses His prophets with an anointing and that anointing is worth more than gold and silver.

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

10) Won't receive honor among his hometown/family.

Matthew 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Luke 4:24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

11) True prophets show mercy for hurting people.

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

List of Prophets in New Testament Scripture

1) John the Baptist

He served as the forerunner who prepared the way for the ministry of the Lord Jesus. He was the son of the priest Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth. When Zacharias expressed doubt about the angel's message concerning the birth of his son, the angel struck him mute as a sign of his disbelief, and he remained unable to speak until the child was born. After the baby, John, was born, Zacharias was unmuted, filled with the Holy Spirit and began to prophesy, declaring the special role his son would have in God's plan. In Luke 1:76, Zacharias prophesied that John would be called the "prophet of the Highest" or the "prophet of the Most High God." Later, in Luke 7, Jesus affirms the angel's proclamation, adding that John the Baptist was more than just a prophet—He even goes so far as to declare that John was the greatest prophet ever born of a woman. John's assignment is to prepare the way of the Lord

It's important to note that the death and resurrection of Jesus marks the beginning of the New Covenant or the New Testament. Although John's story is included in the New Testament, he died

before witnessing the resurrection of Jesus, which places him technically as the last of the Old Testament prophets. Jesus Himself clarifies this in the Gospel, stating that the law and the prophets were in effect up until John, and He calls John the greatest of the prophets. Even those who opposed John could not deny that the people saw him as a prophet. Jesus further distinguishes John from the ministers of the New Testament, saying that "the least in the kingdom of God" is greater than John, signaling the new era that His resurrection would usher in. (Luke 1:67, Luke 1:76, Luke 7:26-28, Matthew 11:12-14, Matthew 14:4-5)

Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying;

Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

Luke 7:26-28 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. For I say unto you, Among those that are born of Women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Matthew 11:12-14 *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*

Matthew 14:4-5 *For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.*

2) Anna

After the circumcision of Jesus, the prophetess Anna witnessed His dedication in the temple. Upon seeing the baby Jesus, she immediately gave thanks to God and prophesied that He would be the redeemer of Jerusalem. To estimate Anna's age at the time of this encounter, we need to do some calculations. Let's assume that Anna was married at the age of 15, which was a reasonable age for a Hebrew bride. She was married for seven years, which would have made her a widow at the age of 22. After becoming a widow, Anna dedicated herself to serving in the temple for 84 years, continuously fasting and praying, embodying the role of a devoted prophetess. If she was indeed married at 15, we can estimate that

Anna was around 106 years old when she prophesied over the baby Jesus, a remarkable age for such a faithful servant of God. (Luke 2:36-38)

Luke 2:36-38 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

3) Agabus

Agabus was the first individual to hold the 5-Fold Office of a prophet in the New Testament era, following the resurrection of Jesus. While many of the Apostles could be considered prophets due to their roles in spreading God's message and performing miracles, Agabus stands out as the first man in the New Testament to be recognized specifically and solely as a prophet. His prophetic role was clearly demonstrated in the early chapters of Acts. One of his notable prophecies, which helped establish his reputation,

occurred in Acts chapter 11. Agabus prophesied the coming of a severe famine that would affect the entire Roman world. His prediction was not only accurate but also confirmed the strength of his prophetic gift and his connection to the Spirit of God. The famine came to pass, demonstrating the credibility of Agabus's words.

Agabus's prophetic calling was further confirmed later in Acts, specifically in chapter 21. In this instance, he prophesied in great detail about the future arrest and imprisonment of the Apostle Paul in Jerusalem. Agabus's prophecy was particularly remarkable because it foretold not only Paul's arrest but also his transfer to the Gentiles. He warned that Paul would be handed over to the gentiles after being seized in Jerusalem. This prophecy was fulfilled in the following chapters of Acts, specifically in chapters 23 and 24, when Paul was indeed arrested, detained by the Jewish authorities, and later transferred to Roman custody. Agabus's foresight proved accurate, and his prophetic title as a man uniquely anointed to foretell the future was solidified through these events. Through his accurate and detailed prophecies, Agabus became recognized as a key prophetic figure in the early church, serving as a distinct

prophetic voice in the early New Testament era. His role as a prophet was pivotal in guiding and warning the early Christian community. (Acts 11:28, Acts 21:10-11, Acts 24:23)

Acts 11:28 *And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.*

Acts 21:10-11 *And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.*

Acts 24:23 *And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.*

Modern Day Example: Prophet

Over the past 20 years, I have had several encounters with prophets, each one surprising and unique in its own way. I was attending a Revival Camp Meeting in Tampa, Florida, and worship

was about to be concluded. During this time of worship, I was praying to God about several things, including a specific request to help establish Global Evangelism. I prayed for the ability to bring my family and ministry leaders to various countries, particularly several nations in Africa. At the time, this seemed far beyond my financial capabilities, so I was deeply asking for God's assistance to make this vision a reality.

As soon as I finished praying, the lead pastor, Dr. Rodney Howard-Browne, pointed directly at me. There were nearly 2,000 people in the room, and I was sitting about five or six rows from the front, to the left. For those who know Dr. Rodney, he is not only a pastor but also a prophet with a history of accuracy. He had previously received a prophetic dream that Billy Graham was with him, and the Lord told him to hold a crusade in Madison Square Garden—a massive undertaking that seemed impossible without the necessary funds. Yet, in 1999, Dr. Rodney rented out Madison Square Garden for six weeks and saw over 40,000 people come to Christ. He had even warned the people about the possibility of a terrorist attack on New York, urging them to repent and accept

Jesus. Less than two years later, his prophetic warning came true as the Twin Towers in New York City collapsed.

So, here I was, in the revival meeting finishing my prayer for a global ministry, Dr. Rodney pointed at me from across the room and declared, “That thing you were praying about over there, the Lord says He is going to give it to you!” Two years later, I saw that prophecy come to pass when my family and a ministry leader traveled to Uganda and Kenya to hold crusades. Three days before our departure we were short on funds when \$14,000 was transferred into our ministry account by a few donors! During African crusade meetings, 1,008 people made decisions for Jesus, and many churches were impacted in powerful ways. Dr. Rodney’s prophecies were accurate and impactful.

In addition to that early prophecy, I had another significant encounter during a trip to the Church of God In Christ, Centennial Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee. Over 50,000 church goers packed a convention hall and the stadium where Memphis Grizzlies’ play basketball. While there, I helped a homeless man, who seemed distinguished in his own way. He even accompanied me to a church service and told me that his job was to win the

homeless and drug addicts to the Lord before their deaths. At the end of our time together, I gave him my winter coat, and as he looked me in my eyes, he began to laugh. He then said, “You didn’t even know I was a prophet.” He prophesied to me, saying, “Your wife will treat you like Sarah treated Abraham and will help you with the vision God gave you.” This prophecy was spoken on November 13, 2007, and just two days later, on November 15th, I was introduced to my future wife, Khiedrae, over the phone. At that time, I didn’t realize she would become my wife, but months later, our relationship grew, and we were married. To this day, I have never seen that homeless prophet again. These were just a few encounters with real prophets. Over the past 20 years, I have had several encounters with prophets, each one surprising and unique in its own way. My first experience with a prophet happened when I was 13 years old, long before I became a believer in Christ. At the time, I was in the 7th grade, spending time at a friend’s house after school while wearing my JROTC uniform. I was extremely insecure about my appearance, particularly because of the acne on my face and the constant teasing I received due to my very dark skin. While at my friend’s house, the mother noticed the honor roll badge on my uniform and asked me about it. After I shared that I had earned

near straight A's in 6th grade, she responded by saying, "The Lord says you will be very handsome in your older years and will become a doctor." I was taken aback in disbelief, as I had spent years being called ugly by the young boys and girls.

At that moment, the mother's teenage daughter looked at me and said, "My mother is a prophetess of God." At the time, I had no idea what that meant nor did I understand the significance of the prophecy. However, the prediction stayed with me. I later attended college to study pre-med microbiology, though I changed my major after joining the Air Force. Fast forward 25 years later, and as I write this, I have just completed a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies. Though the prophecy about me becoming "very handsome" still hasn't fully materialized, the prediction about my future in education has certainly come to pass. I am grateful for the prophets that I have encountered who have edified, built up and comforted me.

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

Chapter 6: The Evangelist

Evangelist (Greek: euaggelistes) a bringer of good tidings, an evangelist. The name given to the NT heralds of salvation through Christ who are not apostles. A preacher. In the Bible, an evangelist is a preacher of the gospel or missionary who proclaims good news and calls for repentance. Evangelist "publisher of glad tidings;" a missionary preacher of the gospel.

