

The five-fold ministry

The idea behind what I will minister in the meetings is to give you sound-bites of truth. I would love to dedicate the whole meeting to these topics but there are other ministries that need to be released among us by the Holy Spirit. For those who want to go deeper I have placed notes here with scriptural notations.

These notes are not exhaustive and this topic warrants your further study. When I study the scripture it is not to confirm what I already know but to validate and expand it. We must seek to have a fuller understanding, a fuller experience of Christ in us. This is not about acquiring head knowledge but having the eyes of our understanding enlightened that we may know what is the hope of our calling (hope: what we have yet to receive) and what are the riches of the inheritance that God has given us. The Gospel is active, not passive, it is not enough to understand but to make that understanding active practice it in our life. If we are given a greater understanding of the power of God it is so we unleash that power to those around us. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to do that work in us: it is all about bearing fruit in our lives. We have been educated in the Greek style of thinking, agreeing and understanding: logic. The scripture is written from the Jewish mindset which is more than thinking, agreeing and understanding, it is epitomised by action. It is not enough to know that Jesus is our healer if we never action that faith into reality. Faith takes that hope and makes it the reality.

You may not be an appointed minister in the Church according to these callings, however, that is not all that is available. The Gifts of the Spirit also provide a ministry outlet to those who seek ministry. The Gifts are free to all and Paul tells us we must seek the best gifts. I want to know how you make the distinction - they are all good - seek them all!

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

I will just say that we need to hear scripturally based, sound teaching. If it's not in the Bible, which ever version you find easiest to understand, we don't want to know. I want Fiskerton to be a place where truth and holiness are able to blossom in the Saints. So please leave your favourite doctrine, your conspiracy theories, the bee in your bonnet, at the door and come to glorify and worship God in Spirit and in truth. Trust God to guide us into all truth as He has promised He will.

1. Ephesians 4:11-13 - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 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.

1. 'And he gave some'. The Greek word translated 'gave' is 'δίδωμι didōmi' which means in this instance: 'to appoint to an office'. Confirmed by 1 Corinthians 12:28: 'set' - tithēmi: to establish or ordain.
2. Five appointed ministries: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. Ministries in the Holy Spirit to the Church. In this regard ambition is the enemy of the Spirit. Seek God for

your calling, do not strive to be like someone else. What God has graced you with will just flow out of you, relax and allow Him to do it. We should not treat these ministries as though they are the Gifts of the Spirit, they are not free to everyone but are appointments made by God. We must be careful to understand the scripture in context. We must also be careful not to paraphrase scripture and give it an alternative meaning. There are a lot of 'sayings' in the Church that have been so long with us that we take them as scripture but they are not scripture, they are our traditions. 'God's got no favourites' is true He loves us all equally but His calling sets some apart from others, we cannot assume that everything is available to everyone. Gifts of the Spirit are free to all but the callings of God are not. Salvation is the free gift of God. Salvation is but holiness is not free, it costs you everything you have got - full surrender. You only find these things out by studying the scripture and validating what you read and what you are told.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you (John 15:16).

1. **Gifts of the Spirit:** word of wisdom; word of knowledge; faith; gifts of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers tongues; interpretation of tongues.
2. All of the Gifts of the Spirit are available to all of us to pray for and earnestly covet (1 Corinthians 12:8-11; 31). I want them all and already have some. The other side of the coin is that God will give them to us as we need them. Discernment comes when we are about to be deceived. Pay attention to the inner voice of the Holy Spirit within you.
3. There are also **Offices of the Church:** Bishops and Deacons and the like but they are appointments made by the Church to the Church and Paul sets out their qualifications in various places (see 1 Timothy 3:1-13).
4. There is a fashion at the moment for Ministry titles - Apostle Bishop Pastor Dr Thingamajig. Well what is he a pastor or an apostle? We shun titles, I use Pastor in documents to let people know who to address their questions to and where to put the blame! but I have not been appointed by God to the ministry of a Pastor, but someone has to do it and there was no-one else.
3. What is the place of the five-fold ministry in the Church today: no different from the early Church. There has been a falling away of spiritual ministries despite the revivals of the last 200 years. The fulness of the anointing that is coming upon the Church now will furnish the Church much as the Holy Spirit furnished the Church at the first Christian Pentecost. The Apostolic ministry is not obviously evident in the Church right now but it will be. We must be careful to learn the lessons of previous denominations. For example, the Apostolic Church of the 1950's became apostate through the carnal misuse of that ministry.
4. Prophets have also been in short supply. The Lord gave a prophesy some years ago foretelling that He would put Seers in the Church, this is the true ministry of the Prophet. They not only see the future but see all things. Their view is through pictures: dreams and visions. They do hear but they also see, although seeing is hearing in the Spirit.
5. Some say Apostles and Prophets will be the only ministries used in the last days. That would be in conflict with the scripture. I do believe they will lead and be major players in the revival

but it is a five fold ministry in the Body of Christ. Paul purposely and boldly places an order on the five-fold ministries: firstly Apostles, secondly Prophets and then . . . so there clearly is a hierarchy. We must observe and obey. The Body of Christ has all of God's fulness and is the fulness of God. What a great mystery that is. We will discuss it at another time.

