



ROL Gifts Class

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Chapter 2

The Leadership Gifts of Ephesians 4

Notes:

We are going to begin with the gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4 because these gifts address the support structure of the Church.

Without these five key leadership gifts, the Church will not function as the healthy body it should be.

These gifts are foundational in that these leadership gifts help establish the Church and equip all the other giftings that we will mention in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12-14.

It is important that we carefully look at the context of all three of the main passages that mention the gifts God has to give to His Church for the following information:

Purpose - Why does God give these gifts?

Nature - How do they function?

Impact - When this gift functions properly or improperly, how is the Church affected?

Guidelines - Limitations; Instructions on accountability; How should the gifts operate?

I believe the context will tell us everything we need to know about these gifts. The larger context of the New Testament (especially historical narratives like the Gospels and Acts) will also illustrate how the gifts operated in the days of Jesus and the apostles. We will endeavor to look to the Scripture first and then use personal anecdotes and modern day examples secondly to illustrate how the gifts should and should not operate.

Notes:

The Five Foundational Leadership Gifts: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher

Ephesians 4:2-16 (NIV 1984)

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

⁴There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." ⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until 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. ¹⁴Then 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. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From 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.

Discuss:

1. How does Ephesians 4 define spiritual maturity?
2. Can you mature if you are independent and separated from the church?

Let's look at the principles the apostle Paul lays down for us in Ephesians 4

Verses 2-3: God intended for Christians to live in community. The idea of a personal faith separated from the life of the entire body of Christ was an unthinkable concept for the apostles and early disciples.

- That means we need to walk in humility, learning to bear with one another in love. To bear with one another means to give deference and consideration to the other person. Is that a priority for most Christians? Yet, that is the key to unity.

Notes:

We don't have to achieve the unity of the Spirit. It already exists. But, we are called to maintain it! The question is how do we do that?

Read John 17 and see how Jesus prayed that we would be one as He and the Father are one. That is our benchmark! How can WE be the answer to Jesus' prayer?

Discuss:

That doesn't mean we bolt if we think leaders are not in sync with God. There are ways to honor authority and deal Biblically with conflict.

- One thing that will cause the gifts to go awry is when a person sees the gifts in terms of their personal gift. The rugged individualism of American culture betrays us here. The gifts belong to God and He gives them to the Body of Christ.
- We constantly need to be aware of how we impact those in the Church around us. Later, we will see how insensitivity, not "bearing with one another" was the downfall of the Corinthian Church.

Verses 4-6: Paul makes it clear that we are One Body in Christ. This unity of God in the Church is indivisible.

- We don't need to achieve unity. Unity already exists! The Holy Spirit is one. When we are at odds with others in the Church, we are in effect seeking to divide the Holy Spirit who lives in all believers.
- This is why unity is so important!

Verse 7: God has apportioned grace to each believer.

- Grace is more than "God's unmerited favor at Christ's expense." It is a divine enabling of God to do His will in us and through us.
- The word for grace in Greek, "charis" is the root word for "charisma", which is the word translated "gift" in many places in Scripture, most notably in 1 Corinthians 12-14.
- Each believer that is part of the Body of Christ has a portion of grace at work in them to help the Body grow. It is the same as each cell in our human body having life. Yet, our cells need to work together in specific purposes such as organs, bones and other parts of the body. Individual cells don't last very long when they are extracted from the organ or system of which they are a part. In the same way, believers don't thrive when they are not properly connected to the Body of Christ.

Verses 8-10: Jesus is the Head of the Body.

- Here we see the exalted position of Christ on earth and in the Heavens. It is He who is the authority over the entire Body.
- All authority and power flow from Him to the rest of the Body.
- He is the one who is the source of the life-giving gifts that cause the Body of Christ to thrive.
- Jesus' authority is unlimited and unconditional.

Notes:

- The authority given to the five leadership gifts or offices is conditional and limited, based on their submission to the authority of Christ.

