

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

Lesson 9 - Understanding the Fivefold Gifts of Ministry in the Local Church

Introduction to Church Government

In this lesson we will do a general overview on the topic of Church government. Before we get too far into the lesson, there are two things that I want to point out. The first thing is that in these lessons, you will not find the words “trustees” or “board members” categorized as being part of the Church government. The reason for that is simple, “trustees” and “board members” aren’t even mentioned in the Bible. They are not mentioned in the Bible because GOD did not establish these positions; secular authority established them. As such, they are elected or appointed members of the corporate entity but they are not part of the Spiritual Church government.

Another thing you might want to note is that “deacons” are not categorized as being part of the Spiritual government of the Church. Once again the reason for that is also simple; they were never intended to be part of the Spiritual government of the Church. (The only reason that we are including a lesson on deacons in this series is because there is so much misunderstanding about their position and we wanted to clarify the point that their position is not one that falls within the realm of the Spiritual government of the Church.)

The government of the Church has always rested first, upon the shoulders of Jesus, and then upon the shoulders of those whom He appointed. Jesus said that He would build His Church and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it, and because it is His, the governmental authority of it belongs to Him.

- **Isaiah 9:6-7 (KJV)** "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty GOD, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. {7} Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Since the government of the Church is on the shoulders of Jesus, we need to understand that when He ascended on high, He did not leave His Church without governmental authority. The Bible tells us that Jesus gave the responsibility of governing His Church unto those individuals who are equipped and chosen according to the scriptures.

Being equipped and chosen according to the scriptures means that the individual is in possession of one or more of the equipping/governing ministry gifts. These equipping/governing gifts are sometimes referred to as the “fivefold” or “ascension” gift ministries.

- **Ephesians 4:11 (KJV)** "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;".

When referring to individuals with one of these five ministerial gifts (a divine enablement or abilities) it should be understood that the reference is to the person’s ministerial gift and not to the person’s position within ministry. Although it was not so in the beginning, over the years

there has been a gradual shift from identifying Church governmental positions by the Biblical terms of bishop(s) and elder(s), to that of identifying Church governmental positions according to a person's ministerial gifting. What caused that shift was due in part to the Protestants not wanting to be identified with anything that even remotely sounded like titles used in Roman Catholicism.

Today in the vast majority of the Churches, Church government is understood as being [pastor(s) and/or the elder(s)] or [pastor(s) and/or deacon(s)], and in the overwhelming majority of the cases the person who is in charge is always referred to or identified as, "the senior pastor".

The problem with that picture is that the Bible does not declare it to be that way and it leaves a false impression that the position of senior elder/board of elders/bishop (or whatever term you use to identify the person in charge) is always an individual with a fivefold ministry gift of a pastor. Then when other individuals join the pastoral staff we had to invent the title of senior pastor to designate who is in charge. In doing this we have unintentionally given the impression that the pastoral gift is always supervisory over the other ministerial gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist and teacher and that just isn't the case. All of these false impressions can easily be corrected by using the biblical terms—bishop and elder.

It is my deep felt opinion that if the Church as a whole were to implement this simple but profound change in the way that we identify Church governmental positions it would result in a positive change of attitude for both eldership and congregation. It would also eliminate some negative aspects of pride and self exaltation that is very evident in some of those who are in leadership.

Now, back to the point of identifying those with a recognized fivefold ministry gift as elders of the Church and the senior pastor/senior elder/set man/point man/presiding elder as the bishop (overseer/superintendent). We definitely need to get away from identifying the person that stands behind the pulpit every Sunday by the ministry gift that we assume to be the proper title for that position. In many cases that I have observed, the person that is identified as pastor doesn't necessarily have a pastoral gift.

But just because I've said that, please don't jump to the conclusion that I am even hinting that those individuals should not be in their position or that I am saying that they do not have the call of GOD on their life. What I am saying is that they should be identified by their proper title of overseer and if the person preaching on a particular Sunday is not the overseer, then we should identify them by their Biblical title of elder. If all you looked at was Church signs, business cards, Church bulletins, letterheads, etc. etc., you'd have to come up with the conclusion that the ministry gift of pastor was approximately 99.9% of the ministry. That would leave only .1% of the ministry consisting of the apostle, prophet, evangelist and teacher. I do not believe that is accurate. When Jesus ascended He gave more than one gift unto men and a person with any one of those five gifts could be the overseer.

The Bible makes it very clear that the terms apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher were meant to identify the particular ascension gift ministry that the person possesses and not the governmental (supervisory) position that they may fill. Many times this has resulted in much

frustration for those who were filling the slot of the senior pastor when in fact their gift ministry was not the gift ministry of pastor. Thousands of apostles, prophets, evangelist and teachers have gone out and established very successful Churches and are currently operating in the position of the bishop but they have identified themselves as the “senior pastor” because everyone thinks that the senior pastor is always the person in charge. Because of this, they feel like a round peg in a square hole and they are frustrated because they know that their calling really isn’t that of a pastor.

All of the confusion and frustration would be eliminated if everyone used the Biblical term of bishop (overseer/superintendent/senior fivefold minister) to identify the senior “fivefold minister” and the Biblical term of elder to identify all of the other “fivefold ministers”.

The term “Bishop” was never meant to indicate ones importance or superiority within the body of Christ, but rather their position among the eldership of a particular Church or Churches. In short, the term bishop (overseer/superintendent/senior fivefold minister) is meant to identify the specific elder that is in charge and the term elder was meant to identify all of the other gift ministers that were part of that particular Church or ministry. Simply stated, the term bishop and elder identifies the “Church government” position that a person fills; while the term apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher identifies the particular “ministry gift” that a bishop or elder possesses.

