



Divine Order

for the function & operation of the



BODY OF CHRIST
IN A LOCAL ASSEMBLY

WILLIE UCHEYA

March 2012

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By

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For because ye did it not at first, the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order." - 1Chr.15:13 .

" and the times of ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent; - Acts 17:30

By

Willie Ucheya

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I bless the Almighty Jehovah for the inspiration to put this important truth in a written form, after bringing it forth as live ministration at various gatherings of the local assemblies and conferences. He impressed on my heart the burden in His heart concerning the need to get His people return to His due order as regards the operation of His precious body.

I am grateful to many brethren who encouraged me, after ministering in meetings on this subject, to embark on this project to make the word available for the entire body of Christ.

I want to particularly thank my beloved covenant brethren for their encouragement through prayers and various other means to bring forth this write up. Of particular note are dear brothers Uchenna Emezue, Kolawole Adegoke and Alade Agbabiaka, who took out time to proof-read the manuscript and made useful contributions.

I want to thank my dear brother Dele Oludipo and the Anesis Livingsprings Limited for printing and publishing this work under a very tight schedule. The Lord bless you.

Now to my ever loving pearl; a real virtuous woman, the loving wife of my youth and mother of my four wonderful children. I lack words to express my gratitude for your great support on this work. Your efforts in counsel, contributions, proof reading and correction of the manuscript. You, as usual, insisted the work must be simple enough for non intellectuals and young people to be able to articulate the message God wants to pass across. My God bless you. I love you great.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work first to Yeshua my Lord, who gave His life for His body. Who on resurrection, led captivity captive and distributed gifts unto men for the purpose of proper functioning of that body, even His bride, till she comes to maturity.

This work is also dedicated to the body of Christ, especially the leadership of the emergent church who are committed to God's divine order in the functioning and operations of the church.

It is dedicated also to young men and women who have positively responded to the call to flee the rebellious harlot system and come into the true worship of the father in Spirit and in truth.

PREFACE

About fifteen years ago, the Lord burdened my heart to pray for leaders in this emergent Church. It is a burden I have carried and prayed for till date.

I pray that the Lord raise up within the body of Christ, mature, compassionate, listening, dedicated, humble and praying leaders. Leaders whose main focus is to hear God and obey Him. Elders who recognize their gifting and where God has placed them in the body. Elders who do not know men after the flesh, who by their life and ministry are true under-shepherds who channel all the glory to God.

The body needs elders and leaders who correct in love. Who can trim the wicks of those burning wildly without quenching the light altogether. Those who can say like Paul to the youth, "follow me as I follow the Lord." Leaders whose passion for the Lord is ever fresh and contagious. Who wait on their ministry, and whose family life are not contradictory to their ministry. Leaders who are selfless and sacrificial servants indeed, like the pattern son.

We have many such leaders in the body today, but we need many more, to give direction and encouragement to God's dear, dear people that He shed His precious blood for. This way, people can see that the vision of the present kingdom truth is real.

Oh God raise up a company of elders walking in love, humility and divine order." AMEN!

God has a pattern for His body and a lot of those who detest the

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church system patterned against God's order are ignorant of the true pattern of God for His body. This book will enlighten, not only the leaders in the body, but every member of the body of Christ. It will also show the house to the house out there, that they may be ashamed, repent and return to the due order. As you open your heart to read through this work without a mind set, the Lord will work out His divine purpose in your life and that of His entire church in Jesus' Name. Amen!

- *Adaora Ucheya.*

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Prologue

Truth is progressive. The revelation of God's plans and purposes are progressive. It is never static. God does not reveal all of His plans to man at once. This is because he knows that man lacks in his natural state, even after regeneration, the ability to contain God's divine plan for creation. So He releases them bits by bit, depending on the level of perception of His people at any given time. "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:" Isa 28:10.

If man has the same knowledge about anything as God, then he ceases to be man. If there are no mysteries, or secrets of God hidden from man, then God will no longer be God. God therefore has a time he has purposed upon Himself to bring to the knowledge of man, the fullness of His plans and purposes. We are just come into that season.

In the book of Daniel chapter nine, Daniel received a divine revelation concerning the plan of God for the end-time, which is the time we are in now, but instructed him to seal up that revelation until the time appointed. "*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end:*" Dan. 12:4.

And in the book of Revelations from chapter 5, we see the seals being removed and those things meant for the last times are being revealed.

In the book of Genesis, God appeared to Abraham and gave

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him a bit of his plans and urged him to leave his nation and kindred to a land that He would show him. It was as Abraham progressed in his knowledge of God that God began to reveal his plans to him. He now got to know more about the Promised Land. The truth about God's plan as revealed to Abraham at the time he was to sacrifice his only son Isaac was seemingly different from that He revealed to him at the time of His first appearance to him in Ur of the Chaldeas in chapter 12. The truth is that at that point what Abraham saw was an enlarged version of the vision God revealed to him at the beginning.

There is the truth of the ages as it relates to the plan of God for His people and for his world, and there is also the present truth. The present truth refers to the mind of God, his plans and purposes as it relates to the now.

The present truth is always embraced by people, many times very few, who understand and appreciate the fact that all we have known and heard of God, are not all there is about God. And they are ever ready and willing to move at the direction and instruction of the Lord. They are also able to discern when the glory cloud has shifted or moved from its present location and they quickly remove their tents to go with the cloud.

At a season in the dispensation of the church, the revelation of God's plan for salvation came as a revival after the apostasy whereby the church deviated very sharply from God's plan and men became in charge as the head of the church in place of

Christ who paid for her with his precious blood. Men like Martin Luther bringing forth the truth of Justification by Faith. He was cast out and labeled a heretic, but a few who were tuned to God caught the vision and ran with it. Later on came other men like those who got a revelation of the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit with great Pentecostal experiences.

Again men fought it and labeled it as heretic, but a few who were tuned to God embraced the truth and ran with it and today it is no longer controversial to preach and teach about the Holy Ghost in the churches, including the orthodox ones. In each of those times it was the present truth of God's plan for His people. Today, the church that was once led and controlled by the Holy Spirit to do the will of God and walk according to His plans and purposes, has gone apostate. The church that once was a place of the Holy Spirit dominion and manifestations, has now become the habitation of all kinds of strange spirits and devils. Men have twisted; adulterated and distorted God's laid down ways or order, and have replaced it with man's own order. The church is now run by man and man's wisdom, with the support of the devil.

As it were, the company of overseers have become lords over God's heritage. The under- shepherds have become super master shepherds and the 'best man company' have taken over the bride put under their care by the bridegroom. These people

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have believed and taught a lie to God's people, to the intent that there is nothing more about the truth of God's plan for the church and that the church has arrived and is only waiting for just one more event; to fly away into the sky for a great wedding feast and thereafter each person takes possession of his apartment in the heavenly streets made of gold. They reject, despise and label as heretic the present truth; the end-time vision of the Lord. They believe there is nothing more beyond Pentecost.

But the present truth reveals that there is a place in God beyond Pentecostal experience. There is the kingdom age experience, where God is indeed all in all and the Lord rules and reigns supreme over His body, the church. The time of the end is short and the master now wants to take over His church. For the church to come to maturity, she must operate according to God's divine order. The rebellious order of man must be sacked. The Spirit must come in to rule and reign supreme in the church. It is only a return to the divine order that will guarantee the maturity of the church to enter into her rightful place God has ordained for her to fulfill His plans and purposes for the end-time.

This book is a call to return to God's order within our lives, our homes and the church of Christ. Discover this order and return to it. May the Lord grant you understanding. Amen!

INTRODUCTION

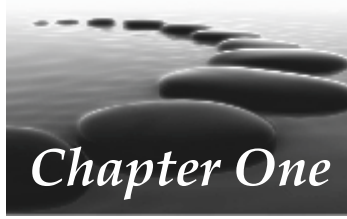
God has in His wisdom put in place a divine structure for the effective function and operation of His body in a local setting.

Paul, by divine inspiration expressed this in his letters to the Corinthian, Ephesian and Roman churches. In his admonition and instructions to Timothy on the body function, he explained the way the Lord ordained and would like His church to function.

For a long time now men have set up their own order which runs contrary to God's own order. There is so much confusion presently as to what is wrong and what is right. Paul therefore wrote to the Corinthian church in chapter 12 to clear the confusion and deliver them from ignorance.

This is the aim and purpose of this study, that we might no longer remain ignorant concerning the will of God in this matter. We trust that the Holy Spirit, the Great Teacher will bring illumination to us, with the view of our walking in the path that the Lord had laid down for us to walk.

So let us open our hearts to the ministrations of the Holy Spirit, putting aside all our minds' sets, personal ideas and perceptions concerning this subject, so that the true word of God will impact in us. This way we shall maximally profit from this study as we mix the words with faith.