Characteristics and guidelines to be an Evangelist,

According to New Testament Scripture

An Evangelist must actually do the work of winning souls in the ministry. Meaning to produce fruit through hard work. Some people confuse an evangelist for a teacher. Teachers only respond to speaking engagements, an evangelist actually wins souls.

An evangelist must actively engage in the work of the ministry, which means putting in the necessary effort to produce tangible results and bear fruit through hard work and dedication. This goes beyond merely holding a position or title; it involves a commitment to spreading the gospel and seeing real, meaningful change in the

lives of individuals, producing lasting fruit. It's important to note that some people mistakenly confuse the role of an evangelist with that of a teacher. While a teacher primarily responds to speaking engagements and focuses on instructing others, an evangelist goes a step further by actively seeking out and winning souls for Christ outside the four walls of a church, at times involving baptisms. The core responsibility of an evangelist is to bring people into the faith, and assist in populating the local church, whereas a teacher's role is to nurture and build up those already within the faith. Evangelists take the gospel message to those who have not yet heard or accepted it, working to bring new people into the fold of believers, as God will even confirm sound doctrine with signs wonders and miracles. The evangelist's job is to gather the masses to Jesus.

Mark 16:20 And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word with signs following. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

List of Evangelists in New Testament Scripture

There is only one with the title as evangelist. Philip is the only individual in the Bible who is specifically referred to by the office title of "Evangelist." He serves as a remarkable example of what it means to be an evangelist because he faithfully followed the instructions given to him by Jesus. The Bible highlights Philip's extensive ministry, showing that he preached in numerous cities and baptized both men and women, demonstrating his dedication to spreading the gospel and fulfilling his role as an evangelist. In a recent trip to Ethiopia, I was given the opportunity to speak to ministry leadership about the origin of the churches within the nation. I was told that the Ethiopian Eunuch was given permission by the queen to establish the first churches in Ethiopia in the 1st century, predating the churches in Rome. It is believed his efforts were joined with the Apostles Matthias and Matthew, who were supposedly martyred while establishing churches in Ethiopia. Phillip's fruit was a result of Phillip's ministry. His actions and ministry serve as a clear model for evangelism from the early church.

Mark 16:15-16 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

Acts 8:12 *But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

Acts 21:8 *And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.*

Other Possible Evangelists

1) Woman at the Well:

Although she did not hold the official title of an evangelist, she effectively carried out the work of one by directing an entire city toward Jesus. When she realized that Jesus was not just a merciful man that showed grace to her even though she had promiscuous ways. But also this man was the prophesied Messiah that her ancestors had spoken of, she eagerly shared this revelation with everyone she could. As a result, the people of the city came to Jesus

in response to her testimony. (John 4:28-30) The evangelist's job is to gather the masses to Jesus, and this woman was successful in her evangelistic efforts.

John 4:28-30 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

2) Witnesses to the miracle of the deaf man:

A group of individuals brought a man to Jesus who was both deaf and struggled with a speech impediment. This man was unable to hear and had difficulty speaking clearly. When Jesus encountered him, He miraculously healed the man, restoring both his hearing and his ability to speak. After performing this miracle, Jesus instructed those who had witnessed the event to keep it quiet and not to share what had happened. However, despite His instructions, the witnesses could not contain their excitement and joy over the miracle they had seen. They immediately began spreading the news about what Jesus had done, telling everyone they encountered. As a result, the news of Jesus' healing power spread rapidly, causing

His ministry to gain widespread attention and be talked about far and wide. In a sense, these witnesses became the first to evangelize, sharing the miraculous work of Jesus and contributing to the growing reputation of His ministry. (Mark 7:31-37)

Mark 7:31-32 And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

Mark 7:34-37 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

3) A man with leprosy

He was so happy with his healing that he proclaimed it freely. His evangelistic efforts were so successful that crowds followed Jesus in every city and town. Jesus was forced to stay away from crowded towns for the need was great.

Mark 1:42 *And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*

Mark 1:44-45 *But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.*

Modern Day Example: Evangelist

A prime example of a modern-day evangelist is Dr. Jerry Bryant, whose 60+ years of ministry have been marked by dedication, hard work, and a passion for reaching people with the gospel. In 1972 he founded Action Evangelism, a ministry with the single goal of winning thousands of people to Jesus. Dr. Bryant spent many years as a traveling evangelist, frequently packing up his equipment and traveling to numerous high schools and middle schools across various states. Once he arrived at each location, he would play music and preach the gospel, effectively reaching and winning the hearts of thousands of teenagers to the Lord. Known for his

exceptional gifts as a professional musician and a speaker, Dr. Jerry's ministry is dynamic and impactful. He also hosted his own television show, further extending his influence.

A pivotal moment in his ministry came when an older Christian woman named Mom Taylor spoke a prophecy over him on the live TV show. She predicted that in two weeks, his ministry would take a drastic turn. She told him that he would soon begin ministering to the homeless in San Francisco. Remarkably, exactly two weeks later, Dr. Jerry found himself doing just that. Over the next several years, he devoted himself to reaching out to thousands of homeless people in San Francisco, witnessing a powerful transformation in their lives. His work was so impactful that he even received a large military boat, which he used as the headquarters for his operations, providing a central place for his ministry.

During this time, many miraculous signs and wonders occurred among the homeless population, further demonstrating the power of God working through his ministry. After his work in San Francisco, Dr. Jerry took on a new role in teaching evangelism to several churches in the Seattle area. His teaching ministry would continue to expand, and eventually, he moved to Florida, where he

founded the World Mission Training Centers in 2001 that later became Kingdom Life University in 2006, a university built to educate international ministers, traveling evangelists and missionaries. K.L.U. is an online university, fully accredited through Transworld Association and has become a place where hundreds of students have received an Associate Degrees to Doctorate Degrees, with a wide range of concentrations from evangelism techniques, Christian counseling and many other ministry strategies and topics.

Dr. Jerry's influence extended beyond the United States when he established and led over 100 M.A.T. Teams (Ministry Action Teams) to remote villages in India and Pakistan. Action Evangelism created M.A.T. teams that traveled with projectors, screens, sound systems, and materials to show the Jesus film and win souls in areas that were difficult to reach. Through these efforts, Dr. Jerry helped train hundreds of ministers, equipping them with the tools and techniques needed to win the lost to Christ. With a combined soul count of well over 180,000 souls, his ministry has had a lasting impact on evangelism, training and inspiring many to continue spreading the gospel around the world.

I am honored to have a mentor as knowledgeable as Dr. Jerry Brandt. I have personally worked with dozens of evangelists and Dr. Jerry by far has had the longest consistent career as an evangelist.

The office or gift of the Evangelist is a very important office that requires a person to go! Go tell people about Jesus and win them to Christ!

Chapter 7: The Pastor

Shepherd, Deacon, Messenger Angel

As a reminder, I will be exclusively referencing the definitions of Hebrew and Greek words directly from Strong's Concordance and Lexicons. These resources are grounded in the original ancient scrolls and manuscripts, offering a closer connection to the authentic language of the Bible. It's crucial to underscore this point because, over time, the "Western Church" has made significant modifications to the meanings of various biblical terms, often diverging from the original intent and understanding of the first-century authors who wrote the texts. One such term that has experienced a considerable shift in meaning is the role of the Pastor. Throughout this exploration, we will delve into the original definitions and intentions behind these terms, and as we do so, be prepared to have your current theological perspectives and beliefs challenged. This study will provide an opportunity to reevaluate and rediscover the deeper, foundational meanings that were intended by the 1st century biblical writers, offering a more authentic understanding of the Scripture. I firmly believe that sustained miracles within a ministry will be accompanied with

sound doctrine. Over the years I've noticed a loss of power in few large denominations whose doctrines have strayed away from the teachings of the 1st century church.

Characteristics and guidelines to be a pastor

According to New Testament Scripture

- 1) A pastor is a shepherd who feeds the flock with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

- 2) His followers are compared to God's flock of sheep

Metaphorically, a pastor watches over the sheep that Christ has purchased with His blood. 1 Peter 2:25 *For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

3) Pastors are willing to lay their lives down for the sheep.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

4) A pastor will disciple sheep with or without money

Being a hireling is not a financial goal. John 10:13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

List of Pastors in New Testament Scripture

1) Pastor (Greek: poimen) a herdsman, esp. a shepherd, in the parable, he to whose care and control others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow, the presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly G4166: so of Christ the Head of the church.