Although the Bible clearly indicates that there is a GOD-given hierarchy within the ascension gift ministries, we do not intend to spend too much time on it in this lesson. Many people today have mistakenly used 1 Corinthians 12:28 to try to establish a hierarchy within the ministry gifts [1 Corinthians 12:28 (KJV) "And GOD hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."]. However, we do not have to study very long to realize that the Apostle Paul is not establishing a hierarchy in this particular scripture. Think about it for a moment. He doesn’t even mention the ministry gift of evangelist and pastor nor does he mention the Spiritual gift of prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, etc. etc. The fact is; you don’t need to use 1 Corinthians 12:28 to establish a hierarchy within the ministry gifts. Throughout the Bible, in every instance where apostles are mentioned, they always seemed to be in a senior position, yet among themselves there was one apostle that could be identified as the (overseer/superintendent/senior fivefold minister) bishop.

An example of this can be found in the book of Acts where Paul took a certain matter to the apostles at Jerusalem and James ended up being the one who made the final adjudication, indicating that he was the person in charge. So if the Bible indicates by unspoken precedence that apostles were the senior ministers, then the apostle is the senior minister even though the Bible doesn’t specifically state it.

The particular fivefold ministry gift that a person possesses should have nothing to do with the way that they are identified. When the Bible mentioned the ministry that a person had, it mentioned it for the purpose of identifying the particular person and the particular ministry gift they possessed but it was not trying to identify their particular hierarchical position. An example of this can be found in how the Bible identifies Mary Magdalene. She was called Mary Magdalene not because that was her name or title but to identify which Mary she was: Mary

from the village of Magdala. Other examples: Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary of Bethany, Mary, mother of James and Mary, mother of Mark. However when it comes to the “fivefold ministry”, we see that somewhere along the way we started identifying bishops and elders by the name of their particular “fivefold ministry” gift. Once they started identifying bishops and elders by their particular ministry gift, the ministry gift of apostle and prophet were effectively eliminated because until recently most ministers were afraid to say that they were an apostle or a prophet. When the writers of the epistles addressed an epistle to an individual, they didn’t refer to the individual as, “apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher “such and such”, they addressed them by name and not by title. But when they referred to themselves, they did identify themselves by referring to their particular ministry gift. However, this was done not to identify their governmental position but rather to identify which Peter, Paul, James or John were writing and what governmental authority they were using to write their epistles.

Due to the fact that the apostle Paul uses the Greek words that are translated into bishop and elder interchangeably some have rejected the idea that the office of the bishop is a separate office from that of the elder. As we consider this we must state that we have always believed that all elders have an overseeing function but we firmly believe that only one of the elders would be classified as the bishop (overseer). While it can be said that the Greek words that are translated into bishop and elder are different words describing the same office, it can also be said that they are different offices with the same function; that of overseeing the Church. Regardless of the position you take, it cannot negate the fact that the apostle Paul recognized and adhered to the concept of one man being the overseer of the Church. Consider the following scriptures and note that the power to ordain is the power to supervise.

This scripture seem to indicate that James was the final authority or single person in charge of the Church in Jerusalem. Acts 15:19-21 (KJV) “Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to GOD: ²⁰But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. ²¹For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.”

Once again, Acts 21:18 also seems to indicate that James was the accepted overseer or if you prefer, the senior among the elders. Acts 21:18 (KJV) “And the *day* following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.”

In writing to Timothy, Paul indicates that Timothy is the single person in charge by telling him how to treat and ordain the elders that were under his authority. That was the reason he asked him to remain at Ephesus. In writing to Titus, Paul indicates that Titus is the single person in charge by reminding Titus that he has the authority to ordain the elders that were under his authority. That was the reason he asked him to remain at Crete. I want to remind you once again that the power to ordain states that the person doing the ordaining is of higher authority than the person they are ordaining and that they also have the power or authority to oversee that person.

While terms such as “equal among many” states that Church government is shared among the elders, it falls far short of projecting the Biblical concept that someone among the elders is the (overseer/superintendent/senior fivefold minister) person in charge. The Bible makes it very

clear that the person in charge is called the bishop. (All of the points that we are making right now, will be established in detail when we get to the lesson dealing with that particular subject.) If you are talking about an organization of apostles, the senior person is the bishop, if you are talking about an organization of prophets, the senior person is the bishop, if you are talking about a local Church, the senior person is the bishop, etc. etc. There are many excellent Church administrators and business managers that are on staff within Churches that do not have a fivefold ministry gift yet they have been mistakenly given the title of pastor or elder and this has also added to the confusion. Why identify someone by a ministry gift when they don't possess a ministry gift?