Chapter One

The Body of Christ

The body of Christ is made up of people who have been born again in the spirit by accepting, acknowledging and confessing the lordship of Jesus Christ. Such confession or profession can only come by the Holy Spirit who is the agent of this experience.

Each member of the body of Christ is there because God placed him or her there as He wills, either in the general universal body of Christ or within the local expression of this body.

“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”(1Cor. 12. vs.18-20).

One does not become a member of the body or church of Jesus Christ because he or she gets enrolled in a religious denomination. Nobody joins this body because he or she feels like. The membership of parents, friends or family members in the body of Christ does not guarantee any one membership. It is God's prerogative through the outworking of the Holy Spirit to make any one a member of His body.

The Body of Christ

It therefore rightly means that becoming a member of a 'Christian church' or denominational organization, does not make you or anybody a member of the body or church of Christ. The body of Christ is not an organization, but an organism; a living body.

The Spirit of God deposits certain graces, endowment or power upon every true member of the body to enable healthy coexistence and growth of this corporate body called **The Church of Jesus Christ**. These are referred to as **The Gifts of the Spirit**. It is the will of God that His people be well informed about the gifts of the Spirit and the various manifestations of the Spirit in the lives of members of the body of Christ. We therefore must not be ignorant. We shall therefore examine how these gifts manifest in and through each member of the body.

The Gifts of the Spirit.

An understanding of the gifts of the Spirit is very crucial to the church now, especially with the present burden of the Lord for His church. Our victory and overcoming dominion and coming into maturity all depend on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. But the truth about the gifts of the Spirit is one that is probably most misunderstood and most erroneously taught. Paul therefore began his discourse on this issue in 1Corinthians chapter twelve, with the statement; "*Concerning*

*spiritual gifts brethren, I would not have you to be ignorant.” One of the major reasons for this study therefore is to remove ignorance, because without the Gifts of the Spirit, the Church becomes a mere **organization** instead of an **organism**.*

Some people believe and teach that the gifts have ceased and that they are no longer for the church today. Some base their argument on 1Cor. 13 vs. 8-10 *“Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.”*⁹ *For we know in part and we prophesy in part.*¹⁰ *But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”*This of course they wrongly applied. Spiritual Gifts will not cease until the “perfect” comes. This we can confirm from Eph.4:12&13 and Mk.16:15-18.

“.... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 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;....” (Ephesians 4:12-13)

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”(Mark 16:15-18)

The Body of Christ

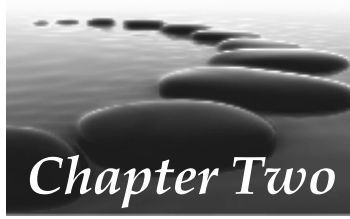
In the second and third centuries, during the great Persecution, there was a great manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit. But shortly after the Roman Constantine's edict making Christianity the National Religion, the gifts diminished because the church became controlled by man and his wisdom. *Anytime man's wisdom and knowledge are depended upon more by the church as against that of the Spirit, He is forced to withdraw.* This is what has happened to many religious Christian organizations that started well in the Spirit but have decided to substitute the leading of the Spirit of God with that of man.

There is yet to come, a final outpouring of the Spirit of God upon the church. And I am glad to announce that the time is by the corner.

Joel chapter 2 verses 28-32 tells us that; *“ And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.*

The gifts of the Spirit will continue to be poured out by God

upon His body and His people will continue to manifest these gifts of the Spirit until the purpose for which they are released has been fully achieved, as expressed in the Ephesians chapter four passage earlier mentioned. Let us not be deceived by false teachers and preachers who have refused to acknowledge the unadulterated truth of the word of God.



Chapter Two

The Nine Representative Gifts of the Spirit

There are Nine representative Gifts of the Spirit. The Gifts are not limited to just nine listed in 1Cor.12. There are other additional ones as presented later in the passage and in Rom.12:6-8. For this reason, we shall address the most prominently presented nine as representative of the whole gifts of the Holy Spirit.

“Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same^[b] Spirit,¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. - (1Cor. 12:3-11).

Things to Note About the Gifts of the Spirit:

- A. *They are free gifts of grace by God through the Holy Spirit. It is not of works. They are distributed by His prerogative, and for His purpose.*
- B. *They are supernatural endowment and so cannot be carnally discerned. They are different from natural endowment or flare, ability or talents.*
- C. *There are diversities, distinctive and varieties of gifts by the Spirit.*

There are Diversities(distinctive varieties/ distribution) of

- i. **Gifts** (spiritual endowment, extra ordinary power, or divine grace).
 - ii. **Administration** (service and ministries).
 - iii. **Operations** (Workings or demonstration or resultant effect).
- D. These manifestations are bestowed or given to EVERY member of the body without exception.
 - E. They are for the good, profit and benefit of every one member of the entire body. They are not for personal gains i.e. not for selfish gains.

There are Nine major representative gifts of the Spirit as we see from 1Cor.12:8-11. These nine gifts, for the purpose of better

The Nine Representative Gifts of the Spirit understanding, are categorized into three major groups according to their relatedness.

The Revelative Gifts:

1. The Gift of Word of Wisdom.
2. The Gift of Word of Knowledge.
3. The Gift of Discerning of Spirits.

The Power Gifts:

- 1.The Gift of Faith
2. The Gift of Healing.
3. The Gift of Working of Miracles.

The Inspirational Gifts:

1. The Gift of Prophecy.
2. The gift of Divers Kinds of Tongues.
3. The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues.

These gifts are not sharply defined one from another. The working of gifts in these three groups merge into the other just like the colors of the rainbow. For instance, the gift of the Word of Knowledge and the Discerning of spirits are similar. Let us now go into these gifts and look at them more closely.

The Revelative Gifts.

- a. **The Gift of Word of Knowledge.** *–A supernatural ability or power to receive and express knowledge and understanding about a situation. This could be in the future, present or in the past. This comes instantly by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is*

different from an knowledge acquired informally. It has Jn.4, from verse 15, we gift in a profound dimension. account. At the end of the Lord's Samaria in verse 28 declared to her then left her water pot, and went and saith to the men, Come, see all things that ever I did: is not can only come by a supernatural

information or input as a result of a from studies or learning, formally or nothing to do with the intellect. In see the Lord demonstrate this Please read the entire discourse that woman of folks; "The woman her way into the city, a man, which told me this the Christ" This revelation.

In **1Sam. Chapters 9 and 10**, we see another good example of this gift in manifestation. In fact this account records multiple manifestations of the Revelative gifts of the Spirit. Here God revealed to Samuel about Saul's visit days before and His purpose for him to reign over His people Israel. Samuel also by the word of knowledge told Saul and his servant the current situation with the lost sheep.

In **2kings. 6; 8-12**, we see the prophet, by the word of knowledge through the Spirit's revelation, knowing every battle plan and strategy of the king of Syria and his army. This saved the king of Israel and his people from planned attack. It was so accurate that the king accused his men of selling out to the king of Israel. Manifestation of this gift will save the people of God from a lot of the enemy's planned incursion. Also in

Acts chapter 5, we see another demonstration of the gift of the word of knowledge by Peter in the Ananias and Sapphira case. Here the gift was used to check falsehood and hypocrisy in the church.

b. The Gift of Word of Wisdom - *This is the supernatural ability to speak forth a word or message of wisdom to bring direction and solution to a situation. It is not a natural wisdom or that obtained as a result of a knowledge acquired from learning. It is not natural intelligence. The gift of the word of wisdom is the application of the gift of the word of knowledge.*

In **Acts.15**, when there was a dispute among the brethren over the circumcision of the gentile Christians, the disagreement became very sharp and grave because of the religious background of many of the apostles. They were at a fix as to how the issue could be settled, seeing there was no precedence. It took James moved by the Holy Spirit in the manifestation of the gift of the word of wisdom, to settle the matter. To write a letter to the gentile brethren in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia to declare the stand of the apostles based on scriptural truth, settled the matter.

In **1Sam.9&10**, we also see Samuel manifest the gift of the word of wisdom in the instructions to Saul on what to do

with the knowledge of the things he was to experience on his way back home. Sometimes we get into situations that seem to have no solution in view, and everything within the efforts of man fails. Just a manifestation of the gifts of the word of wisdom and of knowledge saves the day. We have experienced this in our home, our children, our business and general dealings with people. This is very crucial as our salvation and deliverance in situations lie in the operation of the Spirit in our lives. That is how God has ordained it to be. Amen!