The Greek word for pastor is “poimen,” which is synonymous with the term “shepherd.” A pastor is someone to whom others entrust their care and guidance, and whose teachings and principles they follow. This role encompasses the duties of a presiding officer, manager, and director, overseeing the activities and direction of any assembly or congregation. In the Bible, there are only four distinct titles that include the office of pastor within their description. These titles are: 1) Pastor, 2) Shepherd, 3) Deacon, and 4) Angel. Please note: The term “Elder” does not appear on this list. The word “pastor” was never translated as "elder" in either the Greek or the Hebrew language. The biblical role of elder originally referred to a leadership position within the council of the Sanhedrin Court, the Jewish governing body. In this biblical context, an elder was part of a council, not a leader of the congregation or flock. Therefore, the position of elder is distinct from that of a pastor. The western church uses elder as a pastoral position however, this doesn’t have biblical roots, and it should not be conflated with the role of leading a church or congregation.

2) *Shepherd (Greek: also poimen): a PASTOR or a herdsman.*

The most comprehensive chapter in the Bible that outlines the responsibilities of a shepherd towards a congregation is found in the Book of John, specifically in chapter 10. In this chapter, Jesus Himself is referred to as the "door," and it is through Him that a pastor must enter in order to be legitimately recognized as a pastor. This signifies that, for someone to be considered a true pastor, they must first be called and authorized by Jesus Himself. It is not enough for a person to simply take on the title of pastor on their own or be appointed by others; Jesus must be the one who commissions and assigns that individual to the role. In order to qualify as a pastor there must be a flock of people who follow. A true pastor is someone who has received this divine calling from Jesus and has been set apart by Him for the task of shepherding His flock. In contrast, a counterfeit pastor is someone who has not been assigned by God. These individuals may either appoint themselves to the role or be chosen by others—such as a church or human authority—without first seeking God's guidance and approval through prayer and discernment. The ordination of a pastor should always involve consulting the Lord and ensuring that

the calling is truly His, rather than simply a decision made by human will.

John 10:1-3 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter opened; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

3) Deacon (Greek: diakonos): dee-Ak'-on-os; G1249; an attendant, i.e. a waiter especially, a Christian teacher and PASTOR (technically, a deacon or deaconess):—deacon, minister, servant. (not to be mistaken for a diakoneo G1247: a lower level deacon.)

4) Angel (Greek: Aggelos): a messenger, envoy, one who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God. Aggelos, ang'-el-os; from ἀγγέλλω

*aggéllō; especially an "angel"; by implication, a PASTOR G32:—
angel, messenger.*

The Angels of Revelation are a perfect example of why this term surprising makes the list. The angel in Revelation chapter 22, who is often thought to be a divine being, is actually identified as a prophet and pastor. In the book of Revelation, an angel escorts the Apostle John through heaven, showing him the events that will unfold in the future. The appearance of this angel is so radiant and majestic that John, overwhelmed by its brilliance, falls to worship at his feet. However, this is no ordinary angel. In Revelation chapter 22, the angel explicitly clarifies his identity. He says, "...for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book."

There are several important points to note about this particular angel in Revelation 22:

1. Heavenly angels cannot "keep" the sayings of the book – The act of keeping, guarding, or following the words of prophecy is something reserved for human beings. This responsibility belongs to mankind, not to angels.

2. The angel refers to himself as a fellow servant of the Apostle John's brethren – The term "fellow servant" is significant, as it is a term specifically reserved for human beings. It shows a connection between the angel and the human prophets who share in the task of serving God and conveying His messages.
3. The angel identifies himself as a prophet – The office of a prophet is one uniquely assigned to humanity. Prophets are humans called by God to deliver His messages. Thus, by calling himself a prophet, this angel is aligning himself with mankind.
4. The mystery of the glorified state of Christians is revealed in 1 John, chapter 3 – This chapter describes the future transformation of believers when they will be glorified and appear like Christ. It says, "we shall be like Him," indicating that Christians will be transformed to resemble the glorified Christ. This explanation provides insight into why the angel appears so radiant in his heavenly form. His appearance, dazzling in its brilliance, is a reflection of Christ's glory, showing that the angel resembles Christ in His glorified state.

To sum up the whole matter, the "angel" who appeared to John is not a mere celestial being, but rather a man in his heavenly,

glorified body. He was sent by God to guide John through a revelation of future events. This heavenly messenger, who looks like Christ in His glory, is a fellow prophet and servant of mankind, showing that the future end-time messenger will be a glorified human being, rather than a traditional angel. The Greek word for angel is “*Aggelos*”. When you take everything into context, the literal Greek for angel is twofold; either (a) a heavenly angelic being similar to Gabriel and Michael, (b) a pastor, human being that is a heavenly messenger.

Revelation 22:8-9 *And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

The 7 Angels or Pastors of Revelation

In Revelation Chapters 2 and 3.

In addition to the angel mentioned in Revelation chapter 22, there are also seven angels referenced in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. In these chapters, Jesus instructs John to write letters to the seven angels. Now, consider this: how could John possibly write a letter to an angelic being? Would there be some kind of spiritual postal service that delivers letters to angels? Of course not, I am being sarcastic to highlight a key point: the term "angel" in these chapters is not referring to a heavenly, spiritual being, but rather to a human individual. Specifically, the term angel is also used to describe the pastors of the churches. Jesus instructed John to write letters to the seven pastors over the seven churches.

**The seven pastors who oversaw the seven churches
in Revelation.**

1) Revelation 2:1 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write...*

2) Revelation 2:8 *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write...*

3) Revelation 2:12 *And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write...*

4) Revelation 2:18 *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write...*

5) Revelation 3:1 *And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write...*

6) Revelation 3:7 *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write...*

7) Revelation 3:14 *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write...*

Jesus is directing John to write letters to the seven pastors who are responsible for overseeing the seven churches. Each church is facing its own unique challenges and issues, and each requires encouragement, correction, and admonishment. These letters are meant to address the specific needs of each church, providing both encouragement and warnings to the pastors, urging them to lead their congregations in a way that is pleasing to Jesus. The role of the pastor is crucial in guiding the church in the right direction, and these letters serve as a means of instructing and motivating the pastors to fulfill their responsibility. The term pastor is also

translated as “*Messenger Angel*” in the original Greek, meaning these pastors are called to relay a message to their congregations.

Modern Day Example: Pastor

I spent seven years living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, stationed on the Air Force Base. During this time, I met my wife, Khiedrae. We started as friends when she helped me establish a nonprofit organization for an outreach ministry. Through the process of working together, we grew closer, fell in love, and prayed to God for guidance on two important questions: 1) Lord, are we meant to be husband and wife? 2) If so, where should we go to learn how to have a successful marriage? Deep within my heart, I truly believe I heard the words, "Living the Word."

Living the Word International is a church about 45 minutes from where we were living at the time. On our first visit, we arrived about 30 minutes late. The service had already started, and the auditorium was completely packed. The usher at the door told us to wait just a moment. When she returned, she escorted us to the very front of the church, where there were two empty chairs.

Although we were first-time visitors, we were seated directly behind the pastor's wife on the second row, just as the worship music was coming to a close. Soon after, the lead pastor, Pastor Lawrence T. Weathersby, walked out from the side door into the sanctuary. As we settled into our seats, Pastor Lawrence asked the congregation to turn to Proverbs 18:22. He looked straight at me and said, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor with the Lord." He then began preaching a sermon series about the importance of family and marriage. In that moment, I knew this was God's confirmation to our prayer for a place where we could learn how to build a successful marriage.

Pastor Lawrence became a mentor to me, guiding me in ways I desperately needed. As a young minister, I was very eager to learn, and while some misunderstood my passion, Pastor Lawrence, a secure and wise man, recognized my hunger for growth. He, along with his wife, Pastor Chiquita, created a dynamic ministry that nurtured believers to love and serve the Lord. They graciously allowed my wife and me to be married in his church on Thanksgiving morning of the same year.

Our journey continued at Living the Word International, where my wife gave birth to two children who were dedicated in the church. It was here that I not only became a husband and father but also unknowingly trained to become a pastor. Pastor Weathersby taught me invaluable lessons on various aspects of ministry including church finances, dealing with opposition, raising a family in ministry, cooperating with other ministries, community evangelism, training ministers, and teaching men. These teachings shaped my pastoral calling and continue to influence my ministry today.

Now that I am serving as a pastor, I often reach out to Pastor Lawrence for advice on challenges and situations that affect the local church. Pastor Lawrence T. Weathersby is a true shepherd, dedicated to training, guiding, and nurturing the flock. He has faithfully served for over 20 years with honor and wisdom, and I am blessed to have learned from such a godly man. True Pastor.

Chapter 8: The Teacher

Teacher (Greek: didascalies) one who is fitted to teach, or thinks himself so of those who by their great power as teachers draw crowds around them i.e. John the Baptist, Jesus. An instructor (genitive case or specially) of those who in the religious assemblies of the Christians, undertook the work of teaching, with the special assistance of the Holy Spirit G1320:—doctor

Characteristics and guidelines to be a Teacher

According to New Testament Scripture

1) A Rabbi

A Jewish teacher that was considered worthy of honor. The word “Master” or chief was synonymous with rabbi and uses the same Greek and Hebrew words.