Lesson 2 - Leaders & Leadership

- A. In this lesson we will be referring to the ascension gift ministers by their Biblical title of “Elder” which is translated from the Greek word “presbuteros” [presbuteros- (*elderly*); *older*; as noun, a *senior*; specifically an Israelite *Sanhedrist* (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian “presbyter”]. We will be referring to the presiding elder by the title of “Bishop” which is translated from the Greek words “episkopos” [episkopos – a *superintendent*, that is, Christian officer in general charge of a (or the) Church (literally or figuratively)] and “episkopeo” [episkopeo– to *oversee*; by implication to *beware*]. We will also be referring to the bishop and elders as “leadership” and “Church government”. As we use the terms “leadership” and “Church government”, we want to be sure that everyone understands that they do not necessarily mean the same thing. Church government is comprised of the ascension gift/fivefold ministers only, whereas leadership is comprised of the ascension gift/fivefold ministers plus any other duly appointed ministers such as the “music ministry leader”, “the sound ministry leader”, “the youth ministry leader”, etc. etc. For the purpose of this lesson, we will define a leader and leadership as follows:
1. A leader is the individual who has been given the authority to lead. The mark of a true leader is that they can always be defined as “someone who is going somewhere and taking other people with them”.
 - a. A leader’s position of authority within the local and universal Church is based upon:
 - 1) the recognized call of GOD upon their life and 2) their proper appointment by the authority over them.
 2. Leadership is defined as the bishop and elder(s), plus any other believer that the bishop and elder(s) have appointed to fulfill a position of authority within the local and universal Church.
- B. Prior to specifically mentioning any Church government position, let’s look at the common denominator that can be identified in all of them. This common denominator is what we call the military aspect of leadership. Some of the military aspects of leadership are as follows:
1. The basic training factor:
 - a. Basic training is the proving ground where GOD puts us through the disciplines and rigors of leadership to determine whether we are willing to let Him continue our training or not. Matthew 20:16 (KJV) "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Generally speaking, basic training is the initial experience in the making of any leader. If we look at Joseph and other leaders listed in the Bible, we find that all of them went through GOD ’s basic training.
 2. The soldier factor:
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:1-7 (KJV) "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. {2} And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. {3} Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. {4} No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. {5} And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. {6} The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. {7} Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

3. The war factor:
 - a. Proverbs 20:18 (KJV) "Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war."
 - b. Psalms 144:1-2 (KJV) "A Psalm of David. Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: {2} My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me."
 - c. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV) "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: {4} (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through GOD to the pulling down of strong holds;) {5} Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of GOD, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"
 - d. Proverbs 24:6 (KJV) "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety."
 - e. 1 Timothy 1:18 (KJV) "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;"
 - f. Revelation 19:11 (KJV) "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."
4. The authority factor:
 - a. Matthew 7:29 (KJV) "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."
 - b. Mark 13:34 (KJV) "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch."
 - c. Titus 2:15 (KJV) "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."
 - d. Matthew 8:5-13 (KJV) "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, {6} And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. {7} And Jesus saith unto him, **I will come and heal him.** {8} The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. {9} For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. {10} When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.** {11} **And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.** {12} **But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**
5. The armour factor:
 - a. Romans 13:12 (KJV) "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."
 - b. Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV) "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. {11} Put on the whole armour of GOD, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,

but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against Spiritual wickedness in high places. {13} Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of GOD, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; {15} And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of GOD: {18} Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

- C. Now that we have covered some of the factors of the military aspect of leadership, we will take a look at the overall topic of leadership.

Over the course of the last 2,000 years, many changes have occurred within the societies of the world. In order to stay abreast with these changes, the Church has made many adjustments in its structure and ministries. These adjustments included the formation of choirs, nurseries, Sunday schools, children's Church, ushers, food and housing for the poor, day schools, etc. etc. etc. The people that manage these ministries are the people that the bishop has appointed to what we will identify as, "a limited role of leadership". They are what we would call today, "a department head" or using a more biblical term, they are deacons. Their authority and leadership role starts and ends within the area of responsibility that was given to them. Even though their specific job title may not be mentioned in the Bible, they are no less leadership than the job titles that are mentioned in the Bible.

- D. Knowing that every local Church is somewhat different in their belief and structure, we will not attempt to name every position within the Church and classify them as leadership. However we will briefly mention each of the Church governmental positions and the ministries that seem to fall within the category of that specific governmental position. Once again, these are the Church governmental positions that are listed in the Bible. When we consider the covering aspect of the Church governmental positions let us make this statement: "Every person in the body of Christ needs a Biblical covering". The congregations need the covering of the elders, the elders need the covering of the bishop and the bishop needs the covering of another Bishop."

1. Bishop:

- a. A bishop is the person who is in charge (overseer/superintendent/senior fivefold minister) of a particular denomination, a particular ministry, a particular Church or a particular group of Churches or ministries. The term bishop was never meant to indicate ones importance or superiority within the body of Christ, but rather their position among the eldership of a particular Church or Churches. In this lesson we are going to be referring to the ascension gift ministers by their Biblical title of "elder" and the presiding elder by their Biblical title of "bishop" (overseer/superintendent/senior fivefold minister).

(1) The definition of the two Greek words that are translated into the English word "Bishop" is as follows:

- (a) 1984. episkope, ep-is-kop-ay'; from G1980; inspection (for relief); by impl. superintendence; spec. the Chr. "episcopate":--the office of a "bishop", bishoprick, visitation.
- (b) 1985. episkopos, ep-is'-kop-os; from G1909 and G4649 (in the sense of G1983); a superintendent, i.e. Chr. officer in gen. charge of a (or the) Church (lit. or fig.):--bishop, overseer.

2. Elder(s):

- a. An elder is an individual who has been called into the ministry and who is recognized as having one or more of the Ephesians 4: 11 ministries resident within their being. These ministries are sometimes called the "Ascension Gifts" or "Five Fold Ministry Gifts". In the hierarchy of the Church, the position of the elder falls directly under the bishop. I have heard people say that the Bible wasn't clear on the topic of Church government and who is in charge but truthfully, it really couldn't be clearer. We will look at this in depth when we get to lesson number 3, titled, "Elders". The identity of the ministries that qualify a person to be ordained as an elder is as follows:

(1) Apostle: an elder with the ascension gift of an apostle.

- (a) An apostle is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the apostle is to establish, cover and govern.

(2) Prophet: an elder with the ascension gift of a prophet.