- c. **The Gift of Discerning of Spirits** - *This is the supernatural ability to discern or detect and distinguish between the utterances and manifestations of true spirits and false spirits. This gift is not the natural 'spirit' of suspicion.*

In **Acts.16.16-20** we read the account of Paul's missionary work in Thyatira with Lydia one of his converts. How a young girl possessed with the spirit of divination or soothsaying followed them for some days 'prophesying' about them. By the manifestation of the gift of discerning of spirits Paul knew she was not speaking from the Lord but through an evil spirit, even though what she was saying was correct. Paul looked beyond the girl and rebuked the spirit and cast it out of her. Of course, for that, he incurred the wrath of the men using her to

make money.

This gift is very necessary for proper functioning of the body, especially now that a lot is going on in the churches. Some 'ministers' are operating with the spirit of divination and people mistake it for the manifestation of the gift of the word of knowledge. This is because the gift of the discerning of spirits is lacking in the church and many organizations. Many miracles and healings we see and hear about in churches today are probably carried out by false spirits. Many of them are what the bible calls lying wonders. If what happened in Paul's time happens today, the truth is that many organizations would have made the girl a very important member of the outreach team and given her a position in the church. They would have misinterpreted her manifestations as the move of the Holy Spirit in her life.

Many Christians are constantly being deceived and fleeced by charlatans who claim to be men of God under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. O! how desperately the church needs this gift of discerning of spirits. Many times demons and familiar spirits have taken the body and faces of people to appear to people to deceive them. Christians should be able to see in the spirit, through the manifestation of the gift of discerning of spirits, the real person behind the pretty, beautiful and handsome faces and statures.

The Power Gifts.

- a. **The Gift of Faith** - *This is an extraordinary wonder-working faith. This is different from the normal faith every Christian possesses by the virtue of being born again.*

This is FAITH to believe God for what is naturally impossible. Such include healing all kinds of diseases including terminal ones, to raise the dead or even for certain financial breakthrough. This kind of faith does not entertain any form of doubt. It is a special gifting. In Jn.11:38-41 Jesus demonstrated this gift when He called up Lazarus from the grave. Here He exercised faith. **“Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.**

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with

graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”

There was a situation when in a crusade; W. Schamback was presented with a boy who was born without an arm. It was just a stump, and he stretched his hand, holding on to the stump and prayed pulling out an arm. Only a man gifted in this way could do that not even thinking of what would have happened if the arm did not come forth.

During one season of evangelistic campaigns in the eastern part of Nigeria under the ministry of the Scripture union, we once were returning from a crusade very late at night and in the middle of nowhere our vehicle ran out of fuel. We needed to get back and could not access fuel from anywhere nearby and at that time. The Spirit of God caused faith to arise in me and I told a few of the brethren and we filled the tank with water and drove the car home. The water turned into fuel without any damage to the car. That was a demonstration of faith. Under normal circumstance nobody can think about putting water into the fuel tank. Here this action was by the Holy Spirit releasing and anointing of extraordinary faith that worked the miracle. I never tried it again, but at that moment there was a release. But there are people who could do this and related acts by the prompting of the Holy Spirit on a regular basis without sweat. It works just naturally. That is the gift of faith.

- b. The Gift of Healing** -*This is an extraordinary power by the Holy Spirit to heal all manner of infirmities. This*

gifting is different from the general promise to every believer in Mark 16:17-18: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

In this case, the person endowed with this gift effortlessly by speaking or laying hands, depending on the leading of the Spirit heals all kinds of diseases, including terminal illnesses. Of course whoever has this gift has the gift of faith incorporated to enable him operate in this. The Lord is a perfect example. The bible says that **He went about doing good and healing those with all manner of diseases, for God was with Him.** The grace flows spontaneously as the Lord desires. It is not a planned and arranged kind of thing, like the so called healing schools where people are 'admitted' for the process of healing, and display for advert purposes of the church organizations. This gift works with humility, compassion and burden for the souls. Most genuine evangelists called of God are endowed with this gift.

In Acts.9: 32-34, we see Peter heal Aeneas who was sick of the palsy. He only spoke a word to him and he was healed of an eight year old ailment.

c. The Gift of Working of Miracles - A supernatural ability by the Holy Spirit to perform the naturally

impossible.

This involves a supernatural work of healing of chronic and terminal diseases, recreation and even provision of natural and physical needs through a supernatural act.

This gift is very crucial in the outreach ministry of the body in this end time. The manifestation of this gift enhances evangelical campaigns of the church. The world is going to witness a genuine Holy Ghost directed demonstration and manifestation of the power gifts in these last days through the hands of God's anointed apostles and evangelists. This gift has been abused by ministers and Christians who have fallen out of grace due to careless and disobedient living, who now in an attempt to maintain the status quo have gone to obtain occultic and demonic powers to perform miracles. The bible calls this, lying wonders. ***“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders”(2Thes.2:9).***

In Acts.14:8-12, we see the account of Paul healing the man who was crippled from his mother's womb. Paul by the motivation of the Holy Spirit only spoke a word and the man was made whole. Now people acknowledged the miracle and even referred to them as gods come in the form of men. When we operate in these gifts, it will be God walking on the surface of the earth in the form of men since men are actually being possessed by God. Also in Acts 9: 36-43, read the account of Peter raising up Dorcas who was loved by all for her kindness and love in taking care of widows. Peter by the power of the

Holy Ghost brought her back to life. This is the manifestation of the gift of working of miracles. The resultant effect was that many people believed. These manifestations must always glorify God and add value to his kingdom, not the exaltation of man.

In 1978, in a town called Arochukwu, under the ministry of the Scripture Union, we organized a conference for young people. We camped in a college compound. As ministry was going on in the hall, we got information that a boy was being attacked and he was convulsing. We rushed to the scene and by the time we got there he was stiff and lifeless. We knew that the devil wanted to create problems and bring a reproach to the group and the name of the Lord. So as the Spirit of the Lord moved, we laid hands on the boy, rebuked the spirit of death and commanded his spirit to return and for life to come upon him. After a little while he sneezed a few times and came back to life. The news filtered into the town and the next day many people came to the meeting. The same month we organized a crusade to a village where no crusade had been successful because the people were known for idolatry and diabolism. People discouraged us and some advised us not to bother in view of past experiences of other Christian crusaders. But we went ahead because we had the word of God and His zeal had consumed us. We had serious opposition. Rain came pouring so much that some of our equipment got affected. We still held the crusade and defied the rain and even their shrine, a tree where no one was allowed to enter. We mounted our speakers

there and challenged them to let their god kill us.

We had a successful crusade at the end and people were saved and delivered. Then on our way back in the middle of nowhere the vehicle stopped and could not start. We had run out of fuel. There was no way we could get fuel anywhere close at that time, and we could not remain there till the next day. Faith rose and without letting the rest of the brethren know I confided on two other people about a ministration to use water as fuel. They agreed with me that if Jesus turned water into wine to solve a crisis, he was also able to turn water into fuel to solve the crisis. We lifted a gallon of water and put into the fuel tank. As we poured it in we were sure that as soon as the water dropped into the tank it would become fuel. We drove home without any problem and the next day we did not have to drain and wash the tank before adding natural fuel to it. That was a manifestation of the gift of working of miracles.

The Inspirational Gifts.

- a. **The Gift of Prophecy.** *-This is the Holy Spirit's endowment of Supernatural insight to interpret the divine will and purpose of God.*

It is the will of God, according to Paul, that all believers may prophesy. It means that every born again child of God filled with the Holy Ghost has the potential ability to prophesy as the Spirit gives him or her utterance. But the gift of prophesy is more or less a specialized endowment in which the one who

operates in this gift, is consistent and constantly operating spontaneously in this grace. Prophetic utterance brings the mind of God as it relates to the past, present and the future. Such utterances may or may not be preceded by speaking in other tongue. Such utterances are not premeditated or as a result of prior information or knowledge about something.

Sometimes people bring forth a word of prophecy motivated by selfish desires and carnal manifestations. Such prophecies can be referred to as false, because it has not come from God. Any prophecy not prompted by the Holy Spirit, irrespective of how 'spiritual' the vessel might be, can rightly be referred to as false.

True prophecy will bring the following benefits at all times; *Edification, Exhortation and Comfort*. (1Cor.14:3) And it must glorify God. This gift will become more prominent even in this end time.

b. The Gift of Divers Kinds of Tongues:-

This endowment is for a divine ability to speak in diverse kinds of unknown tongues.

This gift is different from the general sign of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Everyone who gets baptized in the Holy Ghost speaks in tongues as an evidence of this experience in the Spirit. In the scriptures, everybody who got baptized in the Holy Ghost spoke in other tongues. However, there is a special endowment that enables the recipient of the gift to speak in diverse (several different) kinds of tongues.

This gift many times works with the gift of prophecy. Many times the Spirit uses it to bring conviction to individuals or groups of individuals who are able to understand the language being spoken which is unknown to the speaker. Many times these tongues are identifiable languages even though the speaker may not understand the meaning. This gift works with the interpretation of tongues for it to benefit the entire body of believers who hear it. Paul admonished the Corinthians to seek for interpretation when they bring forth a word in other tongues.

