

FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

The fivefold ministry is a term used to include the Ephesians 4 ministries of the apostle, prophet, teacher, evangelist, and pastor. These are gifts to the body of Christ, which the church must receive (Luke 10:16) to fulfill both individual and corporate destinies.

Ephesians 4:11-13

*“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;
until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”*

The Greek word here for equipping (perfecting in KJV) comes from two other Greek words: one that means to train/equip, and another that means to heal/restore. This, therefore, describes the job of all fivefold ministers who are, in reality, servants to the church. They are the ones that are to under gird the church, healing and discipling them for kingdom work – not to lord over them.

Mark 10:42-43

*“And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.
But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;”*

David, having the heart of God in this matter, clearly understood that God raises up, not only for the sake of the one being promoted:

2 Samuel 5:12

“And David realized that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.”

Peter also gives further guidance to the fivefold, as well as all elders:

1 Peter 5:1-3

*“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as {your} fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to {the will of} God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”*