

The last study on Discipleship the Tools for the Job part 2 took us through the gifts that the Father had given to us and the gifts given by the Holy Spirit. We now go on to the gifts of men and women in the church, ministries that Jesus has appointed for the purpose of teaching and training the saints for service. The letter to the church at Ephesus has a great deal to teach us; the following is a continued emphasis on the church being the body of Christ.

### **Romans 12 verse 1 -8**

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

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## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 1-12**

*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

In these scriptures Paul gives us a panoramic view of the spirit of redemptive work through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. Additionally in Colossians we read first of all about what God has done for humanity before any instruction is given for us to follow. It is important to read **the first three chapters of Colossians** before we attempt to understand our part in it.

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The work of Peacemakers endeavours to teach the true governmental structure that should be common to the whole Church of Jesus Christ which is resisted by many denominations who either do not believe God's word or will choose to do their own thing; it is every man and woman's right to decide for themselves what they believe and do.

### **Ephesians 4 verse 1-6**

*Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

Paul starts off by saying *therefore I ...*. This passage should be our personal inspiration to follow after the ways of God. It is impossible to do these things consistently without the help of the gifts of God and of the Holy Spirit. Our old nature continually wars against the things of God.

### **Romans 7 verse 14-25**

*For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.*

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*19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.*

### **Galatians 5 verse 16-24**

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

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We must understand that we are important members of a greater plan than our own personal plans or local church plans and may dissipate our efforts however good they may appear to be. Paul describes himself in Ephesians 4 as a prisoner of the Lord, available to do all that he is given to do.

### **Colossians 3 verse 12-14**

*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*

The purpose of all ministry, we shall discover, is to promote God's love within the body of Christ that it might be seen by the people of the world who are without Christ. We can have all our praise and worship meetings, our teach-ins and evangelistic meetings and still miss the mark. To miss by an inch will mean that in the end we miss by a mile. The word of God shows us exactly the way forward and the steps that we should take and as an added bonus God gives us time to get there, time to change and in which areas we should change. The scriptures that follow totally contradict the way in which many churches in this world have operated throughout history.

The world is in the church in a big way, you can tell this because of the disunity that exists, there is a humanistic endeavour to work together, providing you do not take God's word too literally there is a measure of unity but not the true unity of the Spirit at peace with and accepting God and His Word, the bible and the Word that became flesh, Jesus Christ.

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The Holy Spirit require the control of all of our lives and our programmes so that we can walk in the Spirit together towards the objectives laid out for us in the Bible. There is only one way to God, through Jesus Christ; only one God, one church (one body) and it will always work in unity with the one Holy Spirit.

### **Ephesians 4 verse 4-8**

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."*

Paul here is saying that we once were of the devil but we are now the captives of Jesus who has given us His gifts.

### **Psalm 110 verse 1-3**

*The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." 2 The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." 3 Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew.*

### **Matthew 22 verse 42-46**

*"What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, 44 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET"?"*

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*45 If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" 46 No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.*

### **Mark 12 verse 36**

*David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET.'*"

Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father and having sent the Holy Spirit to earth to guide and teach us all truth has also appointed men and women to continue and complete the task on earth prior to Jesus' return.

### **Ephesians 4 verse 11-16**

*And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

This explains who and how the work of the kingdom will be established. What are these ministries?

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They are often called the five fold ministries, being listed in the scripture as **Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher**. Who appoints them and what function do they have?

### **An Apostle**

Is one who is sent by God. Jesus appoints them and their task is the first one in establishing the Kingdom of God through the planting of churches in various places. Jesus was the first true Apostle sent by God to destroy the activity of the devil.

#### **1 John 3 verse 7-8**

*Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*

All apostles that came after Jesus were to be like Him and do the things that He did.