- c. **The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues;** *-This is the divine ability to Interpret diverse kinds of unknown tongues.*

This gift or divine grace by the Spirit enables interpretation of utterances in unknown tongues. Where ever the gift of diverse kinds of tongues exists, there must be the complimentary gift of interpretation of diverse kinds of unknown tongues. If words come in form of diverse tongues unknown to people, there must be interpretation for it to make meaning and achieve the purpose for which it is spoken.

Please note that these gifts are not sharply distinguished one from the other. Many times they operate together. For instance the gift of the **word of knowledge** and the **Discerning of spirits** are similar. The word of knowledge is a specialized supernatural knowledge obtained through the gift of

discerning of spirits.

Many times, the gifts of Word of Knowledge and Word of Wisdom operate at the same time; e.g., the account of 1Sam.9&10... brings out a manifestation of the gifts of the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom.

The **gift of healing** is for the deliverance of the body from sicknesses and diseases. When during a miracle of healing a **creative** work is required, it will be best described as a demonstration of the gift of working of miracles.

Raising of the dead and calling back of the human spirit into a dead body is beyond the scope of healing, it is working of miracles even though healing is involved.

The **gift of Interpretation of Tongues** and **prophecy** are similar, but prophecy can come without tongues. Two or more gifts operate together at any given time.

Apart from the nine representative gifts of the Spirit, there are other manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit in the lives of people, as expressed by Paul while writing to the Romans in chapter 12:6-8. Here we see the *gifts of Ministering through practical service*, the *Gift of Giving*; etc. These all come under the *ministry of Helps or support*. There is also the *gift of Exhortation - Encouragement*. These gifts are as important as the other gifts already discussed.

For instance the gift of giving is very important because it enables the other ministries to function. Not everybody can

The Nine Representative Gifts of the Spirit

give freely. In some cases faith is required for effective giving. God deposits His resources in the hands of faithful servants who recognize that they are mere care takers or custodians of such wealth, and they freely release it as at when required for the work of ministry.

In Rom.14:5-8 Paul made it clear that these are graces or gifts, as he groups them with other nine gifts as he admonished the Roman brethren. *"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another 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, {imparteth} let him do it with simplicity{liberally}; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."*

Apart from these gifts we have considered, there is also the gift of men with the combination of these gifts of the Spirit for the work of ministry in the body. These are referred to as the Five Fold Ministry Gifts. We consider them later.



Chapter Three

How to Receive the Gifts of the Spirit

The gifts of the Spirit according to 1 Cor12:4-11 are both gifts and manifestations. *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal”*. In other words, for the good of all (the Body).

This means every believer should have at least one manifestation of the Spirit of God.

To receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, there is just one qualification. You must be born again.

Distribution of the gifts of the Spirit does not depend on academic, social or economic status of the individual. It is not dependent on color or race. God is more concerned with the spiritual composition of the individual. He sees and knows the heart. (1Sam. 16:11).

The 12 apostles were mostly chosen from among the humble, lowly and unenlightened. (1Cor 1: 26-31) this however does not mean that God chooses only the unlearned or the poor or lowly, but the lowly and poor in heart who believes and accepts the finished work on Calvary, whether poor or rich, learned or unlearned, tall or short, white or black. The qualification is to be born again.

1. Receive the Holy Spirit.

Having been born again, you need to receive the Holy Ghost, be baptized in the Holy Ghost.

It is evident that the gifts are of the Spirit. It follows that the Gifts of the Spirit cannot be manifested without the Holy Spirit.

It is the endowment of grace and power by the Spirit that manifests the gifts.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Ac 2:38).

2. Desire/Covet Earnestly.

The prerogative of the distribution is God's. (1 Cor 12: 4)

However, part of the responsibility is man's (Desire and believe God's word and promises). *“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” (1Cor 12: 31)*

As we wait on Him, He gives us the gifts He deems fit for us, depending on the ministry he has prepared for us.

3. Dedication to God (*Dedicated Life*).

Anointing and the gifts of the Spirit enlist into battle (*spiritual warfare*). For victory, we MUST live a holy life- to give no room

to the devil in terms of temptation. *Heb 5:7, Luke 22:44*

“The Holy Spirit dwells in a holy environment. Therefore the greatest preparation for receiving Him is complete surrender and consecration to God.”

4. The Laying on of Hands/Impartation

Those who have received Christ as their personal savior can receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands of anointed men of God and in fact anyone who is already baptized in the Holy Ghost. In Acts 8: 14- 17, we read an account of some disciples who had believed and were baptized, but had not received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The apostles heard about them and dispatched Peter and John who went over and laid hands on them to receive the Holy Ghost.

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”-(Acts 8:14-17).

So be it in a gathering or even in a home situation, anybody who believes can receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands with prayer. Through the laying on of hands the gifts of the Spirit are imparted on people especially when it is done under anointing and instructions of the Holy Ghost Himself. The elders and ministers who function is ministerial anointing

How to Receive the Gifts of the Spirit

can impart gifts through the laying on of hands. Please read Rom.1:11, 1Tim.4:14 and 2 Tim 1:5-6.

Can the Gifts of the Spirit be Counterfeited?

Many times people wonder if it possible to fake the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their manifestations. Yes, they can be.

The truth is that there cannot be a counterfeit of anything that does not exist. And there must be an original or the genuine for there to be a fake. Fake money exists because there is genuine money.

In Matt.24:24 we read Jesus predicting; *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*

Jesus spoke concerning the last days in which we are, that these false prophets and ministers will perform miracles, manifesting great wonders, so much that even the very elect would be deceived, if possible. Many are already being deceived, but God's true elects will not be deceived because they will be able to differentiate the fake from the real, even though they appear alike. In the revelations chapter 16 verses 13 to 15 we also see that this is very possible. It has been predicted and right now it is already taking place.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to

gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

In Exodus chapter 7, from verse 7 down to 15 we read the account of God ordering Moses and Aaron to demonstrate a miracle before Pharaoh to authenticate their words. Moses let down his rod and it became a snake and Pharaoh called his magicians to do the same. The same kind of demonstration from different sources; one from God's true messenger and the other from devil's messengers. But it is interesting to know that Moses' rod rose and swallowed up the magicians' rods.

God will always vindicate and authenticate His true prophets with genuine manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit. We are going to experience the same scenarios in this end-time to reveal the real source of the demonstration of power by many preachers and miracle workers who have been deceiving undiscerning people. For God surely knows those that are His. Even those who out of ignorance get involved with the occult will realize that the real power belongs to God and then give up. In Exod.8:17-18; we see the same magicians being used by their master to challenge Moses again. This time they were unable to bring forth lice as Moses did by the power of God. They then confessed that *"this is the finger of God."*

John, in the book of 1Jn.4:1-3 talked about these false manifestations. In fact in verse 3, he stated that these people are already in the world.

Some so called prophetic utterances and manifestation of the gift of word of knowledge and wisdom in some Pentecostal churches etc are just the operation of the spirit of soothsaying.

How to Receive the Gifts of the Spirit

They may say things that are correct through divination, but the source is not the Holy Spirit, it is the spirit of darkness. Check out the experience of Paul and Silas in the city of Philippi on a missionary campaign. A young girl possessed by the spirit of divination followed them declaring information about them. Paul by the manifestation of the gift of discerning of spirits knew that the girl was not speaking from the Lord, rebuked the spirit and cast it out of her (*Acts.16:18*). Today she would have become a celebrated prophetess and a leader of the crusade prayer team. God will cause His people to be greatly anointed and manifest the true gifts of the Spirit for safety even in our meetings and outreaches.

So it is possible to fake the gifts of the Spirit but we can always by the help of the Holy Spirit differentiate the fake from the real.

There is always a limit to how far the counterfeit can go.

Dealing with the Fear of Counterfeit

Many people are afraid to desire or ask for the gifts of the Spirit, for fear of getting involved with strange spirits.

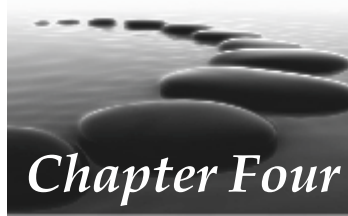
They reason that it is better not to have at all, than to have the wrong thing. So they miss out of these wonderful gifts from God.

