

EQUIPPING/PERFECTING

The New Testament is clear that each believer has an integral part to play in bringing in the kingdom of God. Each has a purpose (Ephesians 2:10), each is gifted (1 Corinthians 12:18), each has an assigned time and place in which to fulfill the purpose (Acts 17:26), and all have been called to “GO” (Matthew 28:18-20). They also have been given the fivefold ministry as a gift to help achieve their purpose.

Ephesians 4:11-12

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

The key word in these verses is equipping (perfecting in KJV). The Greek translation for this word (katartismos) means equipping or complete furnishing. However, the Greek word from which this word was derived (katartizo) means to fit, frame, mend, make perfect (join together), prepare, restore.

When you put all this together, it appears the word for equipping (perfecting) involves two things: equipping or training, but also healing or restoring. This says, therefore, that the job of the fivefold ministry is not just to train people, but to make sure they are also restored (healed).

This makes complete sense. A Christian absolutely needs training and guidance to do God’s work. But even if they are trained, many wouldn’t be able to function freely due to their hurts, fears, or hindrances of the past. Therefore, it is incumbent on the church to make sure everyone is both trained and healed.

This is why we are all called to disciple (Matthew 28:19) and heal and deliver (Mark 16:17-18). We are to replicate ourselves, reproducing in others what we ourselves have received.

Matthew 10:8

“Heal {the} sick, raise {the} dead, cleanse {the} lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give.”

2 Corinthians 1:4

“who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

By doing this, we ensure that those who follow us are properly equipped to carry on the work of the kingdom (produce healthy trees who in turn are able to reproduce themselves).