

Overview of the Gifts

The word “ministry” has come to take on a “super-spiritual” ring to it. At times older believers can intimidate the newer believers with the mystery of this spiritual quest to discover the answers.

The word “ministry” is *diakonia* (διακονία, 1248), “the office and work of a *diakonos*” (see MINISTER, A, No. 1), “service, ministry,” is used (a) of domestic duties, Luke 10:40; (b) of religious and spiritual “ministration”¹ It literally means 1. “waiting at table,” or in a rather wider sense “provision for bodily sustenance.”² It is also used 2. for any “discharge of service” in genuine love³

We minister unto the Lord and then to others. Deuteronomy 10:8 At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day.

But all these different services were rendered to the one Lord. In each of them the believer serves not only his brother but also Christ. He is responsible for the service committed to him as a gift of grace⁴

The truth of the matter is that the word “ministry” as it appears in many translations of the Bible simply means “service”. Instead of asking, “What is my ‘ministry’?”, I should be asking, “What ‘service’ am I able to render to others that might be a strength and blessing to them?”^[1]

1 Corinthians 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

You can see from this verse in Corinthians that Holy Spirit, Jesus as Lord, and The Father each distribute to us different types of gifts. From the Spirit it is manifestation gifts, from Jesus it is service assignments, and from the Father it is continual workings within us of motivational gifts.

¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 411). T. Nelson.

² Beyer, H. W. (1964–). [διακονέω, διακονία, διάκονος](#). In G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 87). Eerdmans.

³ Beyer, H. W. (1964–). [διακονέω, διακονία, διάκονος](#). In G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 87). Eerdmans.

⁴ Beyer, H. W. (1964–). [διακονέω, διακονία, διάκονος](#). In G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 87). Eerdmans.



Grouping of the Gifts

Each of the godhead gives gifts to believers, and the gifts that are given are to be walked in with reverence, and submitted to God. The Father flows through His gifts to us, usually called the motivational or redemptive gifts, which are at the core of our being and define who we are as humans. The gifts given to us from the Son, the five fold ministry, are gifts that flow out for service to the church and the world. The gifts given to us from Holy Spirit, the power gifts, are for the purpose of bringing glory to God and the revelation of the Son. Each of the godhead flows through us, the gifts work together and through us, and our aim is to be fully submitted to God, so that we are able to live and move and have our being in God, so that all that we do pleases Him in service to Him and others. The gifts of the trinity give us the unique insight into each member of the trinity as we partner with each member to flow in their gift, and do what each wants to do, through us, the body of Christ. ^[2]

There are three basic groupings of gifts in the New Testament. All three groupings are referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6: *“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”*^[2]

1. **“Diversities of gifts but the same Spirit”** (v.4). These are the manifestation, miracle, Gifts given and operated by the Holy Spirit that are listed in 1Corinthians 12:8-10. ^[2]
2. **“Differences of ministries but the same Lord”** (v. 5). These are the ministry Gifts, fivefold ministry, given by Jesus Christ the Son listed in Ephesians 4:11. ^[2]
3. **“Diversities of activities, but it is the same God”** (v. 6). These are the motivational Gifts, Redemptive gifts, given by God the Father listed in Romans 12:6-8. ^[2]

So we can see that the whole Trinity -Father, Son and Holy Spirit are involved in the giving of gifts to the Church in order for the Body of Christ to function as it was designed to in service to the King and to each other.

Role of each member of the Trinity, and how their gifts have the flavor of that member of the Godhead

Each member of the Trinity gives us gifts that are consistent with their role toward us, and the gift giver flows through their gifts.

God the Father **deals with community and these motivational gifts are given at conception, and mature with us throughout our lives.** Jesus Christ came to restore dominion to us by teaching us how to fight and build and by rescuing us from the enemy; the Office gifts of Jesus are activated in us when we are mature in Christ and ready mentor (father) others in the body. The Holy Spirit is involved in creation and our relationship with creation, this is stewarding the planet, and understanding how God wants us to interface with creation.^[3] The manifestation gifts of the spirit come after salvation and in greater power after the believer has been filled with the baptism of Holy Spirit. These gifts sporadically manifest as the Holy Spirit wills and at the will of the believer. So the gifts that each member of the Trinity gives to us, function in the power of that member of the godhead to bring about the fullness of the resident gift. Therefore, it is most helpful to understand the role of each member of the Trinity so that we can begin to comprehend the use of the gifts, how they are intended to function, and how they function together.