What should be our attitude with regard to the gifts of the Spirit? Anything we do or whatever dealings we have with God is based on faith. Without faith, James says, we cannot receive anything from God. We must believe that God cannot promise us something and give us a different thing. *“For every*

one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

If it is the Holy Spirit, then it must be the real person. The fact that there are fake Naira and Dollar notes does not stop us from receiving and spending money. The fact that there are fake manifestations of the spirit does not stop us from desiring, asking and receiving the genuine free gift of the Holy Spirit from God. There is always a provision for verifying if the spirit is of God. If you go to a false prophet or a fake congregation, you are most likely to receive a fake or wrong spirit. But if you go to a genuine congregation of believers under the authority and rulership of the Holy Spirit, you cannot but receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. John advises us in 1Jn.4:1-3 to test every spirit to determine what kind of spirit it is and the criteria is laid out here also.



Chapter Four

The Gifts Vs the Fruits of the Spirit

It is of concern, the situation we see in the church in which people are seen to manifest the power of the Holy Spirit in working miracles and preaching the word of God, but their private life and disposition does not reflect any influence of the Spirit of God in their lives. People are therefore confused and are asking whether the Holy Spirit possesses the minister only in church meetings and departs from him after the meeting.

The Holy Spirit in us manifests Christ in the image of the Father. Manifesting the gifts without the fruits, will not show case God. This will almost be like the magicians who perform not to showcase God's nature.

The gifts may not really move the devil, because he can counterfeit it or reproduce it to some extent. But the fruit- the nature of God- demonstrating holiness and righteousness, he the devil cannot stand.

The bottom Line in this regard therefore is; Seek and desire God, Yield to the Spirit of God, Totally surrender to His will. The Holy Spirit will manifest Himself through you via the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit, showcasing God to the World.

The Fruit of the Spirit.

1Cor.13:1-13 tells us how God sees manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit without the corresponding fruit of the Spirit. *We are made in His image, after His likeness, i.e. to manifest His power through the gifts and His nature through the Fruit of the Spirit.* The gifts will eventually cease at the time appointed.-(v.8; Eph.4:13) but the fruit remains because it is part of us as matured sons of God. The devil may not be moved as such by the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit. He can even try to counterfeit and replicate it – (Exod.7:10-13) but the enemy can neither replicate nor stand a life of holiness and the manifestation of Christ's righteousness.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of the work which His presence within the Christian accomplishes. According to *Gal.5:22-26, these manifestations are Love, Joy (gladness) Peace, Patience (forbearance or longsuffering), Kindness, Goodness (benevolence), Faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness or humility), Temperance (self-control or self-restraint or continence).*

How is the Fruit of the Spirit Applied for Effective Manifestation of the Gifts of the Spirit?

In Jesus' ministry, we see Him manifesting the fruit as He demonstrates the gifts. For example, "*As He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion... .*"(Matt.9:36) he saw the multitude of people wallowing in ignorance of the plan and purpose of God. They were lost souls. That compassion drove the message of the kingdom home and

affected them positively. He could go all the length, even giving his life for their salvation. This nature of God when in manifestation in the life of the evangelist, or any Christian, will aid the work of ministry. In Matt.14:14, again seeing the multitude under oppression of sicknesses and diseases "*He was moved with compassion and He healed their sick.*"

The gifts of the Holy Spirit function more effectively in the atmosphere of the manifestation or exhibition of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. *The Holy spirit in the believer demonstrates the power of God through the gifts of the Spirit and manifests the nature and glory of God through the fruit of the Spirit.* To manifest the gifts without the fruit is an unbalanced ministry and a work of iniquity before God. In Matt.7:15-23. Jesus said, "*by their fruit (NOT GIFTS) ye shall know them.*"

Proper Use of the Gifts of the Spirit.

It is very easy for the operators of the Gifts of the spirit to misuse them due to immaturity and ignorance of the proper use. In 1Cor.13&14, Paul took out time to address this matter that plagued the Corinthian church. The Corinthian Church was one Church with the greatest manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But many of them were carnal in the operation of the gifts. They appropriated the liberty in the Spirit to manifest the gifts but they forgot that such liberty must not be used as an occasion for sin. So Paul needed to call them to order.

In chapter 13, we see the most important way and attitude for effective operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts must be operated in love. God is love, and love moved Him to find

us, saved us, and blessed us with His gifts. To manifest the greatest of these gifts without love amounts to nothing before God. Humility, love, patience etc are all ingredients of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

In 1Cor. Chapter 14, Paul now deals with some practicality of the use of the gifts.

The gifts must profit the body.

For example, Tongues without interpretation won't edify or profit the body. "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." (1Cor.14:5).

The gifts of the Spirit is not for personal benefit only but mainly for the benefit of the entire body of Christ. Whether it is the gift of healing, working of miracles, faith, discerning of spirits etc, they are all to benefit the body and help her maturity.

The gifts must be exercised with orderliness.

Everybody cannot prophesy or speak at the same time. There will be confusion, and Paul tells us that God is not the author of confusion. *"How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

If anything be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

The Gifts vs the Fruits of the Spirit

For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”- (1Cor.14; 26-33)

Please read the following scriptural passages for additional enlightenment: *1Cor.11:16; 12:7-10; 14:6; 2Cor.12:19; Eph 4:12; 1Thes. 5:19-20; 1Jo 4:1.*

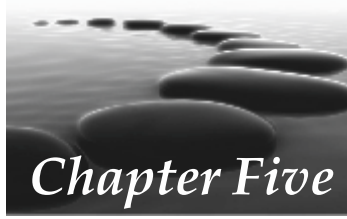
The gifts must be exercised with self control.

Self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit which is necessary for the proper operation of the gifts of the Spirit. Do not force yourself upon the church, wait for the appropriate time.

Whoever operates the gifts of the Holy Spirit must yield or submit to correction and judgment by the body. It is very wrong for anybody no matter how great or highly placed, to force himself upon the body. You cannot say I must bring forth the word whether the people like it or not. God has given me a word and no man can stop me. No! the people you are ministering to, must accept your ministry for it to be profitable. Sometimes people become overbearing on the people of God. Some say the word is burning in them and they cannot wait. *The spirit of the prophet, Paul said, is subject to the prophet.* If God gives you a word He will make a way for you to bring it forth at the right place to the right people at the appropriate time.

The gifts must be exercised without schism or contention. The gifts of the Spirit must not be exercised in the

spirit of competition or to prove how superior or greater one is. The operator of the gifts of the Spirit is just a vessel for God to manifest to the people through the Holy Spirit. The gift does not belong to the man. It is God's. manifestation of the gift is not showmanship. This is why the fruit of the Spirit is crucial for the proper outworking of the gifts. A situation where ministers or brethren struggle and fight over the pulpit or position is unfortunate because that is a pure demonstration of carnality.



Chapter Five

The Five Fold Ministry Gifts

1Cor. 12:28; Eph.4:8-14.

These are the gifts of men to the body of Christ. They are men endowed with some specific and specialized functions, manifestations and operations of the gifts of the Spirit. They are placed in the body of Christ by Christ for the fulfillment and accomplishment of His ministry of bringing His body to perfection.

They are special graces released upon men for the exercise of spiritual authority and rulership in the body, in order to maintain unity and oneness and order/discipline within the body of Christ until the body comes to fullness and maturity and the perfection of all things have been achieved.

So when Paul was in 1Cor.12, teaching about the gifts of the Spirit, he in verse 28 talked about this gift of men who are endowed with ministry gifts for the work of ministry. A look at Ephesians chapter 4 will give us a more detailed presentation of the five-fold Ministry gifts. We shall read from the 4th verse, for context:

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One

God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

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 fullness of Christ:" -(Eph.4:4-13).

Let us start by examining some important facts about these gifts, as presented in this passage of scripture.

THE PLACEMENT IS GOD'S.

These are offices, areas of service or operation through specified anointing. They are not posts, titles or positions as in circular systems and organizations. They are God's appointments.

These men are not appointed by church councils, elders, church boards or general overseer. Not by an organization or through a general election. They are God's divine appointment, ordination and placement. Their allegiance is

The Five Fold Ministry Gifts

therefore to God who does the placement by His divine prerogative.

PLURALITY of the Gifts.

“He gave some apostles...,” this is a clear indication that they are several and in plurality just like the 9 gifts. There are also diversity in manifestation and operating styles in these. So there is no room for a one-man super star show. There is nothing like *'the apostle'*, *'the prophet'*, but apostles and prophets. In Acts chapter 13:1 we read;

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”

The Apostle.

This word is derived from the Greek word **'APOSTOLOS'**, which means *Messenger or Agent; Bearer of commission; or He who is sent.*

Christ is the first apostle. He then chose other apostles among his disciples to continue His assignment. *“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”* (Jn.20:21).

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus”;

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (Heb. 3:1, Jn.5:30).

The Lord has continued to choose men in this area of service up till today, and He will continue to do this, until the church comes to maturity or perfection.