6. A brief description of the five-fold ministries:

1. **Apostle:** Delegate, messenger sent forth from God with specific orders and miraculous powers - akin to the OT prophets;
 1. For example, Paul was sent forth especially to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and he had miraculous powers. God prophesied Paul's calling to Ananias (Acts 9:15-16) and later fulfilled His calling (Acts 13:2). Following his road to Damascus conversion he received revelation from God over 17 years in the Arabian Desert revealing God's ministry to him. He returned to Damascus and started his ministry.
 2. Apostles of the Lamb: the eleven disciples + Matthias (replacing Judas Iscariot). Others are named as Apostles in the scripture and include Paul, Barnabas, Timothy and Silvanus. Barnabas was called alongside Paul (Acts 13:2);
 3. This indicates to me that the Apostles were not restricted to the Disciples, neither was it a title given after Pentecost. Jesus referred to the Disciples as Apostles (Luke 6:13). Apostles are still being called today;
 4. We read more about Paul and Peter than any other Apostles. By studying the Biblical accounts of them we can see the ministry of an Apostle.
 5. For example: they realised that the anointing upon them was so great that they took prayer cloths from their clothes; such was the power of the Apostolic anointing on Peter that people were healed by his presence (his shadow);
 6. They are powerful speakers with Governmental, often national or even global influence.
7. **Prophet:** one who is moved by the Spirit of God to speak, His spokesman, declares what has been received by inspiration, concerning future events, what relates to the Kingdom of God in salvation and the christian way of life;
 1. Prophets are not just foretellers of the future, they know and understand the mysteries of God and expound them;
 2. There is not just one per Church: Acts 13:1, several worked together;
 3. Barnabas was a prophet in the Church at Antioch but God called him to be an Apostle alongside Paul;
 4. The following scriptures indicate that Prophets did not operate singly nor is a calling necessarily permanent in the sense that God can make a further calling on a life (Acts 13:2) - He is God after all!
 1. Acts 11:27-28 - *And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that*

there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

2. Acts 15:32 - *And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.*
 3. Acts 19:6-7 - *And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.*
 4. Acts 21:9-11 - *And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.*
8. **Evangelist:** the heralds of salvation through Christ, who are not Apostles: they do not have a specific message, nor do they have miraculous powers, although they may manifest some of the Gifts of the Spirit; I know/knew several Evangelists who just drew people to them and they got saved. Henri Staples was an evangelist - it was just so natural to him, evangelism was like his right arm. The Holy Spirit gave him such a hunger for souls he would spend time on just one person, he was determined to win souls.
1. Henri's father used to be a signalman so he used to go and see the signalman at the Rolleston signal box, which he passed every time he went to Newark from his home. Of course, Henri's only conversation was Jesus. One day the signalman said to him: 'I don't mind you coming to see me but I don't want to hear any more about Jesus. After some discussion Henri said to him: 'OK, I will not mention Jesus again unless you raise the subject'. Henri went to a printer friend of his and asked him to print him some labels that read: 'It's a MUST'. Each time he went to see the signalman he left one of these labels on his table. After a while the signalman said to Henri: 'You keep leaving these labels - what is a must? That was Henri's opening: 'Ah well, me lad, you MUST be born again' and he led him to the Lord!
 2. On another occasion Henri was woken in the middle of the night by a noise. He went into his kitchen and found young man had broken into his house. Anyway he sat him down on his sofa and started talking to him. By the time he left the young lad had given his heart to the Lord.
9. **Pastor:** the tasks of a Jewish shepherd were: to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep, defend the sheep from attackers, heal the wounded and sick sheep, find and save lost or trapped sheep, to love them and share their life earning their trust. Servant of the sheep!! Pharisees came from Levites - their ministry was to serve the people and minister to God in service of the people;
1. The best Pastor I ever knew was Bob Nicholls. He was the archetypal Pastor - according to the scriptural description. I still miss him, he was a gentle and loving man.