Rabbi (Greek: rabbi) rabbi, a title used by the Jews to address their teachers (and also honour them when not addressing them) my great one, my honorable sir of (the word “Rab” in Hebrew origin H7227 meaning CHIEF); my master, i.e. Rabbi, as an official title of honor G4461:—Master, Rabbi.

2) Held to a higher standard.

The bible warns that biblical teachers or “masters” shall be held to a higher standard and receive greater judgment.

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

3) Able to teach spiritual things

Just as Jesus taught spiritual things a teacher must be able to do the same, specifically about righteousness and salvation.

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

4) Not a hypocrite

A teacher must practice what they teach.

Romans 2:21-23 Thou therefore which teaches another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preaches a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrent idols, dost thou commit

sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

**5) Discerning the motives of people
and responding appropriately**

A pastor must be able to tell the difference between those that ask questions and those who question only to challenge the teacher, answering with grace.

Mark 12:14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

Mark 12:17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

6) Must be willing to humbly correct others

For example, Apollos was a believer in Jesus and the baptism.

Humble believers taught Apollos a more perfect way.

Acts 18:24-26 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

List of Teachers in New Testament Scripture

1) Jesus

He was also a teacher sent by God, performing miracles. He even taught religious leaders.

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

2) Paul

He was appointed by God to be a teacher of the Gentiles.

2 Timothy 1:11 *Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

1 Timothy 2:7 *Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.*

Modern Day Example: Teacher

I gave my life to Jesus Christ at the age of 19 and was filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit about six months later, while at Air Force boot camp. As soon as I had the opportunity to make a phone call, I immediately reached out to my grandfather, Willie Walker. When I shared with him the powerful encounter I had experienced with God, he quickly advised me to find a Pentecostal church, as they believed in the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the present day. My grandfather, Willie, had earned his master's degree in theology from a seminary in Maryland years prior and had recently been appointed as a Pentecostal Bishop. He became my personal teacher

of the gospel throughout my twenties, guiding me not only in matters of Christian living but also in how to delve deeper into the scriptures.

He taught me to research the original Hebrew and Greek texts to understand the true intent of the scriptures. He encouraged me to study bible genealogies and the origin of the families in the bible. Using Strong's Exhaustive Concordance for every study became a foundational practice for me. There were many times when my grandfather would slow me down, making sure I understood the deeper lessons in the Old Testament stories. These lessons were meant to instruct and warn me, especially to guard my heart from wrong motives. I admired him greatly when he stepped away from his position as a Bishop in the Pentecostal church, citing that church politics and nonbiblical rules were contrary to God's will. He humbly took on the role of a basic Bible teacher at a local church, never revealing to the lead pastor that he had once been a bishop.

My grandfather also cautioned me about using the gospel for financial gain and warned me about the consequences of sin, always encouraging me to pursue a Christian education. His influence

extended beyond the church, as he also served as the chaplain at Princeton Hospital in New Jersey, impacting many lives in that role. Eventually, his guidance led me to change my college major from Biology to Pastoral Studies, a decision largely influenced by his example and wisdom. My grandfather passed away in January of 2021, and his absence is deeply felt by our entire family. He was not just a grandfather but my teacher and mentor. His legacy continues to shape my life and ministry.

Final Determination: The ongoing presence of the 5-Fold Ministry Offices within the body of Christ is essential for the church's growth, spiritual authority, and the fulfillment of its mission. Leadership within the body of Christ should be cross-functional, meaning that individuals should not limit themselves to operating within just one office or role. For example, the Apostle, as a foundational leader, is called to operate in all five offices. Similarly, the Prophet must function not only in the office of Prophet but also, at a minimum, in the office of Evangelist to effectively fulfill their calling. The Evangelist, while focusing on evangelism, must also have the heart and ability to teach, ensuring that they are equipping others as part of their mission. The Pastor, although primarily

focused on shepherding, must also have a heart for evangelism and teaching in order to guide and nurture the congregation effectively. Likewise, the Teacher, while focused on instructing and discipleship, should also embrace the role of Evangelist, ensuring that their teaching leads others to Christ. The role of the Evangelist is vital to win many to Christ, preventing souls from going to hell. Just before the Apostle Paul was martyred for preaching the Gospel he wrote a series of letters or epistles. One of these epistles was the second letter to his pupil Timothy. Paul tells his dear friend Timothy, no matter what you endure in your afflictions, do the work of an Evangelist. * 2 Timothy 4:4-6 *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

Chapter 9: False Prophets, False Apostles, and False Teachers

This chapter is very important, because it teaches us how to recognize people who claim their assignment is from God but are not. The Bible repeatedly warns us about false prophets, false apostles, and false teachers. Jesus himself gave strong warnings to be careful.

Warnings from Jesus

Jesus taught his followers to be careful. In Luke 6:26, he said: "Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets." This means that true prophets were often disliked, while false prophets were popular.

In Matthew 24:11, Jesus warns us again that "many false prophets will appear and deceive many people." He also said in Matthew 24:24 that these false prophets would "perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." This means that fake prophets might be able to do things that seem supernatural. But these powers don't come from God. They come from evil spirits that

are secretly listening and watching. They use these tricks to fool people into thinking they are real prophets.

What False Prophets Do

The Bible gives us a list of things that false prophets do.

1. They are motivated by money and greed. In Titus 1:10-13, the Bible talks about people who teach things "for the sake of dishonest gain." They use their words to get money from others.
2. They teach false beliefs. The Bible says in 2 Peter 2:1 "there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves." This means they teach things that can hurt your soul and lead you away from God.
3. They lead people into sin. In the book of Revelation 2:20, Jesus speaks against a church that allowed a woman who called herself a prophet to lead people "to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols." False prophets can be very good at making sin seem okay.

False Apostles

Just as there are false prophets and teachers, there are also false apostles. The office of Apostle did not go away. But some self-proclaimed apostles are not so. The Bible explains that anything valuable may have a fake. The book of Revelation 2:2 says that Jesus praises a church for testing people who claimed to be apostles but were not. The church found them to be liars.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 describes false apostles as "deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ." It says that this isn't surprising because "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." Just because someone seems to have power or charisma doesn't mean they are sent by God.

These false apostles are often:

- Self-appointed: They give themselves the title of "apostle" instead of being chosen by God.**
- Avoiding tough topics: They may avoid talking about repentance, especially for sexual sins.**
- Proud: They use their title to make themselves seem important instead of lifting up Jesus.**

The True Shepherd vs. The False Leader

In John chapter 10, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. He says that a good shepherd enters the sheepfold through the door. But a thief, or a false leader, climbs in another way.

In John 10:7-9, Jesus says: "I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."

In John 10:10, Jesus tells us the difference between a false leader and a good one: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." In this verse, the "thief" is not the devil, but the false leader.

Jesus goes on to talk about a "hireling," someone who only works for the money. This hireling doesn't care about the sheep and will run away when a wolf (the devil) comes, leaving the sheep to be hurt. A true shepherd, like Jesus, loves the sheep and is willing to give his life for them.

A Final Warning

It is very important to use your spiritual sense to tell the difference between true and false leaders. False leaders are dangerous because they want to deceive and hurt people. 1 John 4:1 tells us, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Next, let's read the many bible passages as a warning.

False Prophets

Scripture:

Matthew 11:9-10 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Matthew 21:10-11 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Acts 13:6 *And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:*

Titus 1:10-13 *For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

2 Peter 2:1 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

Revelation 2:20 *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

Revelation 16:13 *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

Revelation 19:20 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

Revelation 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

In Depth: There has been significant skepticism regarding the authenticity of true prophets, largely due to the rise of many false prophets throughout history, some of whom have been exposed for

their deceitful actions. In Matthew 24, Jesus Himself addresses this concern, warning that false prophets would emerge, along with false Christs, performing great signs and wonders in an effort to deceive large numbers of people. Jesus foretold that these deceptive individuals would lead many astray, making it clear that such deceptions would be a hallmark of the times leading up to His return. In Acts 13:6, we encounter a specific example of a false prophet. As Paul and Barnabas journeyed through the island of Cyprus, they came upon a man named Bar-Jesus, described as a sorcerer and a false prophet. This highlights the ongoing issue of false prophets throughout the early church and beyond, some of whom were actively misleading others with lies disguised as truth. The motives behind many false prophets are also exposed in Scripture, particularly in Titus 1, where they are shown to be driven by the desire for "filthy lucre." The Greek term used here, "aischros kerdos," refers to the act of seeking gain or advantage in a manner that is shameful, dishonorable, and baseless. This kind of gain can be sought in various forms, such as power, authority, financial profit, or even through sexual manipulation and exploitation. The writer of Titus warns that such individuals should

be silenced and rebuked sharply, for they are subverting entire households with their harmful teachings.

