

What's in a Title?

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For many years there has been a lot of confusion about five-fold ministry offices, titles, etc. Many people, even those in ministry don't seem to have a clear understanding about God's order and authority regarding His Church and five-fold ministry. Today I would like to speak to you about this from the perspective of the Word and from my own experience. I pray that it will bring some insight.

First of all we see in Ephesians 4:7-16, that the plan of God to grow his Church (body) into a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ is through the gifts he has given to the church. This will not and cannot happen if we do not understand and learn how to receive and flow with the gifts, (Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers). I believe that as these gifts are received correctly you will see a maturity rise up in the church that has been missing for many centuries.

Ephesians chapter 4 reads: **7** But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. **8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. **9** (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) **11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: **14** That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried

about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

It is in the nature of man to rebel, to want to do their own thing and not answer to any authority. This is obviously not Godly. God has placed authority levels in the Church, first apostles then prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers. They are there not to Lord over you, Jesus is the only Lord but as an extension of him on the earth. Of course there are other callings, intercessor, ministry of helps, and so on but here we are only talking about five-fold ministry gifts. We are not trying to dilute the work of the Holy Spirit or say that people do not individually hear from and receive directly from the Lord but we do know that the five-fold ministry gifts are very important for the maturing of the body of Christ or the Word of God would not have said so.

We are all part of Christ's body, each part with a purpose, a job a function. Everybody is not an apostle, everyone is not a prophet, evangelist, etc., but we can all receive from each other and the talent or gifts we are. Moreover, the gifts of five-fold ministry were given to the Church and how can we not receive them if they are a gift from God? What are you going to say? "No thank you God, I will do it my way!"

There seems to be a number of camps regarding five-fold ministry gifts, one camp calls everyone in ministry pastor. Is everyone called to five-fold office a pastor? Of course not. Didn't we just read that God gave gifts unto men and He called those gifts Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher? So why do so many not believe the Word in this area? Why do we think it is ok to call someone pastor but have difficulty acknowledging the other four offices?

Another camp believes that it is out of place to call anyone by a five-fold title – that it is somehow boastful or prideful. This could be the case if you somehow could make yourself a five-fold minister, if through your own righteousness or abilities you made yourself into one of these gifts. The fact is that all true five-fold ministers who are legitimate are gifts given by God. The gifting and anointing for that function was put within them by Jesus and then they were given to men as a gift from Jesus. They are no better than anyone else but the gift that is in them needs to be received and respected for what it is – a gift from God given to men to help perfect them and prepare them for service to the Lord. I do however, understand the confusion here because there are so many people who claim (key word claim) to be a five-fold ministry gift and are not. They were not called by the Lord; they do not have the gifting or anointing to accomplish what the Lord wants done by the office they claim. They bring confusion and worse to the body of Christ.

Sometimes these folks are just people who are deceived and immature because maybe someone told them they were a prophet or they received a prophecy not understanding that the Lord speaks to our potential and that if we don't qualify ourselves through obedience, sanctification, maturity and waiting upon the Lord we will never be what He has called us to be.

I began to receive prophecies in the 80's that God had called me as an apostle of love but it wasn't until probably a decade later that I began to see any evidence of that particular call on my life. The first call on my life was that of an evangelist and then as a pastor long before He called me to an apostolic call. Be who God has called you to be today and He will take care of tomorrow. No matter what God has called you to do if you do it to the best of your ability that is all the Lord requires. Better to be a great janitor than a terrible minister..

Then, there are those who work for the Kingdom of Darkness who claim to be called to five-fold ministry, their whole purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. John 10:10 First they steal your money. How many times have you been in a service with a supposed prophet or apostle and they say, God says, everyone who sows a seed blah, blah, blah, everyone who

gives, blah, blah, blah. This is not God and God will even hold you accountable for giving money that He wants to come into His Kingdom to these deceivers and charlatans. So, first they steal, then they kill – they kill what the Lord truly wants to say and do in you. Then they destroy - they want to destroy that potential for the Kingdom that is inside of you by getting you to flow with the false and fill you up with what I call fufu. Stuff that may look or sound good (appeal to your emotions) but has no life in it and leaves you impotent or sterile for the Kingdom of God.