2. He invited me into his office one Sunday and asked me to listen to a tape. All I could hear was a tambourine - my tambourine! Without any words he had kindly let me know that I was not being a blessing but a nuisance. I quickly apologised and made sure I did not play my tambourine again when singing on the microphone.
10. **Teacher:** teaches concerning the things of God and the duties of man, shows men the way of salvation and teaches how to live and walk in the Spirit. The prophetic element is not present but Teachers pass on the insights given them by God. The difference between a Prophet and a Teacher is the spontaneous nature of the ministry. Prophets speak out truth they may not have been aware of previously, teachers present their ministry by studying and searching the scripture.
7. Why do we have the five-fold ministry, the Holy Spirit ministries to the Church. It is a great blessing to us all that God has so abundantly provided for us through the Lord Jesus Christ and this is no more evident than in these verses relating to the five-fold ministry. God does not skimp. When I was a young Christian there was a lot of talk about the 'economy of God', implying that God only did just enough. That is not borne out by the scripture. God can never run out, in that unlikely event would He not just create more? God is eternal so time does not limit Him. God is omnipotent so His power is never diminished. God is love His love is eternal just like Him. God is omnipresent so He is everywhere all the time, there is no place that God cannot reach us. We only have to think about the first miracle at Cana, when Jesus changed water into wine. Jesus did not have a discussion to ask how much they needed, nor did He just provide a few bottles. His response was 120-180 gallons of wine, that's about 1,000 bottles. Wine was a sign of the blessing and abundance of God: a clear message that God abundantly blesses us.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

A stark contrast between satan's intent and the abundance of God. Whenever we read about God giving, it is always in abundance and beyond our wildest expectation - '*exceeding abundantly beyond all we can ask or think*' (Ephesians 3:20).

1. for the perfecting of the saints:

1. perfecting: 'katartismos': complete furnishing and equipping, adaptation for a specific purpose; catharsis - spiritual purging, cleansing, change of state. We are complete in Him, that means we are perfected in God. This is another area where many Christians take this as a heavenly reward. By faith we are already perfect, for Christ has made us perfect but that perfection has to be worked out in us. This is what we call holiness. We are made holy by the presence of God abiding within us but that holiness has to be worked out into our character. I will talk about this more when we discuss Romans 8:29.

2. for the work of the ministry:

1. to prepare us to minister to the Church, right mindedness, Godly character. The scripture I immediately think of when I read this description is Hebrews 4:12-13:

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is specifically so that God can change us from the inside. Under the Law God was on the outside and the Israelites lived by a set of rules. The whole intent was that they should recognise the nature of God in those precepts. But they could not see the wood for the trees and just lived by the letter. The religious man does the same today, but the whole essence of God's interaction with man is that we should have a love relationship with Him.

3. for the edifying of the body of Christ:

1. to build up and promote growth in Christian wisdom and holiness. All the time we are being brought closer to God. Jesus took away the burden and guilt of sin so that we could be free to love Him without encumbrance. God came to live with the Israelites in the pillar of fire and the column of cloud, then a Tabernacle, then a Temple, now we are the Temples and will soon be His Bride. Drawing us closer into the ultimate fellowship of union with God. Oneness with Him. But again we do not have to wait for heaven to experience it. We can have that closeness right here, in fact that is where God wants us to enjoy it. A foretaste, an earnest, of the inheritance God has provided through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:14).

4. Bringing us to the unity of the faith:

1. Gk - *henotes* - Oneness - it is essential we understand the interrelation between the oneness of God and the oneness of the Body of Christ - a topic for another time. Not only understand it but experience it. Greek/Hebrew mindset. Closely guard oneness, our love for one another and for God - they are linked.
2. 1 John 4:20-21 - *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*
3. I do not want to say too much more about the oneness of God and the oneness of His Bride, the Church, because it is not something to gloss over, it is too important, too fundamental but I will discuss it soon.

5. the Knowledge of the Son of God:

1. Gk: *epignosis* - precise, correct knowledge, full discernment, acknowledgement.
2. If we know God no-one will misrepresent Him to us. We will know Him, what He has done, how He relates to us and what He is going to do. We have His Spirit on the inside of us, the Holy Spirit is as much a part of us as our bones, except of course that He is Spirit and not flesh. Being Spirit we can discern Him, feel after Him and perceive Him in a much broader and deeper context than what we see with our earthly eyes.