In 2 Peter 2 and 1 John 4, false prophets are further described as false teachers who have gone out into the world, spreading heresy and ultimately denying the Lordship of Jesus Christ. These individuals, through their teachings and actions, will bring destruction upon themselves. The danger posed by false prophets is not limited to a specific gender, as both men and women can assume this role. Jesus Himself addresses this in Revelation 2, where He speaks about a false prophetess in one of the seven churches, known as Jezebel. She led Christians astray by encouraging them to engage in fornication and partake in food sacrificed to idols, thus undermining the purity of the faith and leading others into sin. As we move toward the end of days, Revelation also reveals the rise of another end-times figure who will play a central role in the final rebellion against God. This individual, known as the False Prophet, will work next to the Antichrist and Satan to deceive the nations. The False Prophet will use lies and deceit to lead people astray, and his influence will be particularly powerful, as he will perform signs and wonders,

convincing people to worship the Antichrist and take his mark. The False Prophet's role is not one of ignorance or self-deception because he is fully aware of his actions and intentions. He is a deliberate deceiver, actively leading millions to their demise for his own gain. His ultimate goal is to serve the Antichrist and Satan, working to drag as many souls as possible into eternal damnation.

The term false prophet in the Greek is "pseudoprophetes," meaning "one who, pretending to be a divinely inspired prophet, speaks lies under the guise of divine prophecy." This definition underscores the deceitful nature of false prophets: they claim to speak on behalf of God, twisting divine prophecies to suit their own agendas and lead others astray. Many so-called Christian prophets which secretly partake in occult practices, taking instructions from evil spirit and fallen angels through fortunetelling, sorcery, necromancy, and the like while masquerading as real prophets of God.

A false prophet's teachings are not only false but dangerous, as they mislead people into believing that they are following the truth when, in reality, they are being led away from God. In the book of Revelation the ultimate fate of unrepenting false prophets are

revealed. If they do not repent, they will be cast into the lake of fire, a place of eternal torment, where they will suffer alongside the real False Prophet of Revelation, the Antichrist and Satan for all eternity. This final judgment serves as a warning to all who would deceive others in the name of God, reminding us that those who lead others astray for their own gain will face the wrath of God in the end. (Revelation 19:20 and Revelation 20:10).

Lucifer himself is explained as a false ministers who transforms himself instead of God transforming him. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

The next section dives into the phenomenon of false Apostles.

False Apostles

Scripture:

Numbers 25:1-3 *Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel.*

Numbers 25:9 *And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.*

Numbers 31:15-18 *And Moses said to them: “Have you kept all the women alive? Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord. Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately. But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately.*

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 *But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. For such*

are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:14-15 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

In Depth: In life, things that hold significant value often have counterfeits, and this is also true for the five-fold ministry offices,

particularly the office of the Apostle. Jesus himself spoke to the Apostle John about the existence of false apostles. In Revelation, chapter 2, Jesus instructs John to write about these false apostles, commending the church at Ephesus for their diligent work in exposing them. He praises the Ephesians for their labor and their ability to identify and reject false apostles (Revelation 2:2-6). Furthermore, Jesus notes that the Ephesians also fought against the deeds of the Nicolaitans, a group whose practices were harmful to the church.

Later in the same chapter, Jesus addresses the church in Pergamos, rebuking them for allowing some of their members to embrace the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. The term "Nicolaitans" comes from the Greek word meaning "destruction of people," and their teachings were destructive to the body of Christ. In Revelation 2:14-15, Jesus specifically tells John that the Nicolaitans promoted practices such as eating food sacrificed to idols and engaging in sexual immorality, similar to the instructions of Balaam, who plotted against Israel. When King Balak asked Balaam to curse the Israelites, Balaam was unable to do so. Instead, he blessed them four times, but then he advised Balak on how to weaken Israel. In Numbers 31:15-18, Balaam counseled Balak to send Moabite women to seduce the men

of Israel into immorality, knowing that while God's blessing couldn't be undone, sin and immorality could lead the Israelites to bring a curse upon themselves (Numbers 25:1-9) causing 24,000 Israelites to die by plague. This tactic of first speaking blessings over the people of God then refusing to lead believers out of sin is the work of a false apostle. The seriousness of this error is emphasized by Jesus' warning to the church at Pergamos. Jesus promises to fight against them personally if they do not repent and change their ways. This demonstrates the grave nature of allowing such false teachings to persist within the church.

Paul also speaks about false ministers who elevate themselves to the office of Apostle. In 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Paul warns that these deceitful workers transform themselves into apostles, not by divine selection but through self-promotion. Paul compares these self-made apostles to Satan, who transforms himself into an angel of light in order to deceive. Just as Satan disguises himself as something good, these false apostles present themselves as ministers of righteousness. A false Apostle will frequently speak about blessings and declare them, but will avoid urging sinners to repent from sexual immorality, often instead condoning or tolerating such

behavior. There may be occasions when a false Apostle prays for a miracle, and God, in His mercy, will still perform it. However, it's important to recognize that the faith of the individual in need of healing, or the genuine faith of the true believers in the congregation, is what moves Jesus to bring about the healing, not the supposed miraculous power of the false Apostle. True apostles are those whom Jesus personally calls and appoints, not those who elevate themselves in pride. Self-promotion within ministry is always rooted in pride, and such individuals are not appointed by Christ to the office of Apostle.

A Final Warning

In the end times, the Bible says there will be a specific false prophet who works with the Antichrist and the devil. He will perform miracles to get people to worship the Antichrist. The Bible says that this false prophet and his followers will never change their ways, even when they are punished (Revelation 16:11).

Remember, true prophets are a blessing from God, and their words always agree with the Bible. But false prophets are dangerous because they want to deceive and hurt people. It is very important to use your spiritual sense to tell the difference and stay safe.

Chapter 10: The Authority of Nations

In this chapter, we'll talk about how God gives special authority to nations. This authority is based in national covenants. It is a promise that God makes with a whole country, giving it spiritual authority to rule and be a blessing. We will look at several nations that have had a special covenant in their foundations.

Jesus himself talked about Judgment Day. He said that God would gather all the nations and separate them like a shepherd separates sheep from goats (Matthew 25:32). The "blessed" nations, or the "sheep," would be on His right side and receive a special invitation to enter the kingdom of God (Matthew 25:34). This shows that God still sees and judges nations as a whole.

First, let's talk about the very first nation God made a covenant with: the nation of Israel. This covenant began as a promise to a man named Abraham. In Genesis 12:2-3, God told Abraham, "I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and anyone who curses you, I will curse. By you, all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Think about that! Abraham was an old man, over 70 years old, and he didn't have any children with his wife, Sarah. But God promised that a whole nation would come from him. We know the story: Abraham had a son named Isaac, and Isaac had a son named Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. This promise was passed down, and Israel became a great nation.

Covenant with Israel

Nations that went against Israel were seen as enemies of God, without covenant. This is because Israel had a special job to do on Earth: to bless all nations with the birth of Jesus. When Moses led the Hebrew people out of Egypt, they became the official nation of Israel. God warned them about the consequences if they broke their covenant with Him. In Leviticus 18:24, God told Moses, “Do not defile yourselves in any of these things, for in all these the nations are defiled which I am casting out before you.” God was telling them that the nations around them were defiled with sin, and He was going to remove those nations to protect His blessed people, the nation of Israel.

After Israel became a nation, its third king, Solomon, sinned by worshipping other gods. This led to a civil war in the next generation, and the kingdom of Israel was split into two: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Judah became the second nation with a covenant with God. When its rulers served God, like Hezekiah and Jehoshaphat, they were blessed. When they turned away from God, they were cursed.

Later in the New Testament, in Galatians 3, the Bible says that the blessing of Abraham would also come to the Gentiles, which is anyone who is not Hebrew. This means that Christian nations can also have a covenant with God. Let's look at some of these nations.

Covenant with Armenia

Armenia became the first Christian nation in the world. In 301 A.D., King Tiridates III made Christianity the official religion. This happened almost 80 years before the Roman Empire became Christian. Imagine that! Christians were still being killed in Rome, but in Armenia the Christian faith was the main religion. Sadly, centuries later, Muslim invaders attacked Armenia and forced the leadership to convert or die. The compromise in the Christian faith

amongst the leadership may have contributed to the lifted hedge of protection.