### **Ephesians 2 verse 17-22**

*AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

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The scripture speaks of the basis of God's Household being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus being the cornerstone which is the stone that determines the shape of the building. There are two kinds of apostles. The first apostles that were with Christ until He ascended into heaven. These had a special place in God's plan in the establishing of the Kingdom and in the Canon of scripture, that is the list of books that belong in the bible. The second kind of apostles are those that after Christ's ascension have been appointed to continue the establishment of His Kingdom that has come about through the planting of and establishing of new churches, appointing elders to rule (as Christ ruled) or oversee the work. The Lord has appointed in the church first apostles, not first in status of position, but theirs is the first task in establishing a church. The apostle *finds* the ground and clears it of all the rubbish that exists, removing dead roots and laying a biblical foundation as Christ Himself taught so that God's blueprint for His Church can replace the old dead work. The apostle is one who knows the blueprint and proceeds to establish it with the help initially of the prophet and then the evangelist, pastor and teacher. The apostles' ministry is usually accompanied by signs and wonders that follow teaching and preaching, travelling from place to place having been called by God and sent out of their local church that they probably helped establish.

The prophet is a seer, knows the plans of God and keeps the church on course, hears and sees and encourages others to do the things that God has instructed in the work of the church. The prophet does not have authority to give individual people directions only in relation to the work and works with the other ministries in the church. There is no competition in church, or there shouldn't be!

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## **Deuteronomy 18 verse 15**

*"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.*

Jesus was the prophet promised in the scripture, the prophet today is to be like Jesus. All of us may prophesy but not all are prophets, even if they do prophesy.

## **1 Corinthians 12 verse 28-29**

*And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?*

The first New Testament prophet was John the Baptist. Jesus Himself was the first of many and is our role model. The **evangelist** is the one who brings the good news of the Kingdom and moves in and by the name of Jesus. There is only one mentioned in the New Testament and his name was Phillip.

## **Acts 8 Verse 4-13**

*Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. 6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. 7 For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.*

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*9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; 10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." 11 And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. 13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.*

However, Timothy also did the work of an evangelist.

## **2 Timothy 4 verse 3-5**

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

Of course Jesus was the first evangelist and many were to follow after Him. The fact is that we are all called to be evangelists as we are called to prophesy, but some are to be evangelists in the church to equip the saints to serve. The evangelist works closely with the apostle, prophet, pastor and teacher to bring the saints into maturity.

The **pastor** is one who shepherds the flock, cares for the sheep and leads them into Holy Spirit inspired and scriptural based pastures. The pastor recognises that there are other ministries to assist in the task that are called for.

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The pastor builds the walls, puts in the windows and seals the building with a roof or covering to keep the weather and the devil out. This is of course figuratively speaking. A church is a collection of His people, not a building.

The teacher is someone who simply explains scripture to the people. In the church there are prophetic teachers, pastoral teachers and elders who are apt to teach. The ministries that Jesus described in Ephesians 4 verse 11-13 will be based at home but almost certainly will have a wider roaming ministry. The calling on any is going to be unique to that person. So often in the explanation of these gift is one can so easily pigeonhole them and in so doing limit them to experience and circumstance. The Holy Spirit doesn't do that even though there is evidence that some may specialise in a particular area of ministry. The question is where has God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit called me to serve? I may have served in each of the five fold ministry gifts and in the end I am only a servant of the Lord willing to do whatever He may ask me to do.

### **1 Timothy 5 verse 17-18**

*The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."*

### **2 Timothy 3 verse 16-17**

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

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Elders are the local church authority, their appointment is usually recognition that they are doing the job of ruling in their own lives at home in the family. They are appointed by the laying on of hands.

### **1 Timothy 3 verse 1-6**

*It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.*

We read here that it is good to aspire to be an elder and gives the qualification for the task. It is good, not because it is promotion or status, although it is an office from which the church is ruled, it is meant to promote us all into a life of righteousness by example.

Christian leadership has taken on the worldly form of leading by giving orders. This is not the way that Jesus demonstrated or taught, He said a number of things that have been ignored in many churches, we should look at them to understand the difference between the world and the Kingdom way of authority.

### **Matthew 20 verse 20-28**

*Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 What is it you want?" he asked.*

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*She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." 22 You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. 23 "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. 24 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

This scripture gives us a glimpse of the difference, the mother of the sons of Zebedee asking Jesus for a special place, which Jesus could not give to them. The emphasis is on our serving one another, elders are the servants of the many, leaders set the example for others to lead and cannot do the work of the Holy Spirit! It is His task to convict and to enable us to turn from sin and into all righteousness. We have all been appointed to lead, lead that is in the ways of Christ. We have to learn to rule our own spirit and to take authority over the devil's works.

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