The Apostolic ministry or office is first in God's scale of setting because of the nature of assignment. The apostle is an Architect in the execution of God's plan in the building of the body, His house. Paul in 1cor.3:10&11 calls himself a Master builder which in Greek is '*Architek*'. He is a foundation minister. Without the spiritual foundation the spiritual house-church will not stand. The apostle is very concerned about order and proper framework for the church of Jesus Christ. God opens to him the mystery of His divine plan.

The Prophet.

The word 'prophet' in the Hebrew is '*Nabi*' which means 'communicator' or '*announcer of God's plans and purposes*'. In Greek it is '*Prophetes*' which means '*one divinely inspired to receive knowledge and understanding of God's plans, present & future*'. The prophet of God is, - one who speaks openly before anyone

- an interpreter of divine message
- one to whom God speaks to and through
- one to whom God reveals the mystery of His plans and purposes.

The prophetic ministry is a foundation ministry like the apostolic. Most times they operate together especially in opening new spiritual grounds. For instance Paul and Silas moving in ministry to open up new mission fields.

The prophet knows the mind of God and therefore provides direction and guidance in the body.

The Five Fold Ministry Gifts

The **Apostle** is more concerned with the **Superstructure** while the **Prophet's** interest is on the **Condition and Shape**.
"...And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."
(Eph. 2:19-22).

The Evangelist.

The term Evangelist is derived from a Greek word 'Euaggelistes.' From the root word '*Euaggelizo*'- (to evangelize). It means '*Declarer of the good news*'; *Author of the gospels*'. The evangelist is also referred to as '*Miracle worker*'.

The term '*evangelist*' originally denotes a function rather than an office. The evangelist does not remain on a special seat in the congregation. His ministry is majorly in the field of unreached people.

All apostles are evangelists but evangelists are not apostles. Philip in the bible was an evangelist.

Many who are called into the apostolic and prophetic office function originally as evangelists and teachers. Every anointed minister should be able to do the work of an evangelist but some are called specially into this office.

They have a deep passion for lost souls and derive pleasure in depopulating hell to populate heaven.

They are go- getters who hardly speak without making an alter call no matter where and what.

The Pastor. (Shepherd)

This originated from a Greek word '*Poimen*', meaning '*shepherd*', with a reference to Christ as the shepherd of His own spiritual flock.

He grounds and keeps the flock of the great shepherd. The pastoral or shepherdic ministry is crucial in the body.

This responsibility is greatly abused, as pastors now seat as the head of the church, controlling everything that goes on in the church. He overshadows and suppresses the other ministries. This is one of the greatest anti-Christ activities in the church system today.

Shepherds of the Lord's house are not appointed by the church or through training in bible schools. They are called, anointed and placed in the body by the Great Shepherd Himself. Timothy in his ministry demonstrated the conduct of a shepherd. Paul while instructing him admonished him on how to conduct himself among the various members of the church. The qualifications of an overseer in Paul's teachings apply to the office of the shepherd. (*Acts.20:28&29; 1Tim.3:2; 2Tim.2*).

The elders in a local assembly are to shepherd the flock of Christ. Among them are people specifically endowed with the graces required for the shepherdic functions.

The Teacher.

Teacher is an interpretation from the Greek word 'Didaskalos' which means 'The interpreter of God's salvation.'

The Teacher has the distinct function of interpreting God's salvation. He is acquainted with God's redemptive plans. He has the responsibility or the duty of giving progressive instruction concerning God's redemptive plan and purpose.

His function and that of the shepherd is intended to ground and establish the people of God in the faith.

He has flare for details and breaks down the word of God for proper understanding. He is a member of the presbytery in the local assembly. *Let us refer to the following scriptures for support. Acts.20:28; 2Tim.2:24&25; 1Tim.4:14.*

The prophet and the apostle also have the responsibility to teach the flock.

The Relatedness of the Five-Fold Ministry Gifts.

Spiritual Authority or Divine Order in the church simply means God's rule or government of His people through the ministries He has set in the body.

The various ministerial graces and those who function in them are interrelated and dependent even though distinct in their functions in the body. The ministries work together. Some assignment will require the combination of two or three of the ministries, and in other cases all of the ministries to achieve God's divine purpose. But all are crucial to bring to pass God's

purpose; *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 fullness of Christ:*" -(Eph.4:14).

There are certain gifts of the Spirit that each ministry must possess in order to function in the office. There are also specific functions of each ministry in the body.

Please see graphic illustration of the Five Fold ministry functions and their required gifts in comparison with the human body systems functions.

SUMMARY.

The Apostles are to **RULE** and **GOVERN**. (Not to lord it over or dominate God's people)

The Prophets are to **GUIDE** and **DIRECT**. (Not by natural wisdom or knowledge)

The Evangelists are to **GATHER** (Not by human strength or wisdom)

The Shepherds and Teachers are to **GUARD** and **GROUND** for **CONSOLIDATION**. (Not by human wisdom or intellect)

The Apostles and The Prophets provide the **Foundational Ministry** to the body.

The Five Fold Ministry Gifts

Graphic Illustration of the Ministries' Operations with the list of Corresponding Gifts

MINISTER MINISTERIAL MINISTRY OFFICE	EQUIVALENT BODY SYSTEM	REQUIRED GIFTS.
APOSTOLIC OFFICE OR CALLING	THE SKELETAL SYSTEM PROVIDES STRUCTURE, SHAPE AND STRENGTH.	At least the three Revelation gifts, some Power gifts plus Teaching.
PROPHETIC OFFICE OR CALLING.	THE NERVOUS SYSTEM CARRIES INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE BRAIN (HEAD) TO THE REST OF THE BODY.	At least the three Revelation gifts, Inspirational gifts plus Teaching.
THE EVANGELISTIC OFFICE OR CALLING	THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM BRINGS ABOUT MULTIPLICITY AND ADDS TO THE POPULATION.	Gifts of Teaching, Discerning of Spirits plus Power gifts.
THE TEACHING OFFICE OR CALLING.	THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. REDUCES OR BREAKS DOWN FOOD EATEN TO THE IRREDUCEABLE MINIMUM FOR ABSORPTION BY THE BODY.	The gift of Teaching plus the Inspirational gifts.
THE SHEPHERDIC OFFICE OR CALLING.	THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM. TRANSPORTS BROKEN DOWN FOOD TO CELLS OF THE BODY FOR NOURISHMENT AND CARRIES AWAY THE WASTE. BRINGS HEALING TO AFFECTED PARTS.	The gifts of Teaching plus the Revelation gifts.

Simulation and Interrelationship of the Gifts of the Spirit.

Like mentioned earlier, the gifts of the Spirit are not very sharply differentiated in functions. They are all interrelated and interdependent. Many times they work together to achieve desired result, which is the will and purpose of God. For instance, the gifts within each group are complimentary to one another and so are the three groups with the other.

For example, many years ago, we went for a missionary trip to Ghana and we needed to minister to a brother who was the secretary of the Ghanaian army, i.e, their chief of army staff. He was very sick with serious paralysis. Even though he had fairly recovered, he could only walk with a support. As we prayed for him we needed a divine direction for effective ministry for such a complicated case. Now a word of knowledge came to the effect that his spinal cord had been affected and needed a repair. Now a manifestation of the gift of the word of knowledge gave us what the problem was and the gift of the word of wisdom told us what to do; lay hands on his spinal region and pray. As we laid hands on him and prayed he was healed.

Again one of the times we went to minister in a tertiary institution in Ado -Ekiti in Ondo state western Nigeria, there was a case of a girl who was demonized; fully possessed by evil spirits including a python spirit. As we prayed she began to manifest and became uncontrollable. By a divine revelation

through the gift of the word of knowledge we got to know that her parents dedicated her to the water spirit and with time she got initiated into several others. With such definite and detailed information she was ministered to. A brother who manifested the gift of faith and the working of miracles, laid hands on her as we prayed and she was completely delivered. That sister today is happily married with children. Here we see a combination of the revelative gifts and the power gifts to achieve God's plan of deliverance.

Just a few months ago, while on a missionary visit to one of the West African countries, during a teaching session, a prophetic utterance came concerning a sister to the effect that she was not fully committed to God due to some distractions she has yielded to and needed to make a full commitment to God. While she was being prayed for, another brother saw a vision of her exact state, while yet another brother received an understanding with distinct accuracy of the specific situations in her life that has made it very difficult for her to fully give in to God. It had to do with her family and marital relationship. With full and clear information received by divine manifestation of three gifts of the spirit, it was very easy to now minister to the sister effectively.

