

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 4:7-13

Lesson #18

Equippers

11/26/2017

Matthew 28

“18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,** 20 **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.””

This has become the mission statement for the church to evangelize the world.
It is termed the “Great Commission”.

1

If this is true why don't we see:

- the Apostles **reiterating** this “commission” to the church.
- the Apostles **emphasizing** world evangelism in their letters.

Is **Ephesians 4:7-16**
Paul's explanation
of the Great
Commission?



2

Ephesians 4

“4 There is **one body** . . .

7 **But to each one of us** grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, “*When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men.*” (Ps.68:18) 9 (Now this expression, “*He ascended,*” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And **He gave some** as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”

3

Paraphrase

Ephesians 4:7-10

“We have each been given a part of the bounty of Christ's victory over his enemies; as in ancient Israel where the king arrived home and shared the spoils of those he conquered. The Jesus that we follow is Lord of heaven who conquered the rebels in low places to put their skills in the service of his kingdom.”

The implication is that gifts, which were taken captive to serve the world's agenda, are now taken back to build the Body of Christ.

4

Acts 2:33

“Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.”

Pentecost is the outpouring of power through the Spirit and a sign of Christ's victory anointing diverse functions to edify the church.

1.	2.	3.
Ascension	Pentecost	Epistles
brings captive gifts that will be used to serve God's kingdom	distributes gifts through the Spirit for believers to build the church	provide an operating manual for their purpose and use.

5

"11 And **He gave some** as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,"

- The grammar of the Greek text suggests that "**pastors / teachers**" go together.
- Before the **N.T. canon** was complete the authority of the church rested with "**apostles and prophets**".

This would suggest a need to distinguish between temporary **Apostles & Prophets (the foundation of the church)** and apostles & prophets who were the ongoing curators of their message in every age.

Apostles & Prophets
(witnesses to resurrected Christ)
(foundation of the church)
1st cent. - the twelve + Paul

apostles & prophets
(steward of the message)
(with local authority only)
present and functioning today

6

"11 And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**,"

Equipping ministries

(Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor / teachers)

Work of service ministries

(prophecy, evangelism, teaching, exhorting, tongues, interpretation, healing, wisdom, knowledge, faith, miracles, discernment, helps, mercy, administration, etc.)

7

Characteristics of the Foundation Apostles

An eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus

Acts 1:21-22

"Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us - beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us - one of these must become **a witness with us of His resurrection.**"

1 Corinthians 9:1

"Am I not an apostle? **Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?** Are you not my work in the Lord?"

Signs and wonders

2 Corinthians 12:12

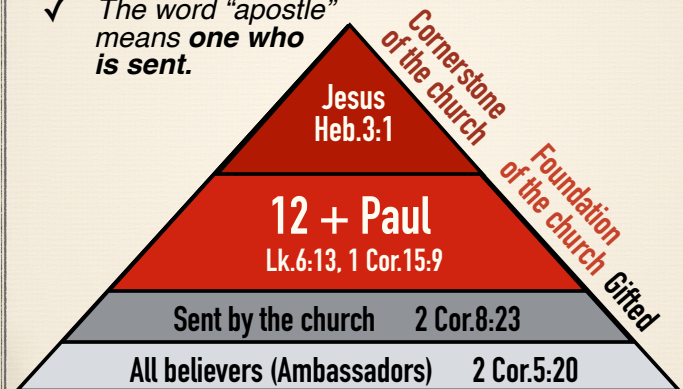
"The **signs of a true apostle** were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles."

8

Ephesians 1

"Paul, an **apostle** of Christ Jesus by the will of God,"

- ✓ The word "apostle" means **one who is sent.**

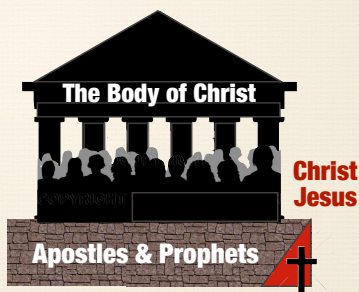


9

Ephesians 2:20-21

"having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy **temple** in the Lord."