Verses 11-12: God gave leaders to mature the Body of Christ.

- Why is the Church often immature? We don't recognize, honor and commission gifts in the Church.
- The Church will never mature if we don't allow God to properly develop and deploy His gifts in our midst.
- Much of our culture has focused on clergy-laity distinction where clergy have gifts and very few others have any purpose in the church!
- This is so far from the design of God for the Church!
- God never ordained the Church to produce consumers and passive attendees.
- The only option the Word gives us is that He wants disciples who fully understand their identity and purpose. Knowing your giftings is a major part of understanding our identity and purpose.
- Each person comes to the Church with something to give and the need to receive from others.
- So notice exactly why these leadership gifts are given:
 - * To do the work of ministry? NO!
 - * To prepare God's people for works of service so the Body of Christ will be built up!

Discuss:

1. The question for those who don't believe the gifts are for today then becomes, "When did the Church mature so that we no longer need the gifts?"
2. Another question would be, "Are there consequences for allowing some gifts and not others?"

Discuss:

1. How does that differ from the clergy-laity model that has dominated Western Church thinking for years?
2. How do these gifts prepare people? What are the works of service that He mentions?

Verses 13-16: Describe how these leadership gifts impact the Church and what is the result when they function properly.

Are all gifts created equal?

No. Each of three gift lists are unique.

- Context will show they are unique in nature and application.
- This is where many "gift tests" fail.

The five-fold ministry gifts of Ephesians 4 are Leadership Giftings

Ephesians 4:11 *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,*

Notes:

Nature

- “He gave **some**” - not all Christians will fit into one of these gifts.
- These are leadership gifts, or offices, that are given as gifts to the Church.
- Generally, people who have these callings tend to serve for life, sometimes vocationally as a major part of their life calling.
- Some people tend to see a hierarchy of spiritual authority here - apostles rule over prophets, prophets out-rank evangelists, etc. That is not supportable.
- The perversion of these equipping or leadership gifts is to rule over in an authoritarian way.
- Jesus said he who wants to be a leader must be a servant of all.
- Mark 9:35 *Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”*
- If anything, there is a wonderful inter-working of these gifts relating to the maturity of the local body.
- Often there is an overlapping of responsibilities between these gifts - and many New Testament leaders functioned in more than one capacity.

Are these gifts still for the Church today?

- Why do we stress three in evangelical circles - pastor, evangelist and teacher - and not apostles and prophets?
- This has to be one of the greatest examples of twisting Scripture and violating the rule of context in the contemporary Church.
- We won’t need these gifts once we reach the unity of faith and maturity of which Paul speaks in Ephesians 4.
- Apostleship and prophetic ministry are being restored in these days to equip the Church for the final harvest and return of Christ!

Purpose

- To prepare God’s people for works of service, so the Body of Christ may be built up and each part understanding their connectedness and function in The Church

Notes:

- These leadership offices are given to equip all believers to serve. Each person has a clear identity and function in the Body of Christ.
- The goal is that the Church matures, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
- How will we know when this has happened?
 - * We won't act like spiritual infants
 - * We won't be blown here and there by every passing doctrine
 - * The fruit of love will be evident in the Church
 - * Each part will be doing what it is supposed to do!
 - * Paul goes on in Ephesians 4-6 to talk about the **Ways of God** and how we should walk with one another.

The Five Gifts (Offices)

Apostle - (Apostoloi) Literally means a messenger or ambassador of God's Kingdom

- **Apostles are master builders who bring the gospel message to those who have not heard**
- **They are foundation layers in the church - building and setting up the rest of the leadership**
 - Ephesians 2:20 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone;*
- **They are endued with special authority to do their task. Miracles and Healing are a mark of apostleship**
 - 2 Corinthians 12:12 *the things that mark an apostle - signs, wonders and miracles - were done among you with great perseverance.*
- **Were there more than twelve apostles?**
 - The twelve seem to have a special place.
 - Revelation 21:14 *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*
- **But many others besides the twelve are referred to as apostles**
 - Romans 16:7 *Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.*

