

I. Foundational Gifts Review

- A. You will not find the term “foundational gifts” in the scriptures however we do see the spiritual gifts of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher explained numerous times as gifts that need to be established in the church in order to properly grow in love and maturity.
- B. These gifts are often misunderstood as a hierarchy or organizational chart of authority. Often times people think of Apostles as the highest authority and they tell individuals with “lesser” gifts what to do and their authority is not to be questioned. If this were true we would see the apostle’s take a much different tone in their epistles as they spoke into various situations. They speak as co-laborer’s and equal brothers rather than authoritarian dictators. (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 4:16; 2 Cor. 5:20, 6:1, 10:1; Gal. 4:12; 1 Pet. 2:11; 2 Jhn. 1:5)
 - 1. The foundational gifts are not necessary to have in place to experience spiritual gifts in your life and communities, however without them in place you will not see the fullness of impact that the gifts were meant to produce.

II. A Closer look at the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- A. In part 2 of this series we mentioned the Gifts of the Holy Spirit briefly and how they are primarily designed to function in community. Now were going to take a closer look at the Foundational Gifts of the Holy Spirit individually.
- B. Foundational Gifts – (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11)
 - 1. There are 5 primary gifts that are listed as foundational to the building up of the church. These gifts are not only categorized in scripture as foundational they are also categorized as governmental. These are commonly referred to as the 5 fold ministry gifts. Scripture teaches that every believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit by spiritual gifts but not all believers are given a foundational gift. (Eph. 4:11-13)

- a) **The Gift of Apostleship** – Of all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit the Gift of apostleship is by far the most misunderstood and unfamiliar to the church. In fact it is a very common assertion in the church today that the gift of apostleship no longer exists. Simply put, the Gift of Apostleship is the unique ability to establish foundations, the building and planting of individuals and corporate expressions in the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 3:6-11; Rom. 15:20; Eph. 2:20; Rev. 21:14)
- The Twelve – The scripture’s distinguish the 12 apostles of Jesus from the multitude of individuals gifted as apostles after His ascension. They were with Jesus from during the entirety of His earthly ministry and Jesus personally instructed and visited them for over a month after His resurrection. (Mat. 19:28; Lk 22:30; Acts 1:21-24; 1 Cor. 15:4-8; 1 Jhn 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:16-18; Rev. 21:14). There are at least 9 other apostles mentioned in scripture but never in the same category as the original 12. (Acts. 14:14; Rom. 1:1, 16:7; Gal. 1:19; Phil. 2:25; 1 Tim. 5:22)
 - Characteristics of this gift – Building and Planting. Constantly concerned with shoring up the foundations and core values of ministries and individuals, identifies weak areas that need strengthening to bring greater function, identifies where individuals fit into the body, ministry is generally corporately focused, vast sphere of ministry and thinks in terms of the wider and universal body of Christ.
 - Common Misunderstandings – Apostles do not have to plant churches although they commonly do. Apostles do not have ultimate authority, the list of gifts speaks of the pattern of building foundations rather than governmental authority structure. The Apostleship gift is not to be honored above the rest of the gifts but rather esteemed equally.
- b) **The Gift of Prophecy** – The gift of prophecy is the unique ability to hear and articulate the testimony of heart or will of Jesus to His people. These truths are generally given in a “now” context to the person or situation. The focus of prophecy is not the person or situation but instead how God feels about or what He is doing in the person or situation. The gift of prophecy is designed to edify, exhort, and bring comfort to the body. (1 Cor. 14:3, 24-25, 31; Rev. 19:10)

- Characteristics of this Gift – Receiving and Articulating the Ramah Word of God. Commonly receiving revelation from Jesus concerning people or situations through dreams, open visions, mental pictures, impressions, imputed emotions, inner voice, audible voice, and physical manifestations.
 - Common Misunderstandings – New Covenant prophets are not to be held to the same accuracy standards as prophets in the Old Covenant, In fact we are to expect only partial understanding and all prophetic utterances are to be examined. All Prophetic words require a response of prayer, intercession, and sometimes action in order to bear the fullness of intention. Rarely do they manifest in a vacuum.
- c) **The Gift of Evangelism** – The gift of evangelism is the unique ability to usher non-believers into belief in the identity and work of Jesus. Evangelists carry a unique passion and God given burden for the lost and their need for salvation. (Act 8:5-13; 21:8; Rom. 10:12-15; 2 Ti. 4:5)
- Characteristics of this Gift – Have an ease and favor to engage individuals in conversations and ponderings of belief in Jesus. Strong focus on apologetics and ability to cast down arguments of the carnal mind concerning Jesus. Unshakable burden to lead people to Jesus.
 - Common Misunderstandings – Evangelists are not automatically called to foreign missions. The gift of evangelism goes far beyond one on one conversations and into realms of purposeful influence in media, marketplace, education, and government.
- d) **The Gift of Pastoring** – The gift of Pastoring is the ability to shepherd the soul of believers. These individuals are burdened for the health of the mind, will, and emotions of those around them. In the scriptures the word for Pastor is the same word for Shepherd.
- Characteristics of this Gift – These individuals carry a heavy burden for hurting and broken individuals. Their ministry and heart is generally personally focused and thrive in one on one long term discipleship, small groups, and church family dynamics.

- Common Misunderstandings – In Christian culture today anyone who leads in a church is considered a Pastor this is a great deviation from what the scriptures teach.
- e) **The Gift of Teaching** – The Gift of Teaching is the ability to uniquely impart biblical instruction, instill doctrine, and explain or expound upon the written word. Teachers produce wisdom and maturity of understanding in the body. (Mat. 28:20; Mk 6:34; Col. 1:28; 1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 2:12)
 - Characteristics of this Gift – Understanding and articulating the scriptures in a comprehensible way. Authoritative in defending and supporting doctrine or truth. High value on proper exegesis and a restlessness with scriptural obscurity.
 - Common Misunderstandings – Teachers are only able to impart truth and understanding, they are not able to transform you. The gifting of Teacher is one of the primary ways the Holy Spirit teaches you.

From the blog of Garris Elkins.....

Apostles lay foundations for building the heavenly blueprint.
Prophets announce and cast vision the blueprint.
Evangelists recruit people to the blueprint.
Pastors create the environment where the blueprint can grow and flourish.
Teachers expand and teach each elements of the blueprint.