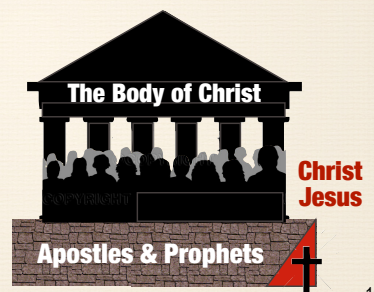
The epistles of the New Testament are the **foundation of Christian theology.**



10

The church is the end game in God's plan not a means to another end.

World evangelism is an important (but not central) part of the church's calling.



11

Images of the church in Ephesians



**Building and
Cornerstone**
2:21



**Body and
Head**
4:4



**Bride and
Bridegroom**
5:32

The Christian responds to Christ

12

Ephesians 4:7

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Lists of spiritual gifts in the N.T.

Rom. 12:6-8	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28	Eph. 4:11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophecy • Serving • Teaching • Exhortation • Giving • Leadership • Mercy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of wisdom • Word of knowledge • Faith • Gifts of healings • Miracles • Prophecy • Distinguishing spirits • Tongues • Interpretation of tongues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostle • Prophet • Teacher • Miracles • Kinds of healings • Helps • Administration • Tongues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostle • Prophet • Evangelist • Pastor • Teacher

These lists are probably not exhaustive examples.

13

Romans 12

“³ For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.”

14

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

“Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

Motivations “gifts”	Ministries “ministries”	Manifestation “effects”
Passion	Position	Profit
Rom.12	Eph.4	1 Cor.12

15

1 Corinthians 12

“⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the **effecting of miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, and to another the **interpretation of tongues**. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”

Gifts are distributed according to the Spirit’s will.

The doctrine that the gift of tongues is distinct and universal to all who seek it is challenged (vs.30).

16

1 Corinthians 12

“²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healings**, **helps**, **administrations**, various kinds of **tongues**. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts”

Certain gifts are “greater” than others in that they affect the whole body not just one other person.

1 Corinthians 14

“³⁹ Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to **prophecy**, and do not forbid to **speak in tongues**. ⁴⁰ But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.”

17

1 Peter 4:11

“Whoever **speaks**, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever **serves** is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;”

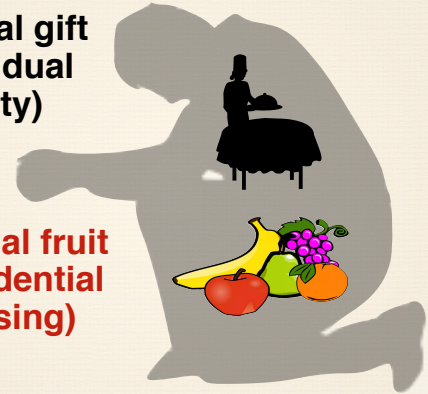
Speaking	Supervising	Serving	Sign
Prophecy Evangelism Teaching Exhorting Tongues Interpretation	Apostles Pastor / Teacher Administrator	Wisdom Knowledge Faith Healing Miracles Discernment	Miracles Healing Tongues

18

Don't confuse character with gifts or fruit.

**Spiritual gift
(individual
ability)**

**Spiritual fruit
(providential
blessing)**



Spiritual character (universal calling)

19

Common overlooked truths

1. Spiritual gifts for ministry are given to every believer.
2. Spiritual “anointing” for ministry takes many different forms.
3. Dramatic gifts are not a mark of genuine faith or spirituality (maturity).
4. Spiritual gifts (abilities) can be misused, abused, and counterfeited.
5. Spiritual gifts are for edifying the church not the individual.
6. The fact that we have a gift does not mean that we do not have responsibilities in other areas.
7. The Great Commission of Jesus is best understood as Paul expresses it in Eph.4.

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Paul's Great Commission

1. It is church building.
2. Evangelism is but one step in the process.
3. It involves every believer but in different ways.
4. The end game is the Body of Christ functioning as such.
5. The Apostles give the most attention to the development of converts in the community of faith.

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