

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Five-Fold Ministry

Lesson One

READ: Ephesians 4:11-16

THINK: What would happen to an automobile if we removed the battery? Not a whole lot! A car without a battery isn't going anywhere! What about spark plugs? Will the car run without spark plugs? Or without a fuel pump? Of course not. A car is a wonderful machine, made up of many parts. And it needs those parts if it is to run properly. You might still get a car to run if you take away a part or two, but it won't perform nearly as well as it would if all the parts were present.

The church is also like a machine made up of many parts. One of these parts, a key part, is the ministry. The ministry itself is like a machine, made up of five parts: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. The ministry might still function with one or two parts missing, but it would be severely crippled at best. This, in turn, would cripple the church.

Most Apostolic churches have some understanding of these five "parts" of the ministry (the "Five-Fold ministry"), but at the same time, most Apostolic churches cripple the ministry by substituting their own traditions for its proper functioning.

Many other Apostolic churches reduce the size of the ministry by limiting access to it. If women are permitted access at all, it is only a very limited access. God-called women are routinely denied permission to answer their call. This, in effect, removes at least one half of the "parts" the ministry needs to function properly.

The ministry is further crippled when the church hierarchy decides which ministry a person will perform, rather than allowing the person to heed the direction of the Holy Ghost. In some Apostolic churches, it is "understood" that a man who is called to the ministry will, upon completion of Bible school, become an Evangelist for a few years. He will then either become a Pastor, or will stagnate in the ministry, sitting idly on the platform in another Pastor's church. Some large Apostolic churches have four or five called men of God, other than the Pastor, taking up space on the platform for years, going nowhere and doing nothing. A select few are

permitted to become Apostles (more on what that means in a later lesson), but it is not at all uncommon for called Apostles to be refused permission to answer their call. No one is permitted to enter the ministry of Prophet or Teacher. (The ministry of Teacher is not the same as a Sunday School teacher. Most Bible school teachers, who may be called to the ministry of Teacher, are forced to enter other ministries, usually Pastor.)

By so limiting and restricting the ministry, they have effectively crippled it and made it almost useless. As a result, men who are called to Evangelize, Pastor. Men who are called to Pastor, Evangelize, etc. Women called to any ministry either teach Sunday School, or do nothing. Very few women have successfully broken free of these restrictions in some Apostolic churches.

It goes without saying that such an approach to the ministry is not biblical. In this church, no man or woman will ever be told what ministry they will perform, nor will any called woman ever be told she cannot answer her call. We believe the Spirit of God will reveal a man or woman's ministry to him/her. In fact, unless a man or woman has a specific call into one or more of the five ministries, they should not be ordained. We believe that every minister should know exactly what it is that God has called him/her to do. Only when every minister knows his/her call, and every minister is free to answer that call, can the "machine" of the ministry run properly and effectively.

It should be understood that Ephesians chapter four makes it clear that the purpose of the five-fold ministry is to equip the *saints* to do the work of ministry! Traditionally, ministry has been left in the hands of licensed clergy, while most of the saints were left to sit in the pews, with no function. That must change. Every single person in the church is a part of the body of Christ. And this body doesn't have useless parts like an appendix. Every member has a function. But only if they are properly disciplined and equipped can they find their function and fulfill it. And until that happens, the body of Christ remains an invalid.

WRITE: In your opinion, why would a person called only to Evangelize make an ineffective Pastor?

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Lesson Two

READ: Matt. 10:1-42; Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-20; I Cor. 4:9-13

THINK: The ministry of the Apostle is often misunderstood. In some denominations, the title of Apostle is used by ruling elders. Such "Apostles" oversee the work of the denomination from their headquarters office. In other denominations, the title Apostle is adopted by ministers who travel from church to church conducting revivals, and some churches call their Pastor "Apostle." Most denominations, however, don't use the title at all.

Is an Apostle a ruling elder? Is an Apostle a preacher who goes from church to church? Or a Pastor? Are there even Apostles today?

Jesus called His twelve chosen disciples *Apostles*. The Hebrew word for Apostle is *Shali'ach*, and comes from the verb *shalach*, that is, *to send*. Therefore, Shali'ach, an Apostle, is one who is *sent*. More specifically, an Apostle is one who is sent to a place where the Gospel has not been preached (or where it was preached in an incorrect or watered-down form), and who begins a new work in that place. Today, we call such people missionaries. Therefore, an Apostle is simply a missionary.