- (a) A prophet is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the prophet is to warn, cover and to guide.

(3) Evangelist: an elder with the ascension gift of an evangelist.

- (a) An evangelist is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the evangelist is to stir, cover and gather.

(4) Pastor (Shepherd): an elder with the ascension gift of a pastor (Shepherd).

- (a) A pastor (shepherd) is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the pastor is to administer, cover and to guard.

(5) Teacher: an elder with the ascension gift of a teacher.

- (a) A teacher is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the teacher is to instruct, cover and ground.

3. Deacon(s):

- a. A deacon is an individual who has been duly appointed to be in charge of a particular ministry or department within the Church. A deacon's authority and area of responsibility is limited and is one of the positions that is classified as leadership but is not a part of the Church government. As stated earlier, we have included a lesson on the topic of deacons in this series, even though they are not part of the Spiritual government of the Church.

Lesson 3 - Apostles

- A. In this lesson we will use the following definition of an apostle:
1. Apostle: an elder with the ascension gift of an apostle.
 - a. An apostle is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the apostle is to establish and govern. The many levels and categories, into which an apostle can be classified, can be compared to the rank of General in the military. You have the Brigadier General, the Major General, the Lieutenant General, the General and the Five Star General. While all are Generals, they have different areas of responsibility and levels of authority. It's the same way with the ascension gift apostles: Timothy was an apostle and Paul was an apostle but they had different levels of authority and influence. Also it is obvious that Timothy was a subordinate to Paul.
- B. One of the main aspects and true marks of an apostle is the fact that they are always confrontational. In the Bible we see many examples of this. They always seemed to be in the middle of some doctrinal conflict, whether it was giving new revelation or answering questions in regard to old revelation. It was the apostolic ministry of confronting and correcting that always seemed to lead them in harms way. Whether it was confronting the priest at the temple in Jerusalem or battling against the followers of the false goddess Diana, it seems that they were constantly faced with conflict. Here are a few of the things that Paul went through while doing the ministry of an apostle.
1. 2 Corinthians 11:23-31 KJV "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. {24} Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. {25} Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; {26} *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; {27} In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. {28} Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the Churches. {29} Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? {30} If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. {31} The GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not."
- C. Bible precedence indicates that the authority and responsibility of an apostle is territorial according to the call of GOD. An example of this can be found in the apostleship of Peter and Paul. Both were apostles, yet the scope of their apostolic authority was over different peoples and places.
1. Peter was the apostle of the Jews.
 - a. Galatians 2:7-9 (KJV) "But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision *was unto* Peter; {8} (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) {9} And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that *we should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

2. Paul was the apostle of the Gentiles.
 - a. Romans 11:13 (KJV) "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:"

- D. As we study the ministry of the apostle, it is important to remember that there are two specific groups of apostles: Peter was part of one group and Paul was part of another group. While there are many classifications of apostles within each group, there are only two groups.
 1. If we read carefully the following scriptures we will see that they did not include Paul or any of the other New Testament apostles as being numbered among the 12 apostles to the Lamb. (1 Corinthians 15:3-9 KJV) "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; {4} And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: {5} And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: {6} After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. {7} After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. {8} And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. {9} For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of GOD." (Acts 6:2 KJV) "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of GOD, and serve tables."
 2. The two groups of apostles that are identified in the Bible are:
 - a. Apostles of the Lamb.
 - (1) Mark 3:13-19 (KJV) "And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth *unto him* whom he would: and they came unto him. 14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:16 And Simon he surnamed Peter; 17 And James the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: 18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, 19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house."
 - (2) Revelation 21:14 (KJV) "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."
 - (3) Matthew 19:28 (KJV) "And Jesus said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**"
 - b. Ascension gift apostles.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:7-13 (KJV) "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 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 fulness of Christ:"

- (2) Romans 1:1 (KJV) "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of GOD,"
- (3) Acts 14:4 (KJV) "But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles." Acts 14:14 (KJV) "*Which* when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard *of*, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,"
- (4) Romans 16:7 (KJV) "Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me."
- (5) 1 Thessalonians 1:1 (KJV) "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the Church of the Thessalonians *which is* in GOD the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from GOD our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Thessalonians 2:6 (KJV) "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet of* others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ."

E. Some of the responsibilities of an apostle are:

1. Care, guidance and administration of finances.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 11:28 (KJV) "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the Churches."
 - b. Acts 4:35-37 (KJV) "And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. {36} And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, {37} Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet."
 - c. Acts 20:30-32 (KJV) "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. {31} Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. {32} And now, brethren, I commend you to GOD, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."
 - d. 1 Corinthians 4:14-15 (KJV) "I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn *you*. {15} For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."
 - e. Acts 11:27-30 (KJV) "And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. {28} And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. {29} Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: 30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul."
2. Lay foundations.
 - a. Ephesians 2:20 (KJV) "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;"
 - b. Acts 2:42 (KJV) "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

- c. 1 Corinthians 3:10 (KJV) "According to the grace of GOD which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."
- 3. Judge disputes or wrongdoing.
 - a. Acts 6:1-4 (KJV) "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. {2} Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of GOD, and serve tables. {3} Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. {4} But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."
- 4. Oversee Churches and other ascension gift ministers.
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 3:4-6 (KJV) "And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. {5} And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of GOD, and into the patient waiting for Christ. {6} Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."
 - b. Titus 1:4-5 (KJV) "To Titus, *mine* own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from GOD the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. {5} 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:"
 - c. 1 Timothy 3:14-15 (KJV) "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: {15} But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of GOD, which is the Church of the living GOD, the pillar and ground of the truth."
 - d. 3 John 1:9-14 (KJV) "I wrote unto the Church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. {10} Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them out* of the Church. {11} Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of GOD: but he that doeth evil hath not seen GOD. {12} Demetrius hath good report of all *men*, and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true. {13} I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: {14} But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace *be* to thee. *Our* friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name."
- 5. Identification and impartation of ministries and Spiritual gifts.
 - a. 1 Tim 4:14 (KJV) "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."
 - b. 2 Tim 1:6 (KJV) "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of GOD, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."
 - c. Romans 1:11 (KJV) "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some Spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;"

