

ROOTED – LESSON 10

Why I Need Spiritual Leadership: The Five-Fold Ministry

Key Text: Ephesians 4:11–16

The Importance of Spiritual Leadership

- Spiritual leadership is important in the life of every Christian.
- We must be careful who we follow. Paul said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- A trustworthy spiritual leader should be following Christ and producing godly fruit.
- God is the Great Shepherd, and He places under-shepherds in our lives to care for and watch for our souls.

Do Not Overlook the Obvious

The most basic and fundamental truths are often taken for granted, overlooked, or ignored.

- Sometimes the obvious is overlooked because we do not stop long enough to recognize its importance.
- A building can have excellent materials and excellent plans, but without the right foundation it will eventually fall.
- The foundation of the Christian life is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Ephesians 4 and the “Eight-Fold Ministry”

Ephesians 4:11 names apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. This lesson expands the picture by emphasizing God as the source, the ministry of the saints, and the supernatural work of the Holy Ghost.

1. God – The Source

- Ephesians 4:11 begins, “And he gave...”
- The first and foundational ministry is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.
- Jesus is the source of all ministry. Without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

2. Apostles

- Sent with spiritual authority to take the Gospel to unreached people groups.
- Help establish developing churches and ordain elders from among the converts.
- Their role is especially significant at the beginning of the church in a nation or area.

3. Prophets

- Forth-tell the directive Word of God to keep the Church on course and warn of deviation.
- Only a small part of prophetic ministry involves foretelling future events.
- Prophets warn about dangerous trends and present problems and give direction for returning to the right course.

4. Evangelists

- Especially effective at communicating the Gospel and motivating people to receive it.
- Their ministry is often focused on reaching the lost.

- They are gifted in presenting the Gospel and praying people through to the Holy Ghost.

5. Pastors

- Care for and manage individual congregations of God's people.
- The biblical idea of pastor is a shepherd.
- Pastors feed the flock with knowledge and understanding and remain aware of the condition of the flock.

6. Teachers

- Help determine and explain the truth of doctrine.
- Convey truth so the church can propagate truth rather than error.

7. Saints with Ministering Gifts

- The saints are perfected or equipped "for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).
- Every believer is called to be productive and to be a witness.
- Christians are not saved merely to sit on a pew; each person should find a place in the Body and become active in ministry.
- Everyone has gifts given by the Lord (Romans 12:6).

8. Holy Ghost Intervention / Spiritual Gifts

- God works supernaturally through His servants regardless of their particular office.
- The Spirit gives gifts that help the church become what God intends it to be.
- The same Spirit distributes gifts according to His will (1 Corinthians 12:6, 11).

The Ministering Gifts of the Saints – Romans 12:6–9

Romans 12 teaches that God gives each member of the Body a role in building up the church. Each gift has a function, a possible misuse, and a biblical rule for healthy operation.

1. Prophecy

Function: Perceives and speaks about spiritual conditions within the Body.

Potential Abuse: Can lead to self-exaltation or a judgmental spirit if not governed properly.

Rule: Romans 12:9 – Abhor evil and cleave to what is good.

2. Ministry / Service

Function: Perceives and meets practical needs within the Body.

Potential Abuse: May neglect personal responsibilities or become wounded when service is not appreciated.

Rule: Romans 12:10 – Show brotherly love and honor one another.

3. Teaching

Function: Proves and explains the doctrines of the church to others.

Potential Abuse: Can produce pride in knowledge, excessive criticism, or complacency in continued study.

Rule: Romans 12:11 – Be diligent, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

4. Exhorting

Function: Encourages the Body to maintain godly standards and good works through every circumstance.

Potential Abuse: May underestimate serious problems or speak for God without knowing what God is saying.

Rule: Romans 12:12 – Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and continue in prayer.

5. Giving

Function: Provides for material and financial needs within the Body.

Potential Abuse: May give indiscriminately, judge those who sacrifice differently, or focus more on physical than spiritual needs.

Rule: Romans 12:13 – Distribute to the needs of the saints and practice hospitality.

6. Ruling / Administration

Function: Organizes and leads others toward accomplishing the work of the Body.

Potential Abuse: May begin to view people merely as resources and fail to express gratitude.

Rule: Romans 12:14 – Bless and do not curse.

7. Showing Mercy

Function: Expresses sympathy, helps carry sorrow, and multiplies joy.

Potential Abuse: May exaggerate situations or become critical of those who respond differently to grief or difficulty.

Rule: Romans 12:15 – Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

8. Love

Function: Sacrifices to meet the needs of others so they can grow and mature in doctrine and practice.

Potential Abuse: May compromise absolutes for acceptance or fall into hypocrisy.

Rule: Romans 12:16 – Walk in humility and be of the same mind toward one another.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus Christ is the foundation and source of all true ministry.
- God gives leadership gifts to equip and build up the church.
- The work of ministry belongs to the whole Body, not only to pastors and preachers.
- Every believer has a place and a gift to use in the Kingdom of God.
- Spiritual gifts must be exercised with biblical boundaries, humility, love, and dependence on the Holy Ghost.

Personal Reflection

What gifts has God placed in my life?

Where can I become more active in the work of the Kingdom?

How can I use my gifts to strengthen and edify the Body of Christ?