Covenant with Ethiopia

The connection between Ethiopia and God's people goes back a long time, all the way to Moses, whose wife, Zipporah, was an Ethiopian Midianite. Her father, Jethro, was a priest of the Most High God (Exodus 3:1). Moses' who sons became chief priests and their lineage remained important among leadership. The Bible also mentions that there were Ethiopians who served in the king's courts (Jeremiah 38:7-13) during the time of the prophet Jeremiah. Later, in the book of Acts, a Evangelist named Philip met an Ethiopian Eunuch who worked for the queen of Ethiopia and was reading the book of Isaiah. The Ethiopian specifically came to Jerusalem to worship. The Ethiopian Hebrews (Beta-Israel) have their origins in the book of Exodus and have never strayed away from their covenant with God. Philip explained the scripture to him, and the Ethiopian official was baptized and took the gospel back to Ethiopia (Acts 8:26-39).

Three hundred years later in 330 A.D., Ethiopia became the second Christian nation. The king, Ezana, was converted to Christianity by Frumentius who would later become the Bishop of Ethiopia and Alexandria. What's interesting is that Ethiopia (Aksum) was the only country in Africa that was never colonized or conquered. Today the African Union and stock market is based in Ethiopia. Due to its continued stability as many African nations are following Ethiopia's leadership. Ethiopia has kept their covenant with God.

Christianity in Rome

For a long time, Christians were persecuted in Rome. In 313 A.D., Emperor Constantine made it legal to be a Christian through the Edict of Milan. This was followed by the Edict of Thessalonica in 380 AD which officially made Christianity the state religion by Roman Emperor Theodosius the Great. Years later the Holy Roman Catholic Church was created and began to have regional influence through a succession of Popes. Later, a Christian leader named Martin Luther started a protest against the false doctrine of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. He was looking for a purer, more biblical form of Christianity free from heresy. A little-known fact is the doctrine fueled the Protestant Reformation was also

provided by an Ethiopian priest named Michael the Deacon, who became a mentor and teacher of Martin Luther and many Catholics who defected. Many Protestants became persecuted and killed in Europe. This paved the way for people to travel to America in search of religious freedom.

The Origins of the Chaplaincy in Rome

The tradition of the chaplaincy can be traced back to the late Roman Empire, particularly through the life and legacy of St. Martin of Tours (316–397 AD). He is widely considered the first example of a Christian chaplain. Originally a Roman soldier, Martin later converted to Christianity and became a monk. He was known for his compassion and ministry to the poor and the marginalized—values that would become central to the chaplaincy role.

After leaving military service, Martin was appointed Bishop of Tours, but his reputation for humility and service persisted. He was assigned religious duties within both the military and the civic sphere, acting as a spiritual guide to soldiers and the state. This dual role—ministering within state and military structures—

marked the emergence of the chaplain as a distinct figure: a clergy member attached to secular institutions to provide spiritual support.

This early form of chaplaincy coincided with broader changes in the Roman Empire. As Christianity gained legal and later official status under emperors like Constantine and Theodosius I, Christian leaders began to be integrated into the fabric of Roman governance and military life. St. Martin's model provided a precedent for religious presence in state affairs, particularly within armed forces. We will later see the importance of Chaplains in the founding of America, the next Christian nation with covenant with God.

Covenant with America

The first settlers in America made two important documents: the Virginia Compact in 1607 and the Mayflower Compact in 1620. Both documents were a covenant with God. They stated that the purpose of their journey was to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result of this promise, America has sent more missionaries all over the world than any other nation in history.

After the Revolutionary War, the nation's leaders used the Bible to help write the United States Constitution. They used a specific verse, Isaiah 33:22, which says, "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; He will save us." This verse birthed the idea for our three branches of government: the Judicial branch (judge), the Legislative branch (lawgiver), and the Executive branch (king). Because of these covenants, America became the strongest nation in the world.

The Development of Chaplaincy in Early America

The concept of chaplaincy that started in Rome was revived and adapted in the formation of the United States. During the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Army recognized the importance of spiritual care for soldiers, and clergy were appointed to minister to the troops. This echoed the model of Roman chaplains, who provided moral guidance and religious support during wartime.

One key figure in early American chaplaincy was Samuel Provoost, an Episcopal priest who became the first Chaplain of the United States Senate in 1789, selected by George Washington. Provoost's

role symbolized the integration of spiritual leadership within the newly established federal government. His appointment marked the beginning of a tradition of official chaplains serving in the U.S. legislative branch—a practice that continues to this day.

Chaplains became essential not only in Congress but also across the U.S. military. Their role was, and remains, to ensure the free exercise of religion among service members, regardless of faith tradition. This principle was later codified during World War II with the passage of what became known as Uriah's Law in 1942, which mandated that the U.S. military must provide chaplains to facilitate religious expression among troops.

Chapter 11: The Weapons of Warfare

In chapter 2 we spoke about The Anointing of God. In this chapter, we're going to talk about the powerful spiritual weapons God has given us. These aren't like normal weapons. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 10:4, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [worldly], but mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds." This means our weapons aren't from this world; they are spiritual and powerful enough to defeat the devil's plans.

Some of these spiritual weapons include prayer, worship, anointing oil, and even laughter. Each one of these carries an anointing, which is the powerful presence of God. This anointing not only pulls down strongholds but also removes burdens and destroys yokes of sin.

Anointed Items

In the Bible, we see examples of items that carry God's anointing. In Malachi 4:2, a prophecy said that the "Sun of righteousness" would rise with "healing in his wings." The Jewish people knew this meant there would be healing in the hem of Jesus's garment. This is why the woman with a sickness, as described in Luke 8:43-48,

reached out and touched his clothes to be healed. A similar thing happened in the book of Acts, where handkerchiefs touched by the Apostle Paul were placed on sick people, and they were healed by God's power.

Even water can be a weapon of warfare. In 2 Kings 5, a Syrian general named Naaman was told to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times to be healed of leprosy. It wasn't the water itself that healed him but God's anointing.

Prayer and Worship

Prayer is one of our most powerful weapons. When we pray, God changes the spiritual atmosphere. The Welsh Revival of 1904, for example, began as a prayer movement. The people used to pray and sing hymnal songs in pure worship to God. Worship is the highest form of prayer. When people worship they are communicating with God. However in worship we ask God for nothing but his attention in order to adore Him. The Welch Revival was filled with worship and group prayer. So much group prayer filled the atmosphere that the whole area shifted. Eyewitnesses say that in the local bars, even the beer glasses were stuck to the bars supernaturally. They

could not even drink because of the anointing. The fear of God came upon the workers in the coal mines so strongly that they stopped cursing. Before the revival, the work horses were accustomed to the coal miner's curse words. After the revival the horses refused to work and had to be retrained. The mine's horses were not used to receiving instructions without curse words. The prayer movement caused a total shift in the culture.

Laughter

The bible says something remarkably interesting about being in the presence of God. Psalm 16:11 says, "In thy presence is the fullness of joy." The fullness of joy is none other than laughter. What does God do in the heavens. The bible says that God sits in the heavens and laughs at our enemies. "He (God) that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." The bible says that Jesus was full of joy as well. Hebrews 1:9 speaks about Jesus "... *even thy God, hath anointed thee (Jesus) with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*" There is a phenomenon where people will sense the presence of God and begin to laugh. Laughter fills their lungs and take control of their being. When my family went on a mission trip to Uganda something miraculous occurred. After

I preached a sermon, my wife and I began to lay hands and pray for the congregation one-by-one. My wife laid hands on one lady in particular, she began to laugh uncontrollably and jump up and down for about 5 minutes. The next day the Bishop of the church approached us. He explained how he had not seen the lady laugh or smile in over three years. Three years ago that lady's husband lost his job and went into debt with the banks. The bank came and took all of their possessions. All the furniture, dishes, children's clothes and toys, they took everything. This poor lady went into a depression that lasted over 3 years. The moment my wife laid hands on the lady, the anointing of God transferred to the lady, and she was filled with joy. The three-year long yoke of depression was broken that very moment because of the joyful presence of God.

Something similar happened to me when I attended a bible college internship at River University in Tampa. In 4th hour of school we often watched videos of old revival meetings. While watching revival meetings, I began laughing uncontrollably because I was filled with God's joy. I slid from my chair to the ground and laughed for a long time. While on the ground, I had a vision of demons being blown away by the wind of God's presence. These

demons were causing havoc in Saint Petersburg, Florida. But, I instantly received a plan to reach people in Saint Petersburg, Florida. As a result, our Urban mission church saw over 4,000 thousands people saved, with many souls added to 9 different churches. Laughter cause by God's presence is a powerful spiritual weapon.

