

These gifts are bestowed on the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher as the Lord decides. Those endowed

perfecting--  
<G2677>katartismos—from  
<G2675> (katartizo); complete  
furnishing (object) :- perfecting.

<G2677>katartizo—to complete  
thoroughly, i.e. repair (literal or  
figurative) or adjust :- fit, frame,  
mend, (make) perfect (-ly join  
together), prepare, restore.—  
Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dic-  
tionary

with the “Five-Fold” functions are recognized by and for their gift just as in all Believers, it is the gift that makes room for anyone. They NEVER force their gift or assignment on Believers or non-believers. Force is a method used by the adversary not by the Lord. There are times when members of the “Five-Fold” must exercise authority but never from an authoritarian manner or heart.

It has been said each of the “Five-Fold” functions is distinct but not exclusive in areas:

- Apostle—Governs
- Prophet—Guides
- Evangelist—Gathers
- Pastor—Guards
- Teacher—Grows

Notes:

[a]

There is some degree of overlap in these functions. Remember “The Body” is not a worldly organization.

All the “Five-Fold” does is govern by the Holy Spirit via the law of grace and the law

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup>Love never fails. 1 Cor. 13:4-8a

of love. It would seem the “Five-Fold” is being restored in the reverse order in which it was removed by Believers. The Holy Spirit is restoring what the Lord designed. The time is near for the return of the Lord to collect his bride to complete her perfection.

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## “The Five-Fold Functions” (Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 4:11-17



The Apostle Paul said he was a prisoner of Christ. The members of the Five-Fold Functions are exactly that—prisoners of Christ. They are, and would be, miserable doing anything other than the function to which they have been called, have responded, and have been anointed!

### 1. Apostle

First, apostle, what does the word mean in the original Greek?

<G652>apostolos—from  
<G649> (apostello); a **delegate**;  
specially an ambassador of the  
Gospel; officially a **com-  
missioner of Christ** [“apostle”]  
(with miraculous powers) :-  
apostle, messenger, he that is  
sent.  
<G649> apostello from  
<G575> (apo) and <G4724>  
(stello); set apart, i.e. (by impli-  
cation) to send out (properly on  
a mission) literal or figurative :-  
put in, send (away, forth, out),  
set [at liberty].—Strong's Greek  
& Hebrew Dictionary

Today, many have chosen to focus the word *messenger* or *he that is sent* as the meaning.

Notes:

[1]

This interpretation of the word apostle has suggested the idea of a person delivering a telegram. If the apostle were to exclusively be an *ambassador of the Gospel* then that would be the designation of all believers. This idea, however, leaves out what Paul said about those of the “Five-Fold:” “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” This statement from v:12 would definitely indicate function beyond the priestly and kingly function of all believers.

While the basic function of all Believers is shared by the “Five-Fold,” they obviously have a purpose within the Body of Christ additional to others. The purpose is to the perfecting of Believers for ministry work (not to bar them from ministry) and to edify Believers. When the church did away with all functions except pastors, elders, deacons, and etc., it de-

8-44

## Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-17 (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

<sup>11</sup>It was he who gave some to be apostles,\* some to be prophets,\* some to be evangelists,\* and some to be pastors\* and teachers.<sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

<sup>17</sup>So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

\*emphasis added

### Notes:

[a]  
Mat.  
15:14 &  
Luke  
6:39

prived “The Body” of what Jesus Christ, himself, had appointed. The doing of this perverted “The Body” and denied the growth mechanism intended. This caused something akin to *the blind leading the blind*<sup>[a]</sup> and the church fell into a ditch, a rut. The “rut,” once created, held “The Body” in a confined condition to a man-appointed and politically-governed hierarchy. There were only a few ministry gifts honored. Those with the “Five-Fold” gifts were ostracized due to being seen as a threat to the new pastoral role, and that of the elders, deacons, etc..

It is easy to see once this situation has been exposed regarding the apostle it can readily be applied to the whole “Five-Fold.” Now on the other functions.

### 2. Prophet

Paul said he desired all should prophesy so why would there

<G4396>prophetes—from a compound of <G4253> (pro) and <G5346> (phemi); a foreteller (“prophet”); by analogy an inspired speaker; by extension a poet :- prophet.—Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

be prophets? The answer would be for the perfecting and edification of prophecies

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and revelation guidance.

### 3. Evangelist

A “Five-Fold” evangelist focuses on preaching the gospel

<G4253>euangelistes—from <G2097> (euaggelizo); a preacher of the gospel :- evangelist.  
<G2097>euaggelizo—to announce good news (“evangelize”) especially the gospel :- declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel).—Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

and inspiring others to evangelize, by carrying out the great commission. The evangelist is meant to focus on those in the world not those in “The Body.” Please take note that man's system had the pastor doing this function until 100 years or so ago. Then in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the evangelist was again accepted in much of the North American Body of Believers.

### 4. Pastor

The pastor, however, was not relieved of being expected to

<G4166>poimen—of uncertain affinity; a shepherd (literal or figurative) :- shepherd, pastor.—Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

also build the congregation by evangelizing.

The pastor is to guard the Be-

### Notes:

[a]

lievers, especially new Believers, as they grow in the understanding of their new faith. This type of care is needed by all Believers, certainly in the first three or four years. The pastor is, however, not the sole member of the “Five-Fold” who relates to Believers, but is closest on a day-to-day basis to those in a congregation. This is one of several reasons all Believers need to be part of a congregation. Fellowships are assigned by Christ, not the Believers themselves!

### 5. Teacher

The teacher is the function that teaches the intricacies of

<G1320>didaskalos—from <G1321> (didasko); an instructor (genitive or special) :- doctor, master, teacher.

<G1321>didasko—a prolonged (causative) form of a primary verb dao (to learn); to teach (in the same broad application) :- teach.—Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

the faith and the implementation of the faith in practical application.

### Perfecting Of Saints

All these functions of the “Five-Fold” are gifts from the Lord and the “Five-Fold” is in itself a gift to “The Body.”