6. Finally, the scriptures seem to indicate that it is the apostles who were responsible to receive and disperse new revelation.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (KJV) "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, {52} In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (KJV) "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

Lesson 4 - Prophets

- A. In this lesson we will learn about prophets.
1. The definition of a prophet is: an elder with the ascension gift of a prophet.
 - a. A prophet is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the prophet is to warn, cover and to guide.
- B. Just as in the case of the apostle, prophets can be classified into two separate groups: the Old Testament prophets and the ascension gift prophets.

The emphasis of their ministry is to prophesy (speak or proclaim) the mind of GOD as it pertains to individuals, Churches, cities, states, regions and nations. When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD and it does not come to pass, then the LORD has not spoken it. If that happens, the prophet will soon be dismissed as someone who speaks presumptuously out of their own spirit.

A prophet will never prophesy anything contrary to the word of GOD and they will never influence people to do contrary to sound doctrine or cause someone to turn away from GOD. Although the Church today seems ready to identify most people with a prophetic gift as being a prophet, the overwhelming majority of them do not meet the Biblical definition of a prophet. What we need to remember is that it takes a lot more than being able to prophesy before a person can truly be classified as a prophet.

1. Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (KJV) "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, {2} And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; {3} Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your GOD proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your GOD with all your heart and with all your soul. {4} Ye shall walk after the LORD your GOD, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. {5} And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your GOD, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy GOD commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee."
2. Deuteronomy 18:20-22 (KJV) "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. {21} And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? {22} When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."
3. Matthew 7:15-20 (KJV) "**Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. {16} Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? {17} Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. {19} Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {20} Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**"

4. Matthew 24:11 (KJV) "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."
 5. Mark 13:22-23 (KJV) "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if *it were possible*, even the elect. {23} But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things."
- C. As we study the following scriptures that identify some of the ascension gift prophets, it will be helpful if you would ask yourself, what were these prophets saying and doing?
1. Acts 11:27-28 (KJV) "And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. {28} And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar."
 2. Acts 13:1-3 (KJV) "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. {2} As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. {3} And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away."
 3. Acts 15:27-32 (KJV) "We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth. {28} For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; {29} That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. {30} So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: {31} *Which* when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation. {32} And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them."
 4. Acts 21:8-11 (KJV) "And the next *day* we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him. {9} And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.{10} And as we tarried *there* many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. {11} And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles."
 5. Ephesians 4:7-13 (KJV) "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. {8} Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. {9} (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? {10} He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) {11} And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; {12} For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: {13} 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 fulness of Christ:"
 6. Of all the utterance gifts named in 1 Corinthians chapter 12, prophetic utterance has the most potential to affect the lives of the believers. This effect can be either good or bad; therefore it is extremely important that prophetic utterances be judged. This causes

some concerns because by nature, people do not like to be judged; therefore they are reluctant to judge others. Yet the Bible doesn't give us an option when it comes to judging prophetic utterances. For that reason, I believe that prophets need to travel in groups, and that open, honest and loving relationships need to be established, so the prophets can all discern together.

Anyone, who has been in full gospel circles for long, will have to admit that they have seen some extremes on both sides of the prophetic fence. Yet we don't throw out prophecy and prophets because of extremes any more than we would throw out salvation because we know lots of Christians that live like the devil. Remember that we should covet to prophesy and let the prophets speak two or three and let the others judge. Let's pray and ask GOD to raise up a company of prophets that is needed so much in these final days. Let's also pray that GOD will give the Church a powerful ability to discern who, what, where, when and how as it applies to our modern day prophets.

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:37 (KJV) "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or Spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."
 - b. Ephesians 3:1-7 (KJV) "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, {2} If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of GOD which is given me to you-ward: {3} How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, {4} Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) {5} Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; {6} That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: {7} Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of GOD given unto me by the effectual working of his power."
- D. The definition of the Greek word that is translated into the English words, "prophet" and "prophets" is furnished below. Remember that it is used to speak of Old Testament prophets and also ascension gift prophets.
1. 4396. prophetes, prof-ay'-tace; from a comp. of G4253 and G5346; a foreteller ("prophet"); by anal. an inspired speaker; by extens. a poet:--prophet.

Lesson 5 - Evangelists

The term evangelist/evangelists is only used three times in the Bible. In order to get a better understanding of the ministry of the evangelist/evangelists, I will show the definition of the Greek word from which it was translated, followed by the three scriptures where it is used. After that I will show the definition of the Greek word from which the English word "evangelist" originated and list the scriptures where it is used.

2099. euaggelistes, yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace'; from G2097; a preacher of the gospel:--evangelist. (Acts 21:8 KJV) "And the next *day* we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him." (Ephesians 4:11 KJV) "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" (2 Timothy 4:5 KJV) "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

According to the Greek definition, an evangelist is simply a preacher of the gospel. This bears out even more when we look at the definition of the word from which it originated. 2097. euaggelizo, yoo-ang-ghel-id'-zo); from G2095 and G32; to announce good news ("evangelize") espec. the gospel: declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel).

Since this word is translated into different English words, I will highlight the word into which it is translated.