Overview The Father Role in Relation to the Redemptive/Motivational Gifts, Prophet, Servant, Teacher, Exhorter, Giver, Ruler, Mercy

Romans 12:4-8 ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

If we simplify the big picture, God the Father is about community. You look at Ephesians, and Paul says, “... from whom all the families of Earth came from God the Father.” You look at the fact that Jesus Christ came specifically to reconcile all things to the Father. And the whole theme of community—of relationship, of human beings functioning together as human beings—is the expression of God the Father.^[4]

In the biblical account of creation, this Triune God says: “Let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:26). Human beings are made to image God, to reflect his likeness. That’s why our longing for community seems so deep and primal. It’s how we’re made as God’s image bearers.^[5]

We define fathering as discovering God’s design, and unpacking it. ^[6] So, God the Father both gives us our core design as both a gift to us, and as gift to His Son for the purpose of fashioning us the body of Christ, the Bride. He designed us to bring pleasure to Himself, to His Son, to each other to ourselves. He is about joy in community and relationship.

Christ’s Role in Believer’s Life in relation to the Five-Fold Ministry: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher

Ephesians 4:10-12” He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) ¹¹And He gave some *as* apostles, some *as* prophets, some *as* evangelists, some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. “

When Jesus came to earth, he began to walk in the fivefold ministry at the time that his ministry began, directly after his baptism. He walked perfectly in all five offices during his three years of ministry, giving us a perfect example for each ministry. He did exactly, and only, what the Father told him to do and say. When we are ordained to walk out the ministry to His body, we are also to do exactly what He tells us to do and to say. A student is not above his teacher. In this way, the personality of Jesus works through us, for the ministry to his body and for the expansion of His Kingdom. As we walk out the office in the body of Christ, we are expected to lean into Jesus and do what He wants us to do and to speak what he wants us to speak. We are to be his literal hands and feet and mouth in the world. Just as Jesus represented the Father, exactly, to the world, so we are to represent Jesus exactly. (In the same way that the manifestation gifts of Holy Spirit, are to be executed by us by Holy Spirit and we are do and say exactly what Holy Spirit directs).



The ordination of the fivefold gifts takes place before the release in the ministry. Luke 6:13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles. So, people often know the call that God has placed upon their lives, but it takes many years for them to grow into becoming capable of fathering the body of Christ. King David was anointed king by Samuel about age fifteen, but he did not assume the throne until he was thirty years old. Saul was anointed as an apostle in Acts 9:15 “This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel,” and he began teaching about Jesus right away, but he did not begin his ministry as an apostle for another 8-14 years. So, we must submit ourselves to the process of maturation and learning before we can move fully into our call among the church fathers, this maturation process requires our own submission to being transformed. All five of these offices are for service in the body of Christ. They are never to be used for self-glory, in fact, Jesus told us to not even refer to ourselves as Rabi, Teacher or Father, and we should take no titles because we are brothers and co-laborers (Matt 23 8-10).

Jesus Christ came to deal with our powerlessness and to move us from a place of victimization—from a place of being under the curse, from a place of all of our brain rot—into a place of dominion. And those two themes in the human community and the religious community are fairly well understood. ^[4]

What does Jesus redeem us from? Sin and all its effects. What does Jesus redeem us for? A life that images God and reflects his goodness to the world. In other words, one of the chief things that Jesus accomplishes when he redeems us is to restore our capacity for community. Not for a community of people who look and act just like us, but a community made up of people from every tribe and tongue and nation on earth ([Revelation 7:9](#)). God has created us for community, and Jesus has redeemed us for community. In doing so, he has made us into his very own body ([1 Corinthians 12:27](#)) that is able to live, love, and make known his “good news” to our friends and neighbors.^[5]

Jesus seeks to redeem us, and move us into a place of dominion. His gifts, offices within the Body of Christ do just that. There is the evangelist who reaches out to the lost. The teacher who explains the mysteries of Christ to us. The prophet who judges what is righteous and what is unrighteous. The Pastor who comforts and nourishes the flock. The apostle works to join the various parts of the body together and carry the word of God between the various communities of believers.

These five fold gifts can be held separately or in any combination as Christ so directs:

2 Timothy 1:10-11 And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the gospel, to which I was appointed *as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher*.

The five offices of Ephesians 4:11 are to be Father focused. The intent of those offices is to “build up” the body until they “become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13). The link from Christ to the Father is established in Colossians 2:9. “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...” Christ is the lamp revealing the Father. The five-fold ministers are the lamp that reveals Christ in such a way that the individual members of the Body are transformed, becoming more and more like the Christ they see revealed through the lamp of the ministers.^[7]

The people in the five offices should understand their role as lamps, commissioned to reveal the glory of the Father’s nature. Most people in those offices think their job is to help grow the church. What a pitifully small



objective, the objective is to bring healing and growth to the body of Christ as well as evangelism to the entire world.^[7]

The fivefold ministry depicted in Ephesian's 4:11 shows not only the "givenness" and the diversity of leadership in the earliest church but also the order in which the ministry functioned and generally unfolded.^[8]