The Shofar

Another powerful weapon is the shofar. The warfare of a Shofar blast was never intended to be used in the church or the temple. The temple instrument was a different instrument made of metal, not a ram's horns. But in warfare it is a ram's horn. In Joshua chapter 6, God's people blew the shofar as they marched around the city of Jericho, and the walls came tumbling down! In 2020 an Orthodox Priest named Socrates Charos used a shofar at the Mexican border to pray against crime and trafficking coming across the Mexican border into America. That night, a big windstorm uncovered an underground tunnel system, leading to a huge drug bust, the largest drug bust in the nation involving underground tunnels. Another story, told by an Israeli man, tells about how his father, a messianic priest blew a shofar against a

false messiah in Israel. The false messiah gained the confidence of political leaders within the Israeli Knesset (government) and was leading them down the wrong path. The messianic priest blew his shofar as an act of warfare against the false messiah and within 30 minutes, the false messiah had a heart attack and died. This shows that the shofar is a powerful spiritual weapon, but it should only be used by those whom God tells to use it. As Ezekiel 7:14 says, if they blow the trumpet, God will fight their battle for them.

Rabbi Jonathan Khan is a messianic pastor. He is famous for his book “The Harbinger” and “The Oracle.” On a trip to India he spoke in front of a crowd of over 30,000 people. When he preached about Jesus he was led to blow his Shofar. As he blew the Shofar thousands of people began to scream, as demons left in a mass deliverance. Jonathan Khan reports that the anointing of God went through the atmosphere as people were delivered from demons..

Don't ever underestimate what God can do with any spiritual weapon, no matter how strange it seems. He can use laughter, shofars, prayer, whatever method He wants, whenever He wants. It's not for us to criticize but to be thankful for the amazing ways God helps us and fights for us.

Chapter 12: Women in Ministry

A few years ago, I helped serve at a food pantry in Florida. Something amazing happened at this food pantry. A woman came through the line that seemed under demonic influence. A female pastor went to her and asked, “May I pray with you?” The pastor took the woman aside, put oil on her forehead, and prayed. Right there, the pastor commanded the demon to leave, just as Jesus would. The demon left, and the woman was restored to her right mind.

This shows us something important: If God did not want women in ministry, why would He give a female minister the power to cast out a demon? This wasn't a one-time thing. Another time, in Louisiana, a female pastor who was trained in spiritual warfare because of the voodoo and witchcraft in the area helped a nine-year-old girl. It took four men to hold the little girl down because she was so strong. She had the voice of a grown man speaking from her mouth. This female pastor took a bottle of water, prayed over it, and made the girl drink it. As the water touched the inside of her mouth, the demon exhaled and left, and the girl returned to normal.

Again, if God did not want women to be pastors and ministers, why would He give them an anointing to perform such miracles? It's a good question to think about.

Joel 2:28-29 states, "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

Scripture clearly says that in the last days, women will prophesy alongside men. Since we are living in the last days, it makes no sense to claim God wouldn't use women in ministry. Even if restrictions existed in the past, Joel's prophecy makes it clear—God is pouring out His Spirit on both men and women in the last days to prophesy and speak what the Lord is saying by His Spirit.

What Does it Mean to Be a Disciple?

Jesus told his followers to "follow me." This meant they should be willing to sacrifice and serve others. In the Bible, in the book of Acts, a woman named Tabitha is called a disciple. She was so loved by others that when she died, the Apostle Peter raised her from the

dead (Acts 9:36-42). This shows that female disciples were important followers of Jesus, too.

Positions in the Bible

When we study the original Greek and Hebrew words for different positions in the church, we find something interesting. The ministry positions have female versions of the named position. There are only two positions in the Bible that don't have a female version of the word: a bishop and an elder. But the word for deacon has a feminine term in the original language. The Greek word for deacon, *diakonos*, and is used for various people, including women.

For example, in Romans 16:1, Paul writes about a woman named Phoebe and calls her a “servant” using the Greek word *diakonos*. In the original language, this word is used for a high-level servant—a minister or a pastor. This means that Phoebe was a deaconess in the early church, not just a low-level servant. The English translations sometimes miss this important difference, but we can see it in the original Greek, the language of the early church scrolls.

Another woman, Priscilla, is also an important example. She and her husband, Aquila, came across a man named Apollos who was a

great teacher but didn't know about the Holy Spirit. Acts 18:26 says that Priscilla and Aquila “took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately.” This shows that a woman taught a man in the Bible. So, it's not true that women cannot teach.

This is why it's so important to study the Bible carefully, especially by looking at the original Greek and Hebrew words. Some modern translations like the ESV or NIV are good for reading, but for deep study, it is best to use a version like the King James or Amplified Classic Version. Also, use a concordance or lexicon to look up the original meanings of the words.

Misunderstanding Paul's Teachings

Sometimes people misunderstand what the Apostle Paul wrote in the Bible and believe that his opinions are the same as God's commands. We must be careful to read the scriptures in their context. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all scripture is “given by inspiration of God,” but Paul also made it clear when he was giving his personal opinion verses inspiration from God.

There is a biblical misinterpretation in 1 Corinthians 7:12, when Paul speaks of marriage and divorce. He writes, "To the rest I say

this (I, not the Lord)..." Paul is telling us that this is his opinion, not a direct command from God. People use Paul's writings to say that no Christian can remarry, or they will go to hell. This is a false interpretation leading to a false teaching in the church. On the contrary, in Matthew 19:9, Jesus gives an exception for divorce and remarriage, essentially saying a person can remarry only if their spouse has cheated. Yes forgiveness is the preferred path, however it is not a sin to divorce and remarry if unfaithfulness due to sexual fornication is involved. Jesus's teachings should always be our guide.

Another verse that is often misunderstood is 1 Timothy 2:12. In the King James Version, it says, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." Many people take this to mean that women can't teach at all. But if you read it closely, Paul is saying, "I [Paul] suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over a man." Paul didn't want women to take authority that wasn't theirs, not that they couldn't teach. We know this because Paul came from a background as a Pharisee, where women were not allowed to teach in the Synagogue. He was

just sharing his opinion based on what he knew from his religious background.

Women Who Prophesied

The Bible gives us many examples of women who taught and had authority. A prophetess named Anna served in the Temple in the New Testament (Luke 2:36-38). The daughters of Philip the Evangelist also prophesied (Acts 21:8-9).

The word prophesy in the original Greek means two things:

- 1) To foretell future events or declare a message from God.
- 2) To teach, comfort, or correct others with the Word of God.

If a woman is not allowed to teach, how could she fulfill the second meaning of prophecy? In 1 Corinthians 11:5, Paul says, "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head." This verse is also often misunderstood. Some people think it means women must wear a physical head covering, but that's not what the verse is about. If you read the entire chapter, the "covering" Paul is talking about is not a hat or scarf. He says that a man's covering is God, and a woman's

covering is her husband. This means that when a woman teaches or prophesies, she should have a spiritual covering. She should have a pastor or a bishop over her, or allow her husband to have authority. The Bible tells us that women have authority over children and angels, but not over a man. So, a woman can be a minister or a pastor, but she should be under the authority of a spiritual leader. This is what Paul meant when he said a woman should not "usurp authority over a man."

Minister Bria Dixon wrote the next portion of this chapter.

Title: Spirit Filled Women

As Luke and Paul fulfilled the work of ministry before them, both men detailed the life and work of several woman, who in their roles, loved, honored, and served God through the sharing of the Good News of His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ.

The Prophetess

At the time of Jesus' circumcision there appeared two people: Simeon, a devout man of God, and Anna, an aged prophetess (Greek: prophētis [προφῆτις] a woman to whom future events or

things hidden from others are at times revealed, either by inspiration or by dreams and visions) who had been widowed for 84 years (Luk 2:36). No longer devoted to a husband but rather a life of fasting and praying in the temple night and day, Anna gave instantaneous thanks to the Lord upon seeing baby Jesus and spoke of Jesus's birth to all who sought in redemption in the capital city of Jerusalem (Luk 2:37-38). Anna the prophetess prepared the way of the Lord before John the Baptist, as he was yet a babe (Luke 1).