I used to hate the phrase WWJD (what would Jesus do) because it seemed to be so cliché but I have learned to really appreciate it. When you are in a service or around someone who claims to represent the Lord in a five-fold office picture Jesus standing there and ask yourself this question, “Would Jesus, do or say this?” If the answer is no then why are you there and why are you listening to them? Leave and don’t go back. The Lord will show you who is real and who is not. If your spirit is uncomfortable around someone who claims to be a five-fold gift seek the Lord diligently about it. Have no part with the false.

Now let’s talk about legitimate five-fold ministry. If Ephesians chapter 4, quoted above is true and says that these gifts are given to help perfect us to bring us to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, then it stands to reason that without these gifts we will not reach that stature...

I have never been one to care about titles, when I was growing up in Oklahoma we had a saying in our house of 11 children, “I don’t care what you call me, as long as you call me in time for dinner.” The greatest title any human being could ever receive is given when they are born-again and are called “Child of God.” But I have come to believe that the Lord does care about titles, not because it elevates a person, but because it illuminates the gift itself – the gift that was designed, built and given to you from the very heart of God to grow you into the image of His Son. Remember they didn’t build the gift – they are just the vessel the gift flows out of. Five-fold ministry titles are titles that God gave and he gave them for a function, a reason. When you recognize and respect the gift for what it is you are able to receive what the Lord has to give you from that gift. Each of

the five-fold gifts has something to give to the body and you need to recognize the purpose of that gift so that you can “look” for what the Lord is trying to give you through that gift.

I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit when I was 15 years old and almost immediately began to receive prophecies, dreams and visions about being called to ministry. I did what I knew to do; I cleaned the church and scrubbed the toilets every week. And I loved it because I felt like I was doing something important for the Lord. I made sure His house was as clean or cleaner than mine.

I was faithful in the ministry of helps I taught Sunday school and did what I could find to do around the church. Then there came a day when the Lord called me and anointed me and equipped me with gifting necessary to be an evangelist. I can't say the exact time I was anointed for this office I just knew that something had changed. I had such a tremendous desire for the lost that I became consumed with winning the lost. With this call came a change in the gifts of the spirit in my life. Suddenly, I could see a stranger and the Lord would tell me things about them that only he could know. That gift brought a boldness that possessed me, in the natural I was a very timid, shy person but that completely changed with this call. Suddenly I had the boldness of a lion. I would go up to strangers on the street and win them to the Lord laying out their lives before them, and showing them the love Jesus had for them.

Miracles began to happen. It was operating in this gift that I saw the first person raised from the dead. I realized that the call of evangelist was not only to win the lost but those in the church who honored this gift on my life were able to partake of the gift given by the Lord in as much as the zeal and boldness and passion for the lost, the anointing to win the Lost would flow through them to a degree. This was why we were able to win thousands of people to the Lord in a small community in a relatively short period of time. In Matthew 10:41 Jesus says, He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophets reward. Did you notice Jesus did not just say receive a prophet but he said receives a prophet IN THE NAME OF A PROPHET? Like I said earlier, when we receive a five-

fold ministry gift in the name of that gift we are acknowledging that it is from the Lord and can receive from the gift the way the Lord intends. So, as a born again person when you receive an evangelist in the name of an evangelist what is your reward? Part of that reward is a greater boldness for the Lord, greater zeal and compassion. I call these the power triplets, holy boldness, the zeal of the Lord, and the compassion of the Lord. Tell me who or what plan of the enemy can stand before that? See the reward you have been missing?

The second call, anointing and equipping on my life came in a very supernatural way. I had been an evangelist for many years and was quite happy to continue to be. The Lord had me start a home bible study. We would have 40-50 people in a tiny little living room. At this time I was also a chaplain at a correctional facility. And it seemed that everywhere I went whether the jails, the community, anywhere someone would say to me, "You need to pastor a church – you need to start a church." I had no desire to pastor and said to the Lord repeatedly, "Lord this community doesn't need another church."

