

***Olive Branch Baptist Church
Welcome!***



2 Timothy 2:15

Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately. (The NET Bible)

The Assignment of Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4:11-13

The Nature Of The Gifts

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;
and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and
teachers."

- . The gifts listed here are different from most of those mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12.
 - In **1 Corinthians 12**, the gifts are bestowed on believers.
 - In **Ephesians 4:11**, gifted believers are bestowed on the church.

- . In 1 Corinthians the gifts are viewed primarily from the standpoint of the local church.
- . In Ephesians they are viewed from the standpoint of the universal church, the whole body.

- . The five gifts listed in **Ephesians 4:11** can be summarized in this way:
 - Those gifted to deal with situations
 1. Those equipped to guide the infant church in ways it ought to go – **Apostles**
 2. Those equipped to guard the infant church in what it ought to know - **Prophets**

- Those gifted to deal with sinners

1.Evangelists

- Those gifted to deal with saints

1.Those called to tend the flock of God - **Pastors**

2.Those called to teach the flock of God -
Teachers

- . The gifts of apostles and prophets were foundational -
Ephesians 2:20
 - unique to the early church
 - those gifts were **temporary** and **transitional**, intended to help the church become established according to the Holy Spirit's plans.
 - we have **missionaries** (sent ones) and **preachers** today, but we do not have **apostles** and **prophets**

Evangelists:

- Evangelism is always needed
 - the evangelist, a man especially gifted by the Spirit of God to win souls, is the church's salesman, so to speak
 - **all believers** can be soul-winners, but not all believers can be evangelists
 - when the evangelist comes to town, sinners turn to Christ in significant numbers

- a person either has or does not have the gift of the evangelist
- if the person has the gift of the evangelist, something happens when he preaches: people come to Christ
- if he does not have the gift, the response to his message is likely to be sparse

- nobody can produce fruit like the evangelist
- his message and methods may be **shallower** than those of the pastors and teachers, but he gets the souls because God has given him the gift
- a person who does not have this gift should not fret, but thank God some people do have it

Pastors:

- The pastor is simply a shepherd, as the name of the gift implies
 - he **loves** the Lord's people and has a **heart** for the flock
 - he **cares** for the weak, the sick, and those who are going astray

- he counsels the young, cares for the needy, and comforts the bereaved
- he does these tasks supremely well because he has the shepherd's **heart** and the pastoral **gift**

Teachers:

- The teacher expounds the Bible's great truths: its sublime doctrines; its underlying principles; and the broad scope of its history, theology, purpose, and impact
- He/She compares spiritual things with spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:13), shows God's ways with men down through the ages, and communicates God's stirring plans for the future

- . The teacher develops consistent hermeneutics and discerns a unifying principle broad enough to explain all of God's revealed ways
- . He/She teaches others how to divide the Word of truth (2Timothy 2:15) and opens their eyes to the wonders of Scripture

The Need For These Gifts

1. The Purpose

- *for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry*
 - The word translated "perfecting" (*katartismos*) only occurs here.

- The verb form occurs in many places in Scripture and is translated in a variety of ways in the New Testament

A. Matthew 4:21 - is used for mending net

B. Matthew 21:16 - Jesus used the word in His response to the chief priests and scribes who objected when people hailed Him with their hosannas:

A. Hebrews 10:5 - used to describe the incarnation of the Word: "A body hast thou prepared me" (italics added).

- The thought behind the word (*katartismos*) is that of making something **fully** ready, **perfectly** equipping someone, or **fully** preparing something.
- The proper use of the gifts is to bring the body of Christ to its **full** potential.

- *for the edifying of the body of Christ*
 - The universal gifts that God has given to the church are intended to build up the local church and the universal church.
 - The Holy Spirit does not intend that those with these gifts should **monopolize** the ministry.
 - Gifted people should help equip others to carry out the work of winning people to Christ, shepherding the flock, and teaching God's Word.

The Time Period Involved

- *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 fulness of Christ*
 - The Holy Spirit wants us to achieve the stature of Christ.

- The same Greek word translated "stature" here is used to describe Zacchaeus - **Luke 19:3**
- It can also be translated "age," - **John 9:21**
- The Holy Spirit wants us to grow up until we display, here on earth, something of Christ's stature and maturity.