Another area these gifts combine for divine accomplishment is in the area of dealing with problems or challenges within the local assembly. There may be situations that prove to be a very hard nut to crack, requiring divine direction particularly in

matters of vision, doctrine and even cases of breach in conduct etc of brethren. I recall a case, many years ago in which a local assembly lost three brethren in an auto crash. It was difficult for the leadership to break the news to the rest of the brethren with an explanation for what happened. This was a case that could weaken or even derail the faith of many. There was therefore the need to get an express word from the lord. One of the victims was engaged to a sister and they had, as it were, a blue print from God for their life together as husband and wife; their ministry, where they were to settle and when they were to get married. It took a word of knowledge with the combination of the word of wisdom and dream with interpretation to bring God's counsel to His people. There was an explanation why God allowed them to go home. The brethren were encouraged rather than being discouraged. It would have been near impossible for the leadership to do a thing like that effectively without such divine intervention through the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

The five fold ministries function with combinations of the various gifts of the Spirit. The prophets, apostles, teachers etc have specialized functions in the body. These functions, where properly operated and recognized, help in leadership functions of the body. In specific situations, the prophetic ministry is expected to provide direction, while the apostle might bring insight into the application of such direction in order to solve certain challenges. This becomes very effectual where there is proper understanding of the operations of the various gifting and mutual submission of the different ministries.



Chapter Six

Spiritual Authority/Divine Order in the Church

Introduction:

The study so far has been to prepare us for the understanding of the way the body of Christ functions, or at least, the way it is designed to function. It has also enabled us to appreciate the structures God has put in place for the growth and proper functioning of the body, till we all come to that full matured stature of our Lord Yeshua.

In the last session, we ended at comparing the body of Christ with the human body mechanism.

The brain situated in the head, needs these system network to be able to send important signals and messages to the rest of the body.

These five major systems of the human body cannot function without the cooperation and joint operation of the arteries, veins, the hands, feet, eyes etc.

In this same way, the Head of the body needs the Five - Fold ministries for His body's proper function. The Five-Fold ministries cannot function without the full cooperation and acceptance by the members of the body manifesting various

Spiritual Authority/Divine Order in the Church
spiritual gifts, and therefore represent the hands, the feet, the ears, the eyes etc. Let us read 1Cor.12, from verse 13. It will bring us more light.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”(1Cor. 12:13-27.)

Spiritual Authority/Divine Order in the Church

This is why Paul in 1Cor.14:26 admonish, *“How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath revelation, hath interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”*

Everybody, without an exception, is therefore very important in the body of Christ. Nobody can really fully replace the other. Even in the manifestation of the same function, individual styles differ and are to some extent peculiar.

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Rom. 12:3).

Just like the brain uses the various systems of the body to coordinate the various operations of the body; the Head of the spiritual Body, Yeshua H'amash'ya, has set in His body some to oversee the affairs of His body.

What Is Spiritual Authority?

This is God's authority over his people through the move of His Spirit in people He has endowed with graces to bring His body to maturity.

The five fold ministry appointed by God is used by God to maintain discipline and order, unity and oneness within the body. Spiritual authority is exercised by men who have given over their life to the rulership of the Holy Spirit, thereby making their words authentic, and expressed in power by the full backing of heaven.

The Local Assembly.

God has only one church with members scattered all over the world. But for operational purposes while still in this physical realm, they are identified according to location. Not by name, class, color etc. Thus the church in Ephesus, the church in Corinth, the church in Shomolu, the church in London, the church in Atlanta, and so on.

Each local expression is overseen by a plural leadership of elders ordained by God. *“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.”* (Titus.1:5).

There are three possible ways elders are set in the body:

1. Divine Emergence. This is a situation whereby God by divine arrangement to start gathering together to seek God. They continue in prayer and the study of the word and with time some of them by divine act begin to take responsibility within the group as they grow in grace and number. The graces upon these people are identified, recognized and accepted by the rest. In such cases nobody outside was instrumental to their growth and so the issue of ordaining them as elders may not arise. But as they continue in this function God may send somebody or group of persons who may have more insight in the truth, who will then by the leading of the Spirit confirm them as elders, having made them understand the requirement by God for functioning in this position of responsibility.

2. Divine Ordination/Appointment by established ministries.

In this case some groups are set up through some evangelistic outreaches and missionary campaign. Established ministries take responsibility to teach and ground them in the truth. Overtime as they continue to grow in faith, it is easy to identify through the help of the Spirit those who can function in leadership capacity. At the fullness of time as they get more established in the faith, understanding divine order, these visiting ministers can now ordain them as elders to oversee the local group. At this point they can now independently function as a full independent local group.

3. Divine Appointment through Prophetic utterance. There are also situations where through prophetic utterance the Spirit directly and specifically instructs that a person or a group of persons be set apart as elders in the church. Those already functioning in this capacity can prayerfully lay hands on the people concerned and set them apart as elders.

Eldership overseership is not lordship over the flock of Jesus Christ. They are a group of matured brethren charged with the responsibility of taking care of the people of God on behalf of Christ. They are under-shepherds responsible to the Great Shepherd Himself. This is plural leadership in which no man is head and shoulders above the other. These are the people to whom God releases grace to oversee the affairs of the church. This is God's divine order. A situation where someone just goes to a bible college for one year then goes to take over a church is simply a violation of God's order.

It is important to note here that a situation where one elder is exalted above the others and referred to as '*The Presiding Elder*'

has no place in the scripture and so contrary to divine order. That in any case is not different from the position of the pastor in the church system. The elders are those people who are matured in the truth and through experience are acquainted with the ways of the kingdom, leading the people of God by example. Those who have yielded themselves to the rule and control of the Holy Spirit and oversee God's people with the fear of God who is lord over all. They are not to lord it over the people of God.

They are not meant to rule and drive the people of God as it is done in the world, borrowed by the church system.

They are to lead by example through God's direction via His Spirit. The caution is, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*– (Acts. 20: 28) also the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking to His disciples in *Matt.20:25-27*, gave the divine principle and the divine pattern of leadership, expected of those who oversee the church of Jesus Christ.; *“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

Brethren in positions of authority in the local assembly must be very careful to understand how God wants and expects his church to operate. Many people have made the flock of God

their personal property and in some cases oppress and intimidate people for whom Christ shed His blood.

Honoring and Appreciating the Elders.

There is a place for honoring those who have charge or rule over us in the church. While it is wrong to exalt or even deify man, it is scriptural and therefore encouraged to appreciate and honor our leaders. Many brethren who already have rebellious tendencies use the scripture as a basis to despise and disrespect those the Lord has set over them. This is wrong. The bible says in 1Tim. 5:17, *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”* Paul, speaking to the Hebrew Christians taught them to recognize, appreciate and honor, NOT worship the brethren who God has made overseers in their midst.

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” (Heb 13:7). In verse seventeen of the same chapter he commands them to *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”* Paul says it is more profitable for you to obey and submit yourself to your elders because they do not only watch over your souls, but they must give account of you in light of the responsibility God has given them over you. You should encourage them to carry out this responsibility with joy and not grief. Love them, pray for them and encourage them in

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any way possible, BUT be careful not to set them up as lords
and thereby lead them to destruction.

Decision Making Among the Elders.

In plural leadership, the tendency is for the leaders to take decisions based on consensus or majority votes. If there are five elders in a local assembly, the right decision will not necessarily be for instance the opinion of three or even four out of the five. The elders in deciding on a matter must seek God's will. It might be just one out of five people that have the mind of God. A spiritual eldership is the one that will be able to discern the mind of God and go with it, even if it is just a loan voice. The eldership overseership is not carried out by democracy. Democracy is not of God. Decisions are not by majority rule BUT by the Spirit. God's rule is Theocracy.

Theocracy is election and rule by divine appointment. It is the Government of God by God through His Spirit working in His servants for His people.

But democracy is man's government of the people by the people for the people.

Man's order and ways in the church is against God, because it is all about the ways to *Doctrinate*, *Denominate* and *Dominate* God's people. This leads to Nicholaitanism. God hates this with a passion because it is rebellion and usurpation of His position by man. It is like a best man taking over his friend's bride he was given a charge over.

Qualifications of Elders.

Paul, in his instructions to Titus and Timothy respectively, laid out the criteria for choosing and ordaining elders in the local assemblies. So read from both 1Tim.3 and Titus 1 that an elder or presbyter must be a man who is proven in the faith, matured with definite experience in the faith. He must be one who is honest and hospitable, and sober in behavior. He must not be naive, one who has just become a new believer; a babe in the lord, even if he is a prominent member of the society. Such a person needs to be grounded and disciplined. He must be able to live and lead people by example. An Elder should besomeone trustworthy and able to teach the word of God. He must be balanced in doctrine.He should not be a heretic, leading the brethren astray with strange or wrong doctrines. He must be married to only one wife. Actually this means that he must not be a divorcee and must be morally upright. His marriage must be seen as example for others to emulate. His children must also be seen to be brought up in the faith. His children must not be wayward. His wife also must be an example to the women. An elder must not be a bully. He must treat his wife well. This man should be a pattern to the church. So we see that not just anybody can be an elder. It is not the rich intelligent person or someone who is vocal in the fellowship, like we find in some assemblies.