God had other plans. One day I was taking a bath and suddenly the water became oily and the Lord said to me, "I am anointing you to pastor." It was almost immediately after that that my focus and the gifting in my life changed. All of a sudden I had such a desire to raise people up in their potential for the Lord – it was no longer enough to win them, more than anything I wanted to present to the Lord people grown and mature able to fulfill His will in their lives. There also became such a protectiveness in me for the ones the Lord had called me to pastor. I knew what it was like to be a mama bear...

The gifts and anointing that came with this new call were different also. The Lord would show me where people were spiritually; I could see into their thinking, see the hurts, wounds and sin in their lives. He did this through word of knowledge, word of wisdom and dreams and visions. I would feel the compassion of Jesus for them. The Lord would lay out a spiritual diet and road for me to help them walk down, a road that would keep them close to him and lead them where he wanted them to go to get

deliverance, healing and maturity. I also found that because part of the function of a pastor is to shepherd the people the Lord has put in his care, part of shepherding is protecting. The Lord would show me the plans of the enemy against individuals and families in the church. Many times I was able to take care of the problem in the spirit realm without them even knowing. Sometimes the Lord wanted us to fight the battles together. He would use me to help teach them to fight and obtain victory in their spiritual battles.

I observed that when people respected the pastoral gift that I was to them from the Lord that the gifting and anointing He had put into me would flow to them but those who did not respect the gift did not receive. One example. We had a couple in the church in Montana that were really into everyone being equal in anointing and gifting. They thought that no one should be in charge, that all the chairs in church should be in a circle and everyone just kind of take turns doing what they felt. They had a hard time submitting to any type of authority in the church. The man came to us and told us that he was going on a ministry trip to Africa for a few weeks. We received a clear warning from the Lord for the man that he should not go but he would not listen. While he was in Africa he got an infection in his heart. It wasn't long he was in a nursing home and lost his life. The reward of receiving a pastor in the name of a pastor is to help you follow the Holy Spirit and his plan to grow you and conform you into the image of Christ as the scripture says.

Another reward is to help keep the wolves at bay when you are weak or wounded. But again, this reward only comes as you receive and are open to the gift that the pastor is. I won't go into detail in the other five-fold offices here. If you want to know more about these gifts from the Lord so that you can receive the reward that come with receiving them you should order the books "The High Calling of God" which deals with four of the five offices and "The Prophetic Voice" which goes into great detail about the prophet's office. The Lord gives different gifting to everyone called to five-fold ministry. He knows exactly what that person needs to help the people He is sending him to.

Think about the five-fold offices. Each of the five has a function and a reward that accompanies it:

Apostle: Given to establish the Church – to bring order out of chaos, to flow in signs and wonders. The reward, establishing correct foundation – clarity – activation in the gifts of the spirit, the miraculous.

Prophet: Given to speak for God, working of miracles, direction – The reward, prophetic direction, and activation in the gifts of the spirit, the miraculous.

Evangelist: Supernatural ability to win the lost and help build the Church. The Reward, impartation of compassion, boldness and a zeal for the lost.

Pastor: Shepherd, to supernaturally guide and protect the people under their care. Reward to grow more perfectly, more quickly. To help you not go down wrong paths and another layer of protection. Provide daily diet for the sheep he cares for and not allow wolves into the church, only true Five-fold ministries.

Teacher: Given to open up the Word of God line upon line and precept upon precept, to bring forth revelation from the heart of God. Reward Renewing of the mind, Greater revelation from the Word of God, Illumination – producing greater intimacy with Jesus who is the Word.

You can receive a five-fold minister in his own name and hopefully you will receive a friend who will love Jesus with you. Or you can receive a five-fold minister in the name of the gift that they are from the Lord and you will receive all that the Lord wants to give to you through that gift. You decide.