- (Used 2 times in Matthew 11:5 KJV) "**The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.**"
- (Used 3 times in Luke 1:19 KJV) "And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of GOD; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to **show** thee these **glad tidings.**"
- (Used 3 times in Luke 2:10-11 KJV) "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I **bring** you **good tidings** of great joy, which shall be to all people. {11} For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
- (Used 1 time in Luke 3:18 KJV) "And many other things in his exhortation **preached** he unto the people."
- (Used 2 times in Luke 4:18 KJV) "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**"
- (Used 1 time in Luke 4:43 KJV) "And he said unto them, I must **preach** the kingdom of GOD to other cities also: for therefore am I sent."
- (Used 2 times in Luke 7:22 KJV) "Then Jesus answering said unto them, **Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.**"
- (Used 2 times in Luke 8:1 KJV) "And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the **glad tidings** of the kingdom of GOD: and the twelve *were* with him,"
- (Used 2 times in Luke 9:6 KJV) "And they departed, and went through the towns, **preaching** the **gospel**, and healing every where."

- (Used 1 time in Luke 16:16 KJV) "**The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of GOD is preached, and every man presseth into it.**"
- (Used 2 times in Luke 20:1 KJV) "And it came to pass, *that on* one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and **preached** the **gospel**, the chief priests and the scribes came upon *him* with the elders,"
- (Used 1 time in Acts 5:42 KJV) "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and **preach** Jesus Christ."
- (Used 1 time in Acts 8:4 KJV) "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where **preaching** the word."
- (Used 1 time in Acts 8:12 KJV) "But when they believed Philip **preaching** the things concerning the kingdom of GOD, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."
- (Used 2 times in Acts 8:25 KJV) "And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and **preached** the **gospel** in many villages of the Samaritans."
- (Used 1 time in Acts 8:35 KJV) "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **preached** unto him Jesus."
- (Used 1 time in Acts 8:40 KJV) "But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he **preached** in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea."
- (Used 1 time in Acts 10:36 KJV) "The word which *GOD* sent unto the children of Israel, **preaching** peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)"
- (Used 1 time in Acts 11:20 KJV) "And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, **preaching** the Lord Jesus."
- (Used 3 times in Acts 13:32 KJV) "And we **declare unto** you **glad tidings**, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,"
- (Used 2 times in Acts 14:7 KJV) "And there they **preached** the **gospel**."
- (Used 1 time in Acts 14:15 KJV) "And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and **preach** unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living GOD, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:"
- (Used 2 times in Acts 14:21 KJV) "And when they had **preached** the **gospel** to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and *to* Iconium, and Antioch,"
- (Used 1 time in Acts 15:35 KJV) "Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and **preaching** the word of the Lord, with many others also."
- (Used 2 times in Acts 16:10 KJV) "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to **preach** the **gospel unto** them."
- (Used 1 time in Acts 17:18 KJV) "Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he **preached** unto them Jesus, and the resurrection."
- (Used 2 times in Romans 1:15 KJV) "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to **preach** the **gospel** to you that are at Rome also."
- (Used 5 times in Romans 10:15 KJV) "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that **preach** the **gospel** of peace, and **bring glad tidings** of good things!"
- (Used 2 times in Romans 15:20 KJV) "Yea, so have I strived to **preach** the **gospel**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:"

- (Used 2 times in 1 Corinthians 1:17 KJV) "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to **preach the gospel**: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."
- (Used 4 times in 1 Corinthians 9:16 KJV) "For though I **preach the gospel**, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I **preach not the gospel!**"
- (Used 2 times in 1 Corinthians 9:18 KJV) "What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I **preach the gospel**, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel."
- (Used 1 time in 1 Corinthians 15:1 KJV) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I **preached** unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;"
- (Used 1 time in 1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV) "By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I **preached** unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."
- (Used 2 times in 2 Corinthians 10:16 KJV) "To **preach the gospel** in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand."
- (Used 1 time in 2 Corinthians 11:7 KJV) "Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have **preached** to you the gospel of GOD freely?"
- (Used 3 times in Galatians 1:8 KJV) "But though we, or an angel from heaven, **preach** any other **gospel** unto you than that which we have **preached** unto you, let him be accursed."
- (Used 2 times in Galatians 1:9 KJV) "As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* **preach** any other **gospel unto** you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."
- (Used 1 time in Galatians 1:11 KJV) "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was **preached** of me is not after man."
- (Used 1 time in Galatians 1:16 KJV) "To reveal his Son in me, that I might **preach** him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:"
- (Used 1 time in Galatians 1:23 KJV) "But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now **preacheth** the faith which once he destroyed."
- (Used 2 times in Galatians 4:13 KJV) "Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I **preached the gospel** unto you at the first."
- (Used 1 time in Ephesians 2:17 KJV) "And came and **preached peace** to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."
- (Used 1 time in Ephesians 3:8 KJV) "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should **preach** among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;"
- (Used 3 times in 1 Thessalonians 3:6 KJV) "But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and **brought us good tidings** of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see you*:"
- (Used 2 times in Hebrews 4:2 KJV) "For unto us was the **gospel preached**, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*."
- (Used 1 time in Hebrews 4:6 KJV) "Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first **preached entered** not in because of unbelief:"
- (Used 2 times in 1 Peter 1:12 KJV) "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have **preached the gospel unto** you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."
- (Used 2 times in 1 Peter 1:25 KJV) "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the **gospel is preached** unto you."