If we view these criteria properly, and understand what God expects of an elder in His church, we will discover that many elders in the assemblies of God's people are really not qualified for this position. This is responsible for the problems we find in many groups, because those that are supposed to lead His people are not fit. It is a situation of the blind leading the blind

in some cases.

If you are an elder and discover these things lacking, but you really desire to serve in this capacity, you may need to cry out to God to do a work in you and you determine by His grace to change. Let us look at the rendition of Titus chapter one verses five to eleven, in two bible versions- the Amplified and the Contemporary English versions. They are quite clear and self explanatory.

⁵For this reason I left you [behind] in Crete, that you might set right what was defective and finish what was left undone, and that you might appoint elders and set them over the churches (assemblies) in every city as I directed you.

⁶[These elders should be] men who are of unquestionable integrity and are irreproachable, the husband of [but] one wife, whose children are [well trained and are] believers, not open to the accusation of being loose in morals and conduct or unruly and disorderly.

⁷For the bishop (an overseer) as God's steward must be blameless, not self-willed or arrogant or presumptuous; he must not be quick-tempered or given to drink or pugnacious (brawling, violent); he must not be grasping and greedy for filthy lucre (financial gain);

⁸But he must be hospitable (loving and a friend to believers, especially to strangers and foreigners); [he must be] a lover of goodness [of good people and good things], sober-minded (sensible, discreet), upright and fair-minded, a devout man and religiously correct, temperate and keeping himself in hand.

⁹He must hold fast to the sure and trustworthy Word of God as

he was taught it, so that he may be able both to give stimulating instruction and encouragement in sound (wholesome) doctrine and to refute and convict those who contradict and oppose it [showing the wayward their error].

¹⁰*For there are many disorderly and unruly men who are idle (vain, empty) and misleading talkers and self-deceivers and deceivers of others. [This is true] especially of those of the circumcision party [who have come over from Judaism].*

¹¹*Their mouths must be stopped, for they are mentally distressing and subverting whole families by teaching what they ought not to teach, for the purpose of getting base advantage and disreputable gain.” –Titus 1:3-11 (Amplified).*

Titus 1:5-10 (contemporary English version)

⁵*I left you in Crete to do what had been left undone and to appoint leaders, elders or presbyters ^[a] for the churches in each town. As I told you, ⁶they must have a good reputation and be faithful in marriage, a husband of only one wife, who have never been divorced. ^[b] Their children must be followers of the Lord and not have a reputation for being wild and disobedient.*

⁷*Church officials ^[c] are in charge of God's work, and so they must also have a good reputation. They must not be bossy, quick-tempered, heavy drinkers, bullies, or dishonest in business. ⁸Instead, they must be friendly to strangers and enjoy doing good things. They must also be sensible, fair, pure, and self-controlled. ⁹They must stick to the true message they*

were taught, so that their good teaching can help others and correct everyone who opposes it.” (Cont. Eng.)

Are Women Elders in the Church?

This has been a controversial issue within the body of Christ. This ought not to be .because the scripture sheds light concerning this. First of all, the office of an elder can only be rightly discussed based on the New Testament application, as the elders under discussion has to do with the church which only came into being after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the passages we considered earlier, and others dealing with the subject of eldership in the church, it is clear that women are not elders. Elders are spiritually matured married men. If women could be elders, Paul would have included in his instructions, something like, “wife of only one husband”. By virtue of God's arrangement, the man is the head of the woman; it will therefore be out of order for a wife to be a spiritual head over her husband assuming she is an elder in a local assembly where her husband is not one. So a woman cannot be an elder **but**, a married woman whose husband is an elder is part of her husband's ministry and so part of her husband's eldership responsibilities. She is not an elder but an elder's wife. She will function in that capacity in the most needed ministry of the older women. (Titus 2:1-5).

It is important to differentiate between eldership and leadership in the church. A woman can function freely in a leadership capacity. All elders are leaders in the church but not all leaders are elders in the church. There are those God has given grace to provide leadership in the body at different levels; the youth, the women etc. Women are very important in church leadership. The elders must see their wives as partners in ministry and therefore encourage their inputs in the work of ministry in the body. They may receive insights into certain matters in the church, that may be lost if the elders are not sensitive enough to tap into it. There are times that marital problems are being handled by the church elders who may sometimes be unable to see some perspectives by virtue of their natural make up as men. But the wives are easily able to pick up some of these things. They can understand some statements their fellow women make which men may take at face value and make a wrong decision. What I am saying in effect is that wives of elders should be actively involved in the leadership responsibilities of the church. If such women are spiritually matured and understand their God-given place in the body, there will not be any room for the issue of usurpation of authority that are occasionally experienced in some places. Our primary concern here is not women leadership and ministry in church, so I cannot go too much into the matter under this discourse, but in a different write up.



Chapter Seven

ELDERS AND THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRIES

We have studied about the five-fold ministry gifts and eldership in the local assembly of the body of Christ.

Many people are confused about these two areas of service in the body. So many times they mix them up. Some others assume that the two are synonymous.

The five-fold ministry gifts, like we saw earlier, are gifts of men who are endowed with some specialized gifting for the work of the ministry. This is purely an appointment by God via the Holy Spirit. Man has no input. The Spirit distributes according God's desire based on His knowledge of the individual.

But anybody can desire the office of an elder, and can work towards it by being diligent in the things of God, and yielding to God's dealing by the Holy Spirit. God will now show case such a person and the presbyter lays hands on him and set him apart for the assignment.

Those who have come into the estate of the five-fold ministry are gifts to the general body of Christ. Their jurisdiction as it were is not limited to their local assembly. By the reason of

their spiritual maturity, they are elders who can function and operate anywhere within the body of Christ.

An elder is an overseer within a local assembly. Some elders have come into the estate of the five-fold ministry, but being an elder does not automatically translate into five-fold ministry position. So we can then say that most people in the five-fold ministry are elders, but all elders are not in the five-fold ministry. It is possible that all the elders within a local assembly may operate in the five-fold ministry estate. But it does not therefore mean that where you have five elders in a local assembly they automatically represent the five-fold ministry. In this case everybody recognizes where God has placed him and functions there. There is room for mutual submission in the discharge of the various responsibilities people have been given in the body.

Now it is important to note that those who function in the five-fold ministry anointing do not have the liberty to impose themselves or their ministry upon any local assembly. They are responsible to the church, and when they bring forth ministry within a local assembly, the elders in that local assembly has a responsibility to judge the ministry by the Spirit and the word. There should therefore be no conflicts or contention as regards the functions of the different ministries within the body. From our earlier study we see that each person is important in the body. Nobody is either more or less important than the other. Everybody is peculiar and necessary in the body. If not, God would not have put that person in the body.

Summary.

We have tried to look at the body of Christ and God's divine order for the function and operation of this body in the local assembly. We saw that God has set up structures that will enable His body to function properly and grow into maturity, which is His primary purpose; that we become like Him so that He can have genuine communion and companionship with His people. A proper understanding of this divine structure will help us evaluate our position and how we have fared in it.

It is my hope that this little in-exhaustive contribution to this subject will go a long way in creating better understanding and appreciation of God's divine order for His body. This will take away confusion, contention and lack of harmony within the body of Christ.

This is a call to return to God's order and flee the harlot system which men have created to substitute God's laid down ways. Having read this simple piece, you have to choose between remaining in that condemned system and partake in the fierce judgment hanging over her or decide to flee the system and be saved from the impending doom.

If you are a church leader that have enslaved and ruled over God's people before now, you may decide to let go, and come into God's divine order. *"...get into God's order and learn to obey..."*

The Lord bless you richly in Jesus' Name.

Divine Order
For The Function & Operation Of The Body Of Christ
In The Local Assembly.

"According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it"- Exod.25:9

"...See saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern to thee in the mount" – Heb.8:5.

God has a pattern for everything. He expects His people to follow His laid down pattern if they want to please Him. He commanded Moses to build the tabernacle according to the pattern He showed him.

In the same way the Lord has a pattern he has laid down for the functioning of His body. He expects his church to stick to the pattern.

But the church has over the years, gradually but steadily drifted from that pattern. Now as it were, every man does what seems right in his own eyes.

In this book, the author, by God's instruction through the inspiration of the Spirit, brings forth the true pattern for God's people to see. It is a call to return to God's due order, and abandon the harlot system which has almost completely swept away the Church from the divine path paved for her by the Lord.

The author has also showcased the divine provision God has made within His body via His Spirit, for its effective and victorious operation.

This is '*showing the House to the house.*'

a call to repent and return to God's order.

This book is a 'must read' for leaders in the church of Jesus Christ, and for every member of the body of the Lord.

".. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now nun> commandeth all men every where to repent...."- Heb.17:30.