The Ministering Servant

As Jesus went throughout, preaching and teaching with the twelve disciples, Luke 8 tells of the ministry of many women and certain women Jesus healed. Such women are Mary called Magdalene (Magdala), Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna (Luke 8:1-3). Each woman, both named and unnamed, ministered (Greek: diakoneō [διακονέω] to be a servant; to minister to one, render ministering offices to) unto Jesus out of her own substance (Greek: hyparchonta [ὑπάρχοντα] possessions, goods, wealth)

(Juke 8:3). The term diakoneō, used 20 times in the King James, is the same ministering performed by the angels after Jesus was tempted of the devil (Mat 4:11; Mar 1:13), and the same ministering Jesus came to do for the ransom of many (Mat 20:28; Mar 10:45). Of the named women, Mary Magdalene's ministering is the most recorded with accounts of her ministry noted during (Mat 27:54-56; Mar 15:37-41; John 19:25-27) and after Jesus's death and burial (Mat 27:57-28:8; Mar 15:44-16:8; Luk 24:1-10; John 20:1-3). Most notably, Mary's ministering posture led her to be the first person to see the resurrected Jesus (Mar 16:9-11; John 20:11-18). The Minister, The Pastor: The book of Romans contains letters the Apostle Paul wrote to the Roman Christian community in late 50s AD. Romans chapter 16 begins with Paul commending a leading woman – Phebe (Rom 16:1-2). Paul refers to Phebe as a servant (Greek: diakonos [διάκονος] minister or pastor) of the church and instructs readers to assist Phebe in whatever she requests. The Greek word diakonos [διάκονος] is used 31 times in the New Testament to reference both male and female ministers and pastors, which includes Paul (1 Cor. 3:5; 2 Cor.3:6; 2 Cor. 6:4; Eph 3:7; Col. 1:23, 25), and Jesus Christ (Rom 15:8; Gal 2:17).

Phebe, whose ministry was to aid and care for the affairs of many like Paul, was a great succourer (Greek: prostatis [προστάτις] a woman set over others) whom Paul commends [Greek: synistēmi [συνίστημι] to set one with another], as being equal in the work of ministry.

The Teacher of Teachers

After commending Phebe, Paul sends greetings to another female co-laborer, or helper (Greek: συνεργός a companion in work) in the ministry of Christ Jesus: Priscilla (Rom 16:3). In the book of Acts we learn that Priscilla is the wife of Aquila, and both are Jewish tentmakers. Being a tentmaker himself, Paul met and abode Priscilla and her husband in Corinth while working as a tentmaker and preaching the gospel of Christ to both Jew and Gentile (Act 18:1-6). Upon leaving Corinth, Priscilla and her husband traveled with Paul to Syria, eventually landing in Ephesus (Act 18:18-19). In Ephesus Priscilla and her husband met an eloquent, but limited Jewish teacher, name Apollos (Act 18:24-25). In hearing that Apollos was fervent in the spirit, Priscilla and her husband took Apollos and taught him more perfectly (Greek: akribōs [ἀκριβῶς] exactly, accurately, diligently) the Word (Act 18:26). Apollos went

on to evangelize, disciple and convince many Jews in Achaia to believe that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 18:27-28). Such seeds were well noted by Paul, who later salutes Priscilla, Aquila, and their church in 1 Cor 16:19.

The Resurrected Disciple

What is known about Tabitha, or Dorcas, the certain disciple (Greek: mathetria [μαθήτρια] a female disciple) is written by Luke in Acts chapter 9. In Joppa.

Tabitha or Dorcas, was a known mathetria, who was full of good works and mercy (Act 9:36).

Having fallen sick, Tabitha died (Act 9:37). In hearing that Peter was near Joppa after Tabitha's death, other disciples (Greek: mathētēs [μαθητής] a {male} learner, pupil, disciple) sent two men to fetch Peter and bring him to Joppa (Act 9:38). When Peter arrived at the house, he put out the disciples, widows, and those who mourned for Tabitha just as Jesus put out the mourners in the story of Jairus's daughter (Act 9:40; Mar 5:21-42; Mat. 9:18-25; Luk 8:40-54). In solace, Peter prayed for Tabitha and instructed her to arise, just as Jesus told Jairus's daughter to arise (Act 9:41;

Mar 5:42; Mat. 9:25; Luk 8:54). Acts chapter 9 continues with Tabitha opening her eyes, sitting up, and being presented alive to the saints (Greek: hagios [ἅγιος] most holy thing) and the widows (Act 9:40-42). When Jesus rose the little girl from the dead, the girl's father Jairus, is the only name mentioned in all three Gospels; but in the case of a certain female disciple – a woman in ministry named Tabitha, it is Tabitha's name which led others to know the Father, as Tabitha's resurrection caused many to believe the Lord (Act 9:43).

The Spirit of God in Women

Luke begins the book of Acts with the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Spirit (Acts 1). Thinking that men and women (Act 1:13-15) who were filled with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost were drunk (Act 2:1-13), Peter in Act 2:14-21 informs questioning onlookers of the prophecy given in Joel 2:28-29: 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I

pour out my spirit. Later in Acts, Paul and his company travel Caesarea where Paul's company encounter four virgin daughters in the house of Philip the evangelist who did prophesy (Act 21:8-9). In accordance with scripture (Joe 2:28-29) and the Ascension of Christ (Act 1:7-10) the same Spirit which was poured out on the 120 disciples on the Day of Pentecost is the same Spirit which empowered Philip's four virgin daughters to prophesy.

***Author "Spirit Filled Women" - Minister Bria Dixon**

A Miraculous Consecration

Bria Dixon was ordained as a minister on Sunday morning, January 27, 2019. The morning she became ordained she called me on the phone to ask me to interpret a dream she had the night before. In the dream she was tending to a friend who became ill. When Bria reached her arm out to get water for her friend, her arm became scaly and white as snow. When Bria pulled her arm back, it was normal again. I immediately knew what the dream meant. I explained to Bria, "This happened to Moses the very day he saw the burning bush." Moses was consecrated for ministry as a priest, judge, and ruler to set the Hebrews captives free."

Exodus 4:6-8 *Furthermore the Lord said to him, “Now put your hand in your bosom.” And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. ⁷ And He said, “Put your hand in your bosom again.” So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. “Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.*

We are in the last days. Joel prophesied that God will allow women to set the captives free. God spoke through Joel saying that the Lord, Himself will pour His Spirit upon not just men, but also women to specifically prophesy. Prophecy means to teach and foretell the future through God’s Spirit. Do not hold women back!

Joel 2:28 “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,...”

Joel 2:29 “And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

Conclusion: Walking in Consecration and Calling

In understanding the calling within the Body of Christ, it's important to become a disciple first and foremost. We will also briefly distinguish between bishops and elders, to recognize the spiritual posture required of anyone serving in ministry.

Disciples are Devoted Followers and Learners

*A disciple (Greek *mathētēs*) is a learner, a committed follower of Christ. Disciples are not merely believers—they are those who continue in Jesus' Word and live transformed lives.*

A new believer in Christ must mature to become a disciple. A disciple is a “disciplined one” who trusts Christ and uses the scriptures daily to remove their steps from the path of error.

John 8:31–32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Characteristics of Disciples and Ministers

Baptized (Matthew 28:19)

Passionate and obedient (Luke 6:13)

Servants and ministers (1 Timothy 3:10–13)

Equipped with spiritual authority (2 Corinthians 3:6)

Every believer is called to be a disciple—a committed, on-fire follower of Jesus, growing in the Word and serving with purpose.

Bishops and Elders are Overseers and Shepherds

The terms bishop (*epískopos*) and elder often overlap in Scripture, but they carry distinct responsibilities.

A bishop is an overseer of a group of churches: one entrusted with ensuring that spiritual matters are handled rightly. (1 Timothy 3:1). Involves spiritual leadership, accountability, and guidance.

An elder is a mature spiritual leader; often part of an appointed group of elders to a shepherd. They teach and provide counsel within the local body.

While all bishops are elders, not all elders serve as bishops. Both roles require spiritual maturity, integrity, and a deep commitment to the care of God's people.

Consecration With A Modern Nazarite Heart

To walk in any of these roles—as a minister requires a life of consecration. Like the Nazarite vow described in Numbers chapter 6, our devotion must be marked by separation from worldly defilement and a commitment to holiness.

The Hebrew word *nazir* means “consecrated” or “set apart.” Nazarites lived as visible signs of dedication to God. Likewise, we are called to a spiritual vow of devotion—not necessarily by growing out our hair, but by surrendering our lives wholly to the Lord. Prayer and fasting is not an option but a lifestyle.

Even the Apostle Paul took such a vow, as seen in Acts 18:18, when he shaved his head in Cenchrea as a sign of consecration.

Acts 18:18 And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

Final Word

Whether you are a disciple just beginning your journey, an elder guiding others, or a bishop overseeing a flock, the call is the same: a life set apart, surrendered to God, and filled with the Spirit. In these last days, the Church must be marked by true consecration—lives wholly devoted, like modern-day Nazarites, ready to serve God's purpose in power and purity.

In conclusion, the 5-Fold Ministry Offices or Gifts are crucial for the church's growth, authority, and mission. Despite modern attempts to diminish or redefine these roles, scripture and history show they are vital for a strong, effective church today. Christ's leadership, through these offices, affirms God's purpose for His church, preparing it for present and future challenges.

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Acts 2:41-43 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in THE APOSTLE'S DOCTRINE and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

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