

Sunday, July 24, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation to learn about the MINISTRY GIFTINGS from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that EQUIP the saints for loving service as we are Walking in Our Calling.

Title: Ministry Gifts for Our Calling Part 1

Series: Walking in Our Calling...8

Text: Ephesians 4:1 - 16

Introduction:

Our devotional on July 17 was entitled, “Manifested Gifts for Our Calling, Part 3”, and the text was 1 Corinthians 12:1 - 11; we completed our introductory consideration of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1. Manifested Gift of Prophecy;
2. Distinguishing of spirits;
3. Manifested Gift of Tongues;
4. Interpretation of Tongues

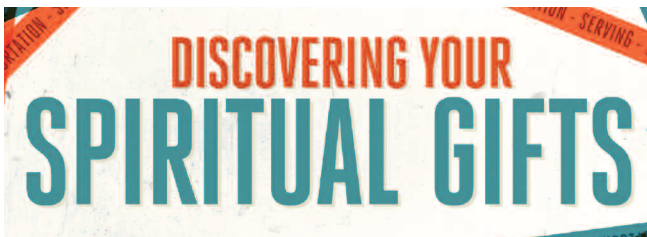
~ Today we will begin to consider the third major portion dealing with ‘gifts;’ the MINISTRY Gifts recorded in Ephesians 4 that are given by the Lord Jesus Christ.

~ These five gifts are ‘office’ gifts that God calls individuals to fill. The MOTIVATIONAL gifts might be classified as CHARACTER gifts and the MANIFESTED gifts as HOLY SPIRIT OPERATIONS through individuals. The MINISTRY gifts are office or role gifts.

1. He (Christ) gave the APOSTLES:

~ Hebrews 3:1 - 2, “Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle (G652, Apostolos) and high priest of our confession, (2) who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house.”

~ Ephesians 4:11, “And he (Christ) gave the apostles (G652, apostolos), the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,”



~ Apostolos is used some 80 times in the New Testament in seven different forms. Primary meaning is a delegate, messenger one sent forth with orders. Matthew 10:2; John 13:16, messenger; Acts 1:26 (Matthias); Romans 1:1 (Paul); Romans 11:13 (apostle to the Gentiles); *1 Corinthians 9:5; *1 Corinthians 12:28 - 29; *2 Corinthians 8:23; 2 Corinthians 11:5 & 12, 12:11; Philippians 2:25 (Epaphroditus); Revelation 2:2

~ Gladys Aylward, The Christian History Devotional, page 4

~ Andrew Murray, The Christian History Devotional, page 19

~ William Carey, The Christian History Devotional, page 240

~ Samuel Hill and John Nicholson, The Christian History Devotional, page 192

2. He (Christ) gave the PROPHET:

~ Ephesians 4:11, “And he gave the apostles, the prophets (G4396 prophetes), the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,”

~ Thayer’s Greek Lexicon G4396: to speak forth, speak out; hence, properly, ‘one who speaks forth’

~ In the New Testament the sense is to speak forth the counsel of God in due season.

~ 1 Chronicles 12:32, “Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.”

Cp. Romans 13:11 - 14

~ The office of the New Testament prophet never brings an NEW word of revelation; see Revelation 22:17 - 21

~ Dr. James Dobson: founder of Family Research Council and Focus on the Family; led Focus on the Family from 1977 until 2010. In the 1980s he was ranked as one of the most influential spokesmen for conservative social positions in American public life.

~ Dr. James Tour lectures on faith (Christian) and science

~ William Wilberforce, The Christian History Devotional, page 217

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Christian History Devotional, page 104

Conclusion:

James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”