- (Used 2 times in 1 Peter 4:6 KJV) "For for this cause was the **gospel preached** also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to GOD in the spirit."
- (Used 1 time in Revelation 10:7 KJV) "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of GOD should be finished, as he hath **declared** to his servants the prophets."
- (Used 1 time in Revelation 14:6 KJV) "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to **preach unto** them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"

A. In this lesson we will use the following definition of an evangelist:

1. Evangelist: an elder with the ascension gift of an evangelist.
 - a. An evangelist is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the evangelist is to stir, cover and gather.

B. The primary concern of the evangelist is preaching to the unbeliever with the end result being souls for the kingdom of GOD. Signs and wonders are also a part of their ministry. Their ministry is not to establish doctrine or to shepherd the sheep.

1. Although Paul told Timothy to do the work of an evangelist, he didn't state that Timothy was an evangelist. In fact, Philip is the only individual that the Bible specifically identifies as an evangelist.
 - a. Acts 21:8 (KJV) "And the next *day* we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him."

C. We can readily determine from the ministry of Philip that the preaching of salvation through Jesus Christ is the central theme of an evangelist. Note that signs and wonders were evident in Philip's ministry. It was these very signs and wonders that gave him an open door to preach the gospel.

1. Acts 8:4-16 (KJV) "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. {5} Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. {6} And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. {7} For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. {8} And there was great joy in that city. {9} But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: {10} To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of GOD. {11} And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. {12} But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of GOD, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. {13} Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. {14} Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of GOD, they sent unto them Peter and John:" {15} Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: {16} (For as

yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) {17} Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

- a. Note that after Philip the evangelist had preached the gospel and souls were added to the kingdom, the apostles came to confirm and establish them in the faith. This is an excellent example of the ascension gift ministries working together for the building of the body of Christ. It is also an excellent example of staying within the confines of your particular ministry.
2. Acts 8:25-38 (KJV) "And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. {26} And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. {27} And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, {28} Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. {29} Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. {30} And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? {31} And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. {32} The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: {33} In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. {34} And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? {35} Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. {36} And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? {37} And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of GOD. {38} And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."
- D. Even though the purpose of this lesson is to study the ascension gift ministry of the evangelist, it is important to stress the fact that every believer is given the responsibility of witnessing and winning souls for Christ. As stated earlier, the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. The Bible declares, "He that winneth souls is wise". The way we win souls is to share Jesus with others. While the evangelist travels from place to place preaching Jesus let us be sure that we do our part right here in our own neighborhood. The local Church should encourage and support evangelism efforts. Unless we are willing to share our faith, the job won't get done.
1. Romans 10:13-15 (KJV) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. {14} How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? {15} And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Lesson 6 - Pastors

In the Church world, there is probably as much misunderstanding about the title of pastors as there is about the title of deacons. The reason the Church continues to follow in these unscriptural footsteps is because we have developed the habit of calling the senior elder by the title of "pastor". By continuing to use this inaccurate old denominational paradigm we are reinforcing the inaccurate belief that the ministry of the pastor is the senior ministry. This was covered in lessons 1-3 of this series, so if you have questions in this regard, please go back and review these lessons.

A. In this lesson we will use the following definition of a pastor:

1. Pastors (Shepherds): an elder with the ascension gift of a pastor (Shepherd).
 - a. A pastor (shepherd) is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the pastor is to administer, cover and to guard.

B. The Greek word "**poimen**", (4166. poimen, poy-mane'; of uncert. affin.; a shepherd (lit. or fig.): shepherd, pastor.) is used 18 times in 17 different verses. This is the word that is translated to the English words: "shepherd", "shepherds" and "pastors". The following scriptures are where it is used: Matthew 9:36, Matthew 25:32, Matthew 26:31, Mark 6:34, Mark 14:27, Luke 2:8, Luke 2:15, Luke 2:18, Luke 2:20, John 10:2, John 10:11, John 10:12, John 10:14, John 10:16, Ephesians 4:11, Hebrews 13:20 and 1 Peter 2:25. In every instance it is translated into the English word "shepherd" or "shepherds", except in Ephesians 4:11 where it is translated into the English word "pastors".

In the New Testament, the only person that is specifically identified by this English word "shepherd" is Jesus. Since Jesus is referred to as a shepherd, we can look at what a shepherd does to see the responsibilities of a pastor/ shepherd.

C. For convenience, I have listed all of the above referenced scriptures below that use the word "shepherd." But first I will give the one and only scripture where the Greek word "poimen" is translated into the English word "pastors": Ephesians 4:11 (KJV) "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors** and teachers;"

1. Now let's look at the scriptures where the Greek word "poimen" is translated into the English word "shepherd":
 - a. Matthew 9:36 (KJV) "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no **shepherd**."
 - b. Matthew 25:32 (KJV) "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a **shepherd** divideth *his* sheep from the goats:"
 - c. Matthew 26:31 (KJV) "Then saith Jesus unto them, **All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.**"
 - d. Mark 6:34 (KJV) "And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a **shepherd**: and he began to teach them many things."