6. Unto a perfect man:

1. Of full age and maturity, wanting nothing necessary for completeness;
2. Time is getting short, the greatest revival this world has ever known is on the doorstep. Coming with it will be the greatest tribulation the world has ever known. Some are fearful but God will meet the need of the Saints. That is not to say that we will not suffer persecution, some even martyrdom, but God will provide all that we need to be strong and withstand it (Isaiah 59:19). He will do a quick work. When the Disciples and the others of that 120 waiting in the upper room came under the power of Pentecost they were instantly changed into a fighting force. The weak were made strong, the uneducated became oracles of the power and word of God. God walked with them. When Jesus went to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead, Martha told Jesus off. If you had been here earlier my brother would not have died. But Jesus reminded her of who He was.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:25-26).

She acknowledged He was the Christ, the Anointed Messiah of God. She acknowledged His deity and power. Faith sprang forth. Lazarus was raised. We have that resurrection life permeating every fibre of our being. God is living, and living in us. Hallelujah!!

7. Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

1. Finally and in summary:
 1. Due, which fully meets the need, a fit measure, nothing lacking;
 2. Stature: of an attained fit state - ready for anything!
 3. Fulness of Christ: that which is filled with presence, power, agency and riches of God and Christ.
 4. Ephesians 3:19 - *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*
 5. The wonderful truth that Paul expounds so well throughout Ephesians is the absolute oneness between Christ and the Church. All that Christ has won has been passed to us. He is the true Bridegroom, all that He has is ours, all that He is is ours. His work has been fully carried out, completed and perfected. The wonderful blessing is that God has not diminished any of His abundance by sharing it. Love does not get less through the sharing.
8. The promises of God are yes and amen! He will not disappoint or fail - FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR!! Faith births hope into reality.
 1. God is the All-sufficient One, the El Shaddai - the Almighty God (Genesis 17:1b).
 2. He dwells in us - we are His Tabernacle.

1. If we are Baptised in the Holy Spirit we have received power. He is the same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead. The Spirit of the Father.
9. To complete the description of why we need the five-fold ministry operating in the Church we have to read Ephesians 4:14-16.
 1. We must appreciate the serial nature of the statements made in Paul's letters - each statement directly links to another supporting and justifying what has been said. Follow the punctuation. We tend to consider long sentences as being poor grammar, Paul was clearly not swayed by any grammatical arguments. If we fail to note the continuity of his statements we lose some of the depth of what he is saying and the interrelation from one thing to another, building precept upon precept. This is how the scripture needs to be read and understood. Some see a consequential or conditional nature in the scripture, but we have to be careful with words. To quote Jerry Bridges in his book *The Pursuit of Holiness* (p. 150): 'It is not that His love is *conditioned* on our obedience. That would be legalism. But our *experience* of His love is dependent upon our obedience'. To avoid error and misunderstanding we have to have in our minds balancing and seemingly contradictory statements, taking a panoramic view of the scripture. Translation does give rise to issues: the KJV, my preferred text, I was raised on it, is taken by some as being infallible. However, we have to understand why translations were written, who wrote them and with what agenda. Wycliffe and Tyndale wanted to publish a Bible that could be read by the common man in their own language. They suffered martyrdom as a result. The KJV text - the Authorised Version - was not authorised by God but by King James IV, the intention to better reflect Puritan beliefs and the ordination of the Clergy according to the structure of the Church of England. Some of the more modern translations, versions really, seem to fill a gap that is based on commercial whim rather than accuracy. KJV is pre-Qumran, written to gain King James' approval and underpin the ecclesiastical traditions of the Church of England. Other versions have doctrinal bias which at times can be clearly seen, I have noticed bias in the AMPC but it is still a text I refer to constantly. The Passion Bible is said to have New Age influences, I have never read it and cannot comment. NIV is said to be the nearest and most complete to the original text, although that is also said of the NASB, which I also refer to frequently. As long as we realise that translations are not perfect, not infallible, and ask for the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth then we will be fine.

Further related scripture and notes to ponder.

1. John 16:7-11 - *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

We must be careful not to do the work of the Holy Spirit for Him. It is His job to reprove the world of sin, not ours. On 17 February 2013 the Lord said this to me: Let the Holy Spirit do His own work - He will reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and judgement to come. State

what He wants to achieve. The challenge - the gap - will come out of the revelation only He can bring.

2. John 16:13-15 - *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*
3. Galatians 5:22-23 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
4. John 15:26-27 - *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*

This is the Spirit of the Father that Jesus was endued with at His baptism in the Jordan. At salvation we receive the Spirit of Christ, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the imparting of the power of God.

5. Romans 12:6-8 - *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*
6. James 3:1 - *My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. (James was a teacher.)*

Should you wish to ask questions or raise points for further discussion please contact me by email at fiskertonrevival@gmail.com.