**Lesson 17B Spiritual Offices**

**Reading Material**

What is the difference between the ‘gift of the holy spirit, "gifts coming from the Holy Spirit and the Spiritual office coming from Jesus?

THESE ARE SPIRITUAL OFFICES

# What is the Spiritual Office Gift to be an Apostle?

## APOSTLE The authority committed to the apostles by Christ was unique. It could not be transmitted to others. The apostles could install elders or other leaders and teachers in the churches, and they could authorize them to assume special responsibilities; but apostolic authority could not be transferred. Their authority has not come to us through their successors; it has come through their writings, which are contained in the New Testament.

## (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

## Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

## There were only 15 men with that title. A title distinguishing the direct appointment of the twelve disciples plus Mathias, Barnabas and Paul who were directly appointed by God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

## Matt 10:2-4 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. NKJV

## Acts 1:26 (NKJV) 26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

## Acts 14:14 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, NKJV

## What is the purpose of this office?

## Ephesians 4:12–13 (NKJV)12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 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;

## Those that were undeniably identified as prophet were to be a messenger from God to the people. The Priest main role was to take petitions and sacrifices from the people to God.

## Is it a valid Gift Today?

## The one thing that is unique to those that were called Apostles was that they had walked with or had been appointed by God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit as Messengers of the Gospel.

## The naming of the initial twelve as Apostles.

## Mark 3:13–14 (NIV84) 13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach

## Paul was called to be sent directly by Jesus.

## Acts 9:15 (NKJV) 15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

## Barnabas and again Paul were commissioned to be Apostles/Messengers by the Holy Spirit

## Acts 13:2 (NKJV) 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

## I don’t think it is a valid gift today in the same sense. Because there are no witness that was directly appointed by God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit today. There may be those that are sent as messengers from the local church and they use the title Apostle.

## While a **disciple** is a student, one who learns from a teacher, an **apostle** is sent to deliver those teachings to others. "**Apostle**" means messenger, he who is sent. An **apostle** is sent to deliver or spread those teachings to others. ... We can say that all **apostles** were **disciples** but all **disciples** are not **apostles**.

## [*https://www.diffen.com/difference/Apostle\_vs\_Disciple*](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Apostle_vs_Disciple)

## <https://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-answers/do-the-office-of-apostles-and-prophets-still-exist>

# **What is the Spiritual Gift office of a Prophet? Prophet –**

## A title representing the office of a Prophet. A Prophet is a Christian the Holy Spirit empowers with the **special** gift of Prophecy. Certain Christians are able to interpret and apply God's revelation in a given situation.

## *1 Cor 14:2-4 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. KJV*

## In the church today, we find no evidence of apostles nor prophets operating as the Bible requires. Instead, we may find an occasional person given insight of future events on an occasional basis, but mostly we find frauds claiming to have powers they cannot validate in the way the Bible requires.

## *Deuteronomy 18:22 (NKJV) 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.*

## I believe that the office of the Prophet did exist in the early church for its development just as the Apostolic office. As the New Testament scriptures were being written the need became less and less important. The office of the Prophet began to cease but not the gift of Prophecy.

## *1 Cor 14:29-34 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. NKJV*

## *2 Peter 1:19-21 19And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. NKJV*

## *1Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV) 1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.* [*1 Corinthians 14:1-5*](file:///C%3A%5Ckjv%5C1_Corinthians%5C14.html#1)*,* [*1 Corinthians 14:30-33*](file:///C%3A%5Ckjv%5C1_Corinthians%5C14.html#30)*,* [*1 Corinthians 14:37-40*](file:///C%3A%5Ckjv%5C1_Corinthians%5C14.html#37)

# **What is the Spiritual Gift to be an Evangelist?**

## EVANGELIST (Grk. evangelists, one "announcing good news"). In a general sense this applies to anyone who proclaims the mercy and grace of God, especially as unfolded in the gospel; therefore, preeminently to Christ, and the apostles whom He commissioned to preach the truth and establish His kingdom.

## (From the New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Cho, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)

## The Evangelist is empowered by a special gift of office whereby the Spirit enables particular Christians to share the Gospel to unbelievers in a unique way that the unbeliever becomes a follower of the Lord Jesus. *Acts 21:8,* [*Acts 8:26-40*](file:///C%3A%5Ckjv%5CActs%5C8.html#26)

## Is it a valid gift Today?

## I am sure it is. In my life time is have witness those who I believed to be gifted to that office, most notably Billy Graham. There are not many that I can truly say are as evident as he but we are all called to do the work of an evangelist without having the title.

## *2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV) 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

What is the Spiritual Gift office to be a Pastor and Teacher?

I believe this office is a combination of Pastor and Teacher.

This title is seen by some to be one and some think it is two separate offices. In the bible everything does not have to be of an either-or item.

I believe that the office of Pastor-Teacher is one office with two charges. One is to be an under-shepherd to the believers (flock) and the other to be a teacher to the believers. I believe this because most of the time the two are mentioned in a conjunctive manner.

*Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and* ***some pastors and teachers***,

It does not say “and some pastors and some teachers but they are mentioned together.

*Ephesians 4:11 (NLT) 11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,* ***and the pastors and teachers****.*

*The paraphrase version almost can be read as separate offices but it does not say, “and the pastors and the teachers.*

*Ephesians 4:11 (NIrV) 11 He is the One who gave some the gift to be apostles. He gave some the gift to be prophets. He gave some the gift of preaching the good news****. And he gave some the gift to be pastors and teachers.***

Where you see the word “some” I think it pertains to that same “some” who are pastors.

Now here comes another point of consideration that makes sense to me. A pastor (under-shepherd) is as a teacher as well, but it does not mean that a teacher is also a pastor.

Let’s see if I can make it a little clearer. None of can doubt that Jesus is our shepherd, the chief shepherd.

*John 10:11 (NKJV)11 “I am the good* ***shepherd****. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

*John 10:14 (NKJV) 14 I am the good* ***shepherd****; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.*

Jesus was also referred to ad “Teacher” many times in the NT. (over 45 times). So, it seems that Jesus was a Shepherd and teacher. I agree He was also more that that but the combination is there.

With what I have said I will beak down the offices separately.

Pastor (also Bishop)

It is the special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to assume responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers. [1 Peter 5:1-11](file:///C%3A%5Ckjv%5C1_Peter%5C5.html#1)

*1 Peter 5:3–4 (NIrV) 3 Don’t act as if you were a ruler over those who are under your care. Instead, be examples to the flock. 4 The Chief Shepherd will come again. Then you will receive the crown of glory. It is a crown that will never fade away.*

**Is it a valid gift Today?**

Most definitely. The church pastor is the under-shepherd of Christ to the believers in the body of Christ.

Teacher

It is the special gift whereby the Spirit enables particular Christians to communicate the truths of God's Word so that others can learn. [Hebrews 5:12-14](file:///C%3A%5Ckjv%5CHebrews%5C5.html#12)

**All who have been called to theses offices are equipped by the Holy Spirit for that work often by giving them multiple gifts.**

 **Is it a valid gift Today?**

Most definitely. The teachers in the church are vital to the Christian growth of the church and all the believers in the church.

There were those designated in the church to be “traveling teachers”. This means that he did not have his own flock but his ministry was still to the believer in the churches.

*3 John 3 (NLT) 3 Some of the traveling teachers recently returned and made me very happy by telling me about your faithfulness and that you are living according to the truth.*

These are the Spiritual office that Jesus equipped chosen men to hold and be empowered by the holy spirit to perform these offices of ministry. Most of the time these men will receive multiple gifts for the ministry.