Notes:

- ▶ In some cases the word “apostoloi” is applied to others, but the interpreter’s bias has kept them from using the direct translation “apostle”.
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 8:23 *As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are **representatives (apostoloi)** of the churches and an honor to Christ.*
- ▶ Philippians 2:25 *But I think it is necessary to send back to you, Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your **messenger (apostoloi)**, whom you sent to take care of my needs.*
- **Apostles were the supreme servants of the Church, revered by many, despised by some local leaders, but certainly not hierarchical leaders who ruled over all!**
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 4:9 *For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles at last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.*
- **Beware the abuse of authority and abuse of apostolic authority!**
 - ▶ Those who make much of titles and honor of men are not apostles!
 - ▶ Those who see apostles as leaders who rule over pastors misunderstand the co-labor that occurs between pastors and apostles. These are gifts that need mutual honor.
 - ▶ Jesus taught that to be the greatest you had to be servant of all - This is more true with apostles than any other type of leadership.
 - ▶ Most apostles paid their very lives to take the faith to new borders.
 - ▶ Listen to the words of Paul: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
¹As God’s fellow-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ²For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no stumbling-block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷in truthful speech and in the power

Notes:

of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ¹¹We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. ¹²We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³As a fair exchange - I speak as to my children - open wide your hearts also.

- ▶ Read Paul's instruction in 2 Corinthians 11-12, where he addresses false apostles. One of the keys to spotting a false apostle is boasting and a lack of humility!
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:12-15 *¹²And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

• There is a principle of delegation and receiving of apostles

- ▶ Paul was an apostle to some of the churches but not to others. Paul considered his apostleship especially to the Gentiles.
- ▶ A person may be an apostle to one church, but a pastor to another. In a third church where he is unknown, he may merely be a guest. Apostleship is received by the local body when relationship has been established.
- ▶ The church in Antioch had an apostolic component to their mission. In Acts 13, we see a group of leaders with various gifts commission Paul and Barnabas to the calling God had given them.

Notes:

- ▶ Acts 13:1-4 *¹In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.*
 - ▶ Apostles were accountable to those who sent them. In one case Peter returns and defends his ministry to the Council at Jerusalem. In another case Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch to give account of their journey.
 - ▶ Acts 14:26-28 *²⁶From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. ²⁷On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.*
 - ▶ Apostles don't work as absolute authorities. There is always relational-based mutual accountability among the leaders of the New Testament.
 - ▶ In many cases groups of leaders make decisions as did James and the Council of Elders at Jerusalem.
 - ▶ Acts 15:28 *It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:*
- **When the gospel came to a new area, the apostles often followed to help lay the foundation of the new church**
 - ▶ Acts 8:14-17 *¹⁴When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Notes:

- In this case Philip the Evangelist brings the gospel but calls the apostles for help after people respond.
- There is also evidence that the apostles saw the laying on of hands to impart the baptism of the Holy Spirit as one of their primary works.
- **What happens to a church that does not recognize or allow the ministry of apostle?**
 - Pastors have no trans-local authority to cover them in their vision and decision-making.
 - Apostles are safe, mature leaders who can come alongside local leadership and help them keep the Church healthy.
 - Apostles bring theological heft to decisions being made and questions being answered. That is clear in Paul's letter to the Corinthians.
 - Apostles keep healthy communication between leaders in certain locales and between various ministries. They are a key to bringing and maintaining unity among the local churches. This is a missing element in contemporary America.
 - Apostles are also key in mentoring and raising up young leaders. A good Biblical example is the relationship between Paul and Timothy and Titus, both young pastors and apostles-in-training.