First came the apostles who had authority to lay both doctrinal foundations and validate that authority party through signs and wonders.^[8]

The office of the prophet gives immediate direction and guidance for Christians. The prophet is passionate about bringing God's fresh revelation to a specific body within the church. They have an assignment within the body of Christ. It is possible and likely, that they will have prophetic words and directions for other groups of believers, but they are called to minister within a specific flock. They speak the words that God gives them to speak, and they go where God tells them to go. While someone with the gift of prophecy, from the Holy Spirit, will often speak about future events, only one seated in the office of the Prophet, has authority over a specific church body to make decisions about the direction that God is taking that flock. The one who is in the Office of Prophet is given a specific call to a group of believers to see the direction that this particular group of people should go. It is a much more specific insight and call, than the prophet within the Holy Gifts. While the Holy Spirit manifestation gifts of prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, tongues and interruption of tongues can, and is, broadly used across all fellowships of believers. This should not be confused with the personality of the prophet that is given in the redemptive or motivational gifts.

Evangelists, the bearers of the good news, could describe the role of virtually every Christian in ancient time although there emerges a special gift in the area. All Christians have the gift of spreading the gospel with them.^[8] When a the gift of Evangelism is strongly upon a person, and they are "an evangelist" as part of the fivefold ministry, the drive within them to bring others to Christ, is almost like fire in the bones (*Jeremiah 20:9 But if I say, "his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.)* to preach the gospel and bring people to Jesus Christ. This ministry is not a casual talking about Jesus, but it is a driven ongoing fire within a person to bring unbelievers to salvation, and also to bring casual believers into full repentance and obedience to Christ.

The role of the pastor is the tender compassionate care of the flock of Jesus Christ. Pastors will deeply love the people that they tend to; they overflow with counsel and compassion. Tenderly guiding the flock in the ways righteousness, and tending to the wounds of their people both physical and emotional sickness. These people love the flock of Jesus and care for them with the compassion and patience of a father to his children.

The teacher can possible be said to describe the apostle and pastor but refers mainly to the ongoing upholding of apostolic doctrine so that all the body of Christ could be aptly instructed and well informed as to what they should believe.^[8] Teachers are passionate that the people of God know what is right and how to discern what is right. Teachers are passionate about instilling in the flock the ways of the path of righteousness, and protecting the flock of Jesus from heresy and every wind of doctrine. Teachers understand that bad information can easily mislead and harm the people of God.

Some pastors are not strong teachers or preachers, and some teacher and preachers are not good pastors. But sound teaching is needed in the body of Christ. This way a believer's faith will be strong and the discernment sharp when it is necessary to detect false teaching.^[8]



The Holy Spirit Role in Believer's Life

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another faith ^[i]by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of ^[a]healing ^[h]by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the ^[i]effecting of ^[i]miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the ^[k]distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He ^[i]wills.

The manifestation of gifts of Holy Spirit are always Holy Spirit working directly through us to bring glory to Jesus. These works are supernatural, power filled, and bring the kingdom of heaven into the earth realm. The exclusive goal of these gifts to bring glory to Jesus, not to the vessel through which they flow. The use of these gifts is the clearest example of the presence of God among us, and by their power and goodness show the nature of God most evidently. No person, by their own will can manufacture these gifts, and the sin of blasphemy against Holy Spirit is the only unforgivable sin. This sin was highlighted when a person gave Satan credit for a miracle done by Holy Spirit. (Matt 12:31)

One of the works of the Holy Spirit, is to bring us into right alignment with creation. And here we have a ghastly tough problem in the Christian community, because the only framework most people have of the Holy Spirit and creation is physical healing. Well, yes, absolutely positively, that is the domain of the Holy Spirit. I have no issues with that. But it's far more, and each one of us is designed by God to identify most fully with one member of the Trinity. ^[4]

Almost every human dilemma at a personal level can be categorized as either fear (emotional difficulty), or doubt (intellectual difficulty). Our emotions and intellect constitute our soul and govern the choices we make (our will). Doubt, fear, and inner turmoil—compounded by things that happen to people throughout the course of their lives—are real hindrances that oppose your peace and deteriorate your confidence. The Holy Spirit desires to reach down inside of us, remove obstructions to our wholeness, and heal our pain. He wants to fill our souls with God's peace, but there's a distinct way in which that peace flows.

