

Discerning our Calling/Function in the Body of Christ... 🌐

A “snapshot” view of the 5-fold ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13)

To place this in the proper framework, please note that this post is written with the assumption that believers are reading it. For those who are not in this category, things may be stated a bit differently, for greater clarity.

First, let me say that God is the one who reveals to us about our calling and gifting. People we interact with confirm what God has revealed to us over time, in many ways and the Lord continues to confirm to us personally. If you would like to know specifics regarding your calling, we have many tools here to help you connect with God, which bring you into His presence, so that He can personally reveal this to you. He is faithful to reveal as we seek Him. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

✠ This ministry is for support and practice, as we share, so that we can confirm for each other and share the wisdom we have gleaned through our experience with the Lord on our personal journey. We encourage learning from God directly, as we develop a personal intimacy, going deeper and deeper, as He reveals more and more of Himself to us.

One indication as to where the Lord is calling or directing us can be as simple as noting what type of spiritual activity we find ourselves doing most often. The Lord steers us in the direction He needs to benefit the Kingdom, and gives us the gifts we need in order to fulfill this function. We are one Body with many parts, each with a Kingdom purpose. (1 Cor. 12:12; Romans 12:4) We need ALL parts to function in health and wholeness. The Lord is brilliant! There is order in this Body and He equips us according to the Body’s need and our heart’s desire/passion. EACH of us is vital to a perfectly functioning Body. However, what function the Lord has given us at any given time along the way, is not as important as the intimacy we have with Him. Our personal relationship with God is the true treasure, not the title, often attached to our function, or what function or assignment we have been given.

✠ GENERAL information regarding the functions of the 5-fold ministry:

~~~If the Lord has placed a large territory in your lap, after many years of equipping you to partner with Him to equip others, you may be an APOSTLE. Apostles are equipped fully and can function in all of the 5-fold ministry areas. They are trained and experienced to oversee Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers and usually have been given a large territory by the Lord to equip the equippers. This is only one indication. If this feels like your place in the Body, God will reveal and others around you will confirm.

~~~If you find yourself passionate about speaking to others what you hear the Lord saying, by way of encouragement which bubbles up out of you, you may be a PROPHET. (There are different levels, however, as we can all prophecy, but some are “called” specifically as Prophets). Seers fall in this category, as they are prophets who can also see. All Seers are prophets, but not all prophets are seers. We are able to tell the difference in the way the prophecy is given.

(See below “recognizing the difference between prophets and seers)

~~~If you have fire in your heart for wanting ALL to receive Jesus, and you find yourself passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus with many, you may be called as an EVANGELIST. Evangelists often have a heart for the places in the world who have not yet heard the Gospel, however, we can be assigned to share the love of God with those in our very own neighborhood, those in pain, and those who do not yet know Jesus.

~~~If you enjoy leading/caring/teaching others and have the heart of a shepherd, the Lord may lead you into PASTORal leadership/ministry. You may have been given the function of “Pastor” whether or not you have a visible “church”. Your Church may be online or in your neighborhood. You may be a Pastor who has been trained at a formal seminary, and may be shepherding a large flock in a formal ministry.


~~~Last, but certainly not least, if you have a hunger for learning, and sharing with others by way of teaching academics, scripture, theology, eschatology, soteriology or any other “ology” you may be a, much needed, TEACHER.

This is a “quick glance” at the 5-fold ministry. We must note that for most of us, we have one “primary” function, and also have another or even several “secondary” functions.

OVERLAPPING of these functions

These five areas often overlap. For example, Pastors are often wonderful teachers of their flock and can be Prophets as well, hearing God and sharing what God is saying. They can also have a heart for Evangelism. The Lord often uses Apostles as academic teachers over a large territory, having written text books. It is common to have one primary function, and also be very affective in others. This is why it is so important to connect with the Lord on our journey and simply follow Him as to where He needs us. Our roles can shift over time. We walk in His confidence and go where God leads. Often times we complicate what God has made simple.

A title or label is not as important as simply following what the Lord is asking of us each day, staying connected to Him. By the help of God, others recognize our calling and are drawn to us for what they need at any given point in time.

  RECOGNIZING the difference between PROPHETS and SEERS:

Prophets and Seers both release to others what the Lord is communicating to them, to be used for God’s good purpose. To tell the difference between a Prophet and a Seer, listen to how they share. A prophet will often say things like “I heard the Lord say” or “I sense the Spirit of the Lord saying”, etc. while a Seer will often say things like “The Lord showed me” or “I saw this or that”. This does not mean that the Seer only “sees” and never “hears”. But it likely means that the Prophet always “hears” or the word bubbles up out of our spirit by the Holy Spirit, but the Prophet does not necessarily “see” with Spiritual eyes. Both are Prophets. All Seers are Prophets, but not all Prophets are Seers. There are many highly effective Prophets, who do not see into the Spirit Realm. Seers have all of their spiritual senses available to discern what the Lord is saying, so they See, Hear, Taste, Feel/Touch, and Smell in the spirit. Seers operate in the gift of Discerning of Spirits as in 1 Cor. 12.



To be sure, there are different levels of both Prophets and Seers. Simply, all can function in these areas, however, those who actually hold the office of a Prophet or Seer find themselves equipping/teaching others for the purpose of ministry.

It is never a good idea to declare you are a Prophet or a Seer without fully knowing/understanding what this means. Our function within the Body is confirmed over time, in many ways. We come into greater understanding of this, often times, by what we find ourselves doing primarily in each day. The Lord is ALWAYS our guide and is faithful to reveal. All we need do is to follow God step by step.

### Regarding The Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12)

No matter what our “calling”, or our “function” in the Body of Christ, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, as stated in 1 Corinthians 12, are available to all of us. Can they be taught? YES! God has placed Spiritual Gifts in all of us, and often times we just need to learn to recognize them.

We can be taught by the Lord and be activated. How hungry are we for the spiritual gifts of God? (1 Cor. 14:31) “For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.”

 May God bless you as your hunger grows, and God reveals all He has planned for your life in the days ahead. For it is GOOD! Any of our administrators can point you in the right direction, to the teachings we have here, if you are unable to find our files. There are activations which draw us into the Lord’s presence as we learn directly from God. These allow you to go at the pace which is right for you, as led by the Lord. We are here to help and stand beside you to support in any way we can as the Lord equips you. 

God bless you on the journey. It’s amazing, because our God is an AMAZING GOD! 