

God Gave Pastors Pt. 1

May 26, 2019

Ephesians 4:8-12 ESV

8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?

10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

- Verse 11 is neither an org chart, corporate hierarchy, resume nor job description.
- These titles are functional roles that are relational and interdependent.

1 Peter 5:5 ESV

5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

- There is a difference between members of the Body of Christ who operate in a gift by the Holy Spirit and those who hold an office (not all who prophesy are prophets).
- Those who hold an office have an authority in the Church that those who operate in a gift don't have.

Acts 21:8-10 ESV

8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

- The description and function of verse 11 is all but lost in Christendom today. Biblically it still exists and is mandated by Scripture. Experientially, it is lost.
- Some reasons why the function of the five-fold ministry gifts are lost today:

- The corruption of pride and selfish ambition in church leadership.

"Americans trust in faith leaders and pastors fell to a record low of 37%, ranking below multiple medical professions, teachers, and police and just above journalists." —Gallup 2018

- The doctrine of "cessationism."

- "Cessationism: The belief that tongues, and other special gifts enjoyed by believers in the early Christian movement faded early in the history of the church, and are thus not present today. The time of cessation is variously defined as the date of the completion of the last book of the Christian Scriptures or the death of the last Apostle. Antonym: Continuationism." —*religioustolerance.org*

The American Church is missing today:

- **The supernatural church-planting and overseeing authority of the Apostle.**
- **The bold declaration and discernment of God's Word by the Prophet.**
- **The power of the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin and salvation delivered in simplicity from the Evangelist.**
- **The compassionate and nurturing care of the Pastor.**

SHEPHERDS (poimēn) *pastor, herdsman, he to whose care others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow, overseer of Christian assemblies*

Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- *Jesus is the perfect pastor, the model pastor.*
- *The heart of the pastor is to provide for God's people every good thing to do God's will.*
- *The true pastor has his focus and aim on the eternal good, not the temporal ease; not what will make people happy today, but what will cause people to be received by Father on the day of judgment.*

The Compassion of the Pastor

Isaiah 40:11 ESV

11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 42:1-4 ESV

1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Matthew 9:36 KJV

36 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.

- *Matthew 9:36 ESV*
36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- *Matthew 9:36 NASB*
36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 15:32 ESV

32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd [4,000 men] because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

Luke 7:12-15 ESV

12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Hebrews 2:17-18 ESV

17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 23:1-12 ESV

1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,

2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,

3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,

6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues

7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.

8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.

9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.

11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Ezekiel 34:2-6 ESV

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?

3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.

4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.

5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts.
6 My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

Acts 20:17-21 ESV

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

18 And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- "...teaching you in public and from house to house..." is more than a location, it is a lifestyle.
- Paul didn't come to use them and take from them; he became one of them.

Acts 18:1-4 ESV

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,

3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 18:11 ESV

11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

1 Corinthians 4:14-15 ESV

14 I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 ESV

7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

"My 'work' assignment was to pay more attention to what God does than what I do, and then to find, and guide others to find, the daily, weekly, yearly rhythms, that would get this awareness into our bones. Staying in touch with people in despair, knowing them by name, and waiting for resurrection."

—Eugene H. Peterson, *The Pastor*, p 45.