When Jesus spoke about rivers of living water, He was speaking about the Holy Spirit. The indwelling of the Spirit is given to us at the time we receive Jesus. The overflow of the Spirit has to do with when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at the dimension that He comes from Jesus with power. The Book of Acts makes very clear: repent, be baptized, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who then gives us gifts to answer specific needs. There's no more outstandingly manifested flow than that seen in Acts 2—manifest evidence of the Spirit of God working in people. ^[9]

There's a direct relationship between what God does in me, what He freely does through me, and the flow of the Holy Spirit happening in me (Romans 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit is "The Great Psychiatrist." The prophet Isaiah described the Holy Spirit as wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord (11:1-2). The Bible says that he who speaks in a tongue is speaking to God "mysteries" (1 Corinthians 14:2), referring to things that were not known before, but now are being brought into the light. When the Word of God comes alive in a person, you are experiencing a flow of the Holy Spirit. It is not the letter on the paper, but the Word of God animated in you by the Holy Spirit quickening it. The Word of God is a spiritual resource that enables us to make wise choices (John 8:32). ^[9]



When those two things are put together—the Word made alive by the quickening of the Spirit, and Holy Spirit life being released through the flow of spiritual language—then you have a river of living water that will filter through the deep recesses of the psyche, uncovering and breaking down those things which have become obstacles to your liberty in Christ (1 Corinthians 14:2; 2 Timothy 2:19-22).^[9]

God has sent forth this outpouring that we may all be brought into a revelation of our sonship - that we are sons of God, menc[people] of power, that we are to be like the Lord Jesus Christ, that we are to have the powers of sonship, the power to lay hold of that which is weak and to quicken it. The Baptism of the Spirit is to make us sons of God with power. We shall be conscious of our human limits, but we shall not limit the Holy One who has come to dwell within. We must believe that since the Holy Ghost has come upon us we are indeed sons of God with power. Never say that you can't. All things are possible to them that believe. Launch out into the deep and believe that God has His all for you, and that you can do all things through Him who, strengthens you.^[10]

The Lord wants all saved people to receive power from on High--power to witness, power to act, power to live, and power to show forth the divine manifestation of God within. The power of God will take you out of your own plans and put you into the plan of God. You will be unmantled and divested of that which is purely of yourself and put into a divine order. The Lord will change you and put His mind where yours was, and thus enable you to have the mind of Christ. Instead of you laboring according to your own plan, it will be God working in you and through you to do His own good pleasure through the power of the Spirit within. Someone has said that you are no good until you have your "I" knocked out. Christ must reign within, and the life in the Holy Ghost means at all times the subjection of your own will to make way for the working out of the good and acceptable and perfect will of God within.^[10]

Jack Hayford on the Gifts of the Trinity ^[11]

The distinctive gifts given by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit truly represent the Trinity at work in creation and redemption. It's important to understand their difference.

The Trinity in Action

The Father who energizes. Father God places multiple possibilities of seven basic traits or inclinations within us that are fundamental to who we were created to be. They are prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading and showing mercy (Romans 12:6-8). The gift of the Father is the gift which stirs you and to which you inherently respond. Finding you have a proficiency in it should never become a source of pride; you were simply created that way.

The Lord Jesus who administrates. The Redeemer, the Lord Jesus, has given to the Church ministries to help people redemptively be recovered from hindrances to living fully in what the Father created them to be. The Father says who you are, and Jesus gives ministry gifts to help you understand what you can become. These broad categories with multiple expressions are apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers (Ephesians 4:11).



The Holy Spirit who enables. The Holy Spirit then gives us the power and gifts to enhance, expand and enlarge what we were made to be: Gifts of insight-knowledge are wisdom and discernment. Gifts of power-faith are miracles and healing. Gifts of prophecy are tongues and interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:8-10). All of the gifts of the Holy Spirit require verbal expression, a release in our understanding, and our ability to know how to operate in them.

Father God tells you what He created you to be. Jesus places in His Church people to help you become a ministering person in that context, and the Holy Spirit brings the gracious enhancement of that gift to enlarge your ministry potential.

There are infinite varieties of expressions of all the gifts the Lord releases in us, and none should limit us. The Lord is continually transforming us by His Spirit. Our identity is never to become wrapped up in a gift, but in The Giver—Jesus Christ—and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The spirit of the gifts is love

The operation of all these gifts is qualified by discerning the spirit of the gifts, which is love—the love of God manifesting in the life of the Church (1 Corinthians 13). Love means that this gift is not for me; it's for me to deliver to someone else. Love is the fundamental manifestation of the Holy Spirit, apparent in both the person ministering the gift and in the one receiving it. When a gift is delivered or ministered in the spirit of love, it is made understandable and receivable to people. Jesus presents a good example of how the gifts function in a person's life: He did what the Father wanted Him to by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

The spirit of love desires to present the gift in the most appropriate and gracious manner. For the person receiving the gift, the spirit of love is an openness to hear what the Lord is saying and to overlook the imperfection of the person delivering it.

God has a distinct place and purpose in His Kingdom for every person. The Bible says that He has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased (1 Corinthians 12:18). Our challenge and joy is to grow into the recognition of what He's made us to be, and then to experience its release in Jesus, enabled by the Holy Spirit.



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