

HIGHER CALL

INCREASING YOUR CAPACITY TO SERVE

Overview of 5 Fold Ministries

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(Ephesians 4: 7, 8, 11, 12) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,"

The above scripture tells us that "each one of us was given a grace according to the measure of Christ's gift". These are not gifts of the Holy Spirit, these are gifts of Christ. I believe that every believer is gifted in one or more of the 5 graces mentioned above. This enables them to see ministry, the church and the world through a lens that is unique to their grace gift and they need to be equipped by those who see through that same lens.

Some Common Attributes of the 5 Fold Graces

In attempting to define a few common attributes for each of the 5 fold graces, I would remind us that we can not "pigeon hole" or categorize people. I Corinthians 12: 4-7 teaches us that there are diversities of gifts, ministries and activities. Our personality, our calling, our sphere of influence and our gift mix makes each of us each unique. In many ways, as we serve with our gifts, we uniquely become a gift to those around us!

Apostolic people are strategic thinkers who can see Heaven's blueprint for earth and are gifted to persevere and serve to see it established. They are defenders of a Christ centered Gospel, contenders for unity and often serve as forerunners.

Potential Pitfalls: Apostolic people must guard against releasing an assignment too soon and jumping from project to project. Because they are forerunners, they must be patient as others move from where they are to where they are going.

Prophetic people are able to see and hear what Heaven is speaking and are gifted to clearly communicate it without compromising the truth. They carry a strong conviction about what they have seen and heard; often taking it into times of intercession.

Potential Pitfalls: Prophetic people must be careful not to become too intense and view everything as being "black & white". They must guard against taking personal ownership of the impressions they receive.

Some Common Attributes of the 5 Fold Graces (continued)

Evangelistic people carry a passion to see others who don't know Christ come to know His love and escape the penalties of hell through salvation. They are gifted at relating to lost people and sharing the Gospel in relevant ways.

Potential Pitfalls: Evangelistic people can become critical of those who don't share their passion for winning the lost. They must be careful not to view the church as heartless toward the world and out of touch with what God cares about.

Pastoral people have a special love for people and carry the Chief Shepherd's passion to see them well cared for. They are gifted at relating to the sheep and feeding them what they need; often in times of one on one counseling.

Potential Pitfalls: Pastoral people must guard against becoming too wound focused. They must not allow the bleating of the sheep to hinder their ability to follow the voice of the Chief Shepherd.

Teaching people are students of the Bible and delight to search out the interconnected truths of the scripture. They have a gift to clearly communicate these truths to others in a concise manner that builds a faith in God.

Potential Pitfalls: Teaching people must be careful to keep a balance of the Word and the Spirit. They must guard against their knowledge of the scripture becoming a formula or rule book that puts limitations on God and His people.

The 5 Fold Offices

It is important to mention that not everyone who is prophetic functions in the office of a prophet, not everyone who is pastoral functions in the office of a pastor, not everyone who is evangelistic is in the office of an evangelist, etc. The above text reminds us,

“And He Himself gave some to be...” and with a very specific purpose, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”.

This placement within the body of Christ is by God's choosing and confirmed by the body of believers. These offices are assigned the task of equipping and edifying others,

“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of the deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the

effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4: 11-16)