- e. Mark 14:27 (KJV) "And Jesus saith unto them, **All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.**"
 - f. Luke 2:8 (KJV) "And there were in the same country **shepherds** abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."
 - g. Luke 2:15 (KJV) "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the **shepherds** said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."
 - h. Luke 2:18 (KJV) "And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the **shepherds.**"
 - i. Luke 2:20 (KJV) "And the **shepherds** returned, glorifying and praising GOD for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."
 - j. John 10:2 (KJV) "**But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.**"
 - k. John 10:11-12 (KJV) "**I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. {12} But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**"
 - l. John 10:14 (KJV) "**I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.**"
 - m. John 10:16 (KJV) "**And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**"
 - n. Hebrews 13:20 (KJV) "Now the GOD of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great **shepherd** of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"
 - o. 1 Peter 2:25 (KJV) "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the **shepherd** and Bishop of your souls."
 - p. 1 Peter 5:4 (KJV) "And when the chief **shepherd** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."
- D. Since Jesus was referred to as a pastor (shepherd), we will look at shepherds through the eyes of the scriptures.
1. Shepherds cause the flock to rest.
 - a. Psalms 23:2 (KJV) "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."
 - b. Song of Songs 1:7 (KJV) "Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest *thy flock* to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?"
 - c. Jeremiah 33:12 (KJV) "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherd causing *their* flocks to lie down."
 2. Shepherds keep the sheepfolds.
 - a. A sheepfold is the place where the shepherd did two specific things. 1) They would shear the sheep taking away the dirty and matted sheep hair. 2) They were protected from other animals that would otherwise scatter and destroy them. The sheepfold is an excellent example of the local Church.

- (1) Numbers 32:16 (KJV) "And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones:"
 - (2) 1 Samuel 24:3 (KJV) "And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where *was* a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave."
 - (3) 2 Samuel 7:8 (KJV) "Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:"
 - (4) John 10:1 (KJV) "**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.**"
3. Shepherds number the flock.
 - a. Leviticus 27:32 (KJV) "And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD."
 - b. Jeremiah 33:13 (KJV) "In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him that telleth *them*, saith the LORD."
 4. Shepherds water the flock.
 - a. Genesis 29:2-10 (KJV) "And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there *were* three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone *was* upon the well's mouth. {3} And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. {4} And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence *be* ye? And they said, Of Haran *are* we. {5} And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know *him*. {6} And he said unto them, *Is* he well? And they said, *He is* well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep. {7} And he said, Lo, *it is* yet high day, neither *is it* time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go *and* feed *them*. {8} And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and *till* they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep. {9} And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. {10} And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother."
 5. Shepherds keep the sheep apart from the goats.
 - a. Matthew 25:32 (KJV) "**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:**"
 6. Shepherds know their flock by name.
 - a. John 10:3-5 (KJV) "**To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. {4} And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. {5} And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.**"

7. Shepherds protect their flock from danger.
 - a. 1 Samuel 17:34-35 (KJV) "And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him."

Lesson 7 - Teachers

- A. In this lesson we will use the following definition of a teacher:
1. Teacher: an elder with the ascension gift of a teacher.
 - a. A teacher is one of the five ministry gifts that Jesus gave unto the Church when He ascended on high. The major thrust of the teacher is to instruct, cover and ground.
- B. There are many levels within the teaching ministry and each of these levels requires different skills and abilities. The fact of these different skills and abilities can be clearly understood by comparing various teaching positions. For instance, if we compare the requirements for a Sunday school teacher with that of a Bible College teacher, we see that more skill and ability would be required for the Bible College teacher. It is obvious that these skills and abilities can be acquired through formal education and training.

However the ministry of the ascension gift teacher is an ascension gift and that makes it a divine enablement from the risen Christ: it is not acquired through education and training. Therefore an ascension gift teacher could be unlearned according to the standards of society because when they teach, they do so by revelation that comes from the Spirit and not by revelation that comes from formal training.

This is not to say that an ascension gift teacher shouldn't try to get formal training. It is obvious that formal education and training are always beneficial in one way or the other, but formal education and training can never take the place of the gift of GOD. And the divine enablement to teach by revelation is the gift of GOD. The following scriptures verify that point very clearly.

1. Acts 4:13 (KJV) "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."
2. Romans 11:25 (KJV) "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."
3. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (KJV) "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: {27} But GOD hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and GOD hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; {28} And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath GOD chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: {29} That no flesh should glory in his presence. {30} But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of GOD is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: {31} That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."
4. Galatians 1:12 (KJV) "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."
5. Galatians 2:1-2 (KJV) "Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. {2}. And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain."
6. Ephesians 3:3-5 (KJV) "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, {4} Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my

- knowledge in the mystery of Christ) {5} Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;"
7. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (KJV) "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."
- C. Although an individual could be classified as an ascension gift teacher without being classified as one of the other ascension gift ministries, it seems that the ascension gift teacher was in most cases, coupled with one of the other ascension gifts.
1. Acts 13:1 (KJV) "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."
 2. 1 Timothy 2:7 (KJV) "Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity."
 3. 2 Timothy 1:11 (KJV) "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."
- D. Just as with the other ascension gift ministries, there are false teachers. One rule of thumb you can use in helping distinguish the true from the false is, an ascension gift teacher will teach by revelation the un-compromised Word of GOD and will never teach anything contradictory to the teachings of the apostles and prophets.
1. 1 Timothy 3:14-16 (KJV) "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: {15} But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of GOD, which is the Church of the living GOD, the pillar and ground of the truth. {16} And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: GOD was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."
 2. 1 Timothy 4:6-9 (KJV) "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. {7} But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness. {8} For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. {9} This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance."
 3. 2 Timothy 2:1-5 (KJV) "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. {2} And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. {3} Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. {4} No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. {5} And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."
 4. 2 Timothy 2:14-18 (KJV) "Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers. {15} Study to show thyself approved unto GOD, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. {16} But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. {17} And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; {18} Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

5. 2 Timothy 3:1-7 (KJV) "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. {2} For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {4} Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of GOD; {5} Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. {6} For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, {7} Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."
6. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 (KJV) "I charge *thee* therefore before GOD, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; {2} Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. {3} For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; {4} And they shall turn away *their ears* from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."
7. 2 Peter 2:1-2 (KJV) "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. {2} And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."