Prophet - A person speaking by God's inspiration truths revealed by God for the edification and guidance of the hearers

- **Some people are actually called to the office of prophet. Others can be used to share a word of prophecy occasionally. Acts 21 seems to make that distinction.**
 - Acts 21:7-12 *⁷We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day. ⁸Leaving the next day, we reached Cesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. ⁹He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied. ¹⁰After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'" ¹²When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.*

Notes:

Read 1 Corinthians 14

- Acts 11:27 *During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.*

- **Prophecy has two elements**

- To foretell
- To speak forth

- **One of the distinctions that we need to learn to understand the New Testament gift of prophecy is to see how it differs from the Old Testament use of the gift.**

- Prophets in the Old Testament were a select group that were held to a very high standard.
- In the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 14, the indication is that everyone should seek to prophesy.
- The New Testament gift comes with new instructions as well. The prophecies should be weighed by the Church. Since the gift is now widespread because so many are filled with the Holy Spirit, there is a check on the gift to prevent false prophecy and damage to the Church from those who would deliver a word that was “off” or downright false.
- Those operating in the office of prophet seem to have a call similar to prophets in the Old Testament. Agabus, mentioned above, was one of those.

- **The purpose of the gift:**

- 1 Corinthians 14:3-4 *³But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. ⁴He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*
- Those who think prophecy is only to correct or to warn miss the point.
- According to 1 Corinthians 14, prophecy reveals the hearts of people in a gathering. That is the “seer” component of the gift.
- In the case of Agabus, Paul and others in the New Testament, God clearly reveals the future through prophecy.

Notes:

• General guidelines for the office of prophet

- ▶ Anyone that is recognized in the office of prophet should fulfill the same guidelines for maturity and character as an elder (KJV - Bishop) in 1 Timothy 3.
- ▶ Many of the apostles and early church leaders also functioned in this office of prophet including John, Peter and Jude (the half-brother of Jesus).
- ▶ It is apparent that some of those who served in the office of prophet, like Agabus, were known beyond one local church. Their ministry was “trans-local” in scope.

• We will talk more about how prophecy should work in a public gathering when we cover the gift in 1 Corinthians 12, but the following are some basic fundamentals for those who operate in the gift of prophecy:

- ▶ Prophets should expect that what they speak is to be weighed by the Church. This implies that the person presiding over the assembly of God’s people gathered for worship has a responsibility to hold persons prophesying accountable.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 14:29-33 ²⁹*Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.* ³⁰*And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.* ³¹*For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.* ³²*The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.* ³³*For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.*

Discuss:

1. How should a prophetic word be weighed? By what means and what standard should be applied?
2. What can happen when prophecies are not weighed or judged? Have you ever been in a gathering where a prophecy did not sit right with you?

• Some of the errors that prophets were committing according to 1 Corinthians 13 & 14:

- ▶ They were speaking for long periods and preventing others from having their say. In other words, they were dominating the worship gathering.
- ▶ If any person prophesying balks at having their word weighed, considers their revelation above being weighed, or contends for perfect revelation, he should be ignored and not allowed to prophesy.

* 1 Corinthians 14:37-38 ³⁷*If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord’s command.* ³⁸*If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.*

Notes:

- ▶ Paul limits the number of prophets speaking during a worship gathering to two or three. His goal seems to be to avoid confusion. Apparently, many in Corinth wanted to speak and those with prophetic gifts were arguing for time.
- ▶ Prophets or people sharing a prophetic word are not to despise those who are in authority who are called to oversee the gathering of the saints. The prophet must walk in submission and accountability to eldership and pastoral leadership.
- ▶ One common error in prophecy today is for a prophet to raise himself/herself above the church or church leadership. This is dangerous and counter-productive. This has led to enclaves of people with prophetic gifts, or churches that cater to prophets. When people with one gift gravitate to one another and despise the other gifts this is dangerous and often leads to imbalance.
- ▶ Beware the prophet who is anti-church, because the church is the beloved Bride of Christ. God may deliver a hard word of correction or reveal sin, but the prophet must include himself/herself as a recipient of the prophecy. That means they have a broken heart over the sin of the people and identify with the people rather than having a critical heart hoping for people to be judged like Jonah had toward the people of Nineveh.

• 1 Corinthians 13 says two key things that those who prophesy need to remember

- ▶ We can have great prophetic insight, but if we lack love our gift can be meaningless or without value to the Church.
 - * 1 Corinthians 13:2 *If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*
- ▶ A person can hear a clear word for the church but deliver that word in a wrong spirit. For instance, a word calling people to repent from sin can be diminished if the person prophesying has a religious or critical spirit toward those to whom he is prophesying. Notice true prophets in the Old Testament often were made aware of their own sin before they were commissioned by God. Prophets who took on a wrong spirit were corrected by God as was the case with Jonah.

Notes:

Discuss:

When a person balks at having their prophecy “weighed”, what should leadership do?

- ▶ Often a person with an immature prophetic gift will begin to see things revealed in the spirit, but their lack of character will diminish the weight of what they share. In this way those with prophetic gifts need to be nurtured, held accountable, and encouraged to develop in all the dimensions of love and godly character.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 13:9-10 *⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.* Prophecy in the New Testament is imperfect. That is why the KJV says we see through a glass darkly. Beware the prophet that claims infallibility!
- **When prophecy works properly and God is honored in this gift:**
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 14:24-26 *²⁴But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, ²⁵and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!” ²⁶What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*
 - ▶ When the gift of prophecy is stewarded well in a fellowship, the results can be powerful. This same effect is evident when a pastor or evangelist is a prophetic-preacher. (In fact, much preaching can indeed be prophecy). The hearts of the people are laid bare.

Evangelist - Literally, a proclaimer of Good News!

- **This office is hard to understand because of the cultural connotations we deal with.**
- **Often evangelists were endowed with gifts of healings and miracles.**
- **Acts 21:8** *Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven.*
- **Evangelists can operate with crowds or one-on-one.**

Notes:

- They are people gifted in bridging the gap between saved and seekers.
- People whose passion is to bring in the harvest - but they are usually not pastoral.
 - Acts 8:5-6 *⁵Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. ⁶When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.*
 - Acts 8:12-13 *¹²But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.*
 - Acts 8:
 - ²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road - the desert road - that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."*
 - ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."*
 - ³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.*
 - ³¹"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.*
 - ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.*
 - ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.*

Pastor - Literally means shepherd

- These are the people who are responsible for the leadership of a local assembly (ekklisia).
- Pastors and elders are often used interchangeably (esp. in Timothy and Titus).

Notes:

- **I Timothy 5:17** *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.*
 - Here, Paul refers to a “teaching elder.” This office is what we commonly refer to as pastor. Some elders were shepherds, caring for God’s people, but not publicly teaching.
- **The word translated “pastor” is used only once in KJV and NIV in Ephesians 4, BUT . . . it occurs 16 times translated as “shepherd”.**
- **The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were (according to Thayer GK):**
 1. to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep
 2. to defend the sheep from attackers
 3. to heal the wounded and sick sheep
 4. to find and save lost or trapped sheep
 5. to love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust

Teacher - A person who is able to communicate clearly the truths of God’s Word to His people

- **There were many teachers, some who were local and some like Apollos who seemed to travel.**
- **James 3:1** *Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.*
- **Many people who call themselves evangelists today are actually traveling teachers.**
- **Some pastors are teachers, but not all teachers are pastors. A person can teach and not have a pastoral gift.**
- **Teachers are marked by the following:**
 1. Make complex truth understandable
 2. Reveal God’s heart, character and ways to people
 3. Keep the truth of God before God’s people
 4. Love the study of God’s Word and knowledge and pass that on to others.
 5. Many are “storytellers” who can illustrate the truth of God in ways that connect with people’s hearts and culture

Discuss:

1. How do you see the five leadership gifts working together?
2. Why is it important to have local and trans-local gifts working together?
3. In your assessment, what needs to happen in the church in our epoch to restore these gifts properly?