Some denominations tell their missionaries where they will go, while others allow the missionaries themselves to decide. When Jesus first sent out the twelve, He restricted their mission field to Israel. But when He ascended to Heaven, He broadened the field to include not only Samaria, but the whole world (Acts 1:8). Paul went where the Holy Ghost directed him, and did not go where the Holy Ghost said not to go. (Acts 16:6,9-10; 23:11) So it should be today. Those called as Apostles must be free to go where the Lord directs them.

An Apostle, upon reaching his/her destination, begins to plant the seeds of a new work. A meeting place must be secured, and people must be reached with the Good News. During this time, as the new work is being born, the Apostle functions as Evangelist, to preach the Good News, as Teacher, to show the proper way to

salvation, as Pastor, to shepherd the new flock, and as Prophet, to declare to them what the Lord would say. The Apostle stays only until the work reaches a level of spiritual maturity sufficient for it to survive without him/her. The final duty of the Apostle is to appoint Elders (ministers) to take over the work. The new church needs ministers.

The Apostle will leave the work in the hands of the new Elders, and will go to whatever place the Lord directs. Paul frequently visited the churches he had founded and wrote letters of exhortation and encouragement regularly. Other Apostles, such as Peter and John, also wrote letters to the churches. It would seem, then, that such visits and letters are also part of the duties of the Apostle.

Jesus sent out His disciples two by two. Paul always took someone with him, whether it was Silas, Barnabas or Timothy. Peter and John went out together. This suggests that Apostles should not go to a new area alone.

WRITE: Who should decide where an Apostle will go? How long does an Apostle stay with a new church?

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Lesson Three

READ: Acts 2:17; 11:27-30; 13:1; 21:8-14

THINK: Many denominations don't believe that there are Prophets anymore. Most Apostolic denominations do believe in Prophets, but rarely see them, due to their habit of restricting people's ministries.

One of the nine gifts of the Spirit we studied in a previous class was the gift of Prophecy. Obviously, any person with a call to the ministry of Prophet needs this gift, but . . . not everyone with the gift is called to the ministry of Prophet.

I Corinthians 13:8-10 tells us that prophecy will be done away with only when what is perfect has come. Only God is perfect, so prophecy will continue, as will the other gifts, until Jesus comes for His church.

The scriptures you read at the beginning of this lesson give a brief look at some New Testament Prophets. We don't yet know everything we need to know about this ministry, again, largely due to the church's mismanagement of the five-fold ministry. As more men and women with this call are allowed to answer it, some of the gaps in our knowledge will be filled in.

WRITE: The scriptures in the READ section of this lesson contain two examples of prophecies delivered by New Testament Prophets. What were those two prophecies? (Hint: One concerned an impending natural dilemma in Judea, and the other concerned Paul.)

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Lesson Four

READ: Acts 21:8

THINK: The word Evangelist comes from two Greek words meaning Good News. So an Evangelist is one who gives Good News. In today's churches, an Evangelist usually does not stay at his/her home church, but travels around to many churches, preaching. But God placed the five ministries IN the church, so it would appear that an Evangelist is not necessarily a traveling ministry, but should function in the local church.

Another name for an Evangelist is preacher. Because today's Apostolic churches are usually based on the Protestant model, with the pastor running the church, the original function of the Evangelist has been taken over by the Pastor. But in truth, it is the Evangelists who should be preaching to the church each week, not the Pastors.

Their original function usurped, Evangelists are often used today to preach revival services. The word *revive* means to wake up or bring back to life. The spiritual condition of many churches is such that the saints are spiritually asleep, dying or dead. The visiting Evangelist is called upon to "revive" these people. But reviving sleeping or moribund saints is not the Evangelist's proper role in the ministry. Rather, the saints should regularly stir up the Holy Ghost within themselves, so that they never "fall asleep," much less die. (II Tim. 1:6) The saints of God should be living wells, overflowing with the Holy Ghost, but instead, many are broken cisterns. A cistern is a pit for holding water, but unlike a well, it has no water source of its own; water must be poured into it. A broken cistern not only has no source of its own, but it cannot even hold what is poured into it. If you dig deep enough in a cistern, you will find a source of water, and it can become a well. "Stir up (or dig up) the Gift that is within you . . ." (See John 4:13-14).

Revival services exist because the saints have not yet learned to stir up the gift within them. Someday, when all five ministries are functioning properly, that will change, and the Evangelists will be able to direct their energies to their true calling,

which is preaching the Good News of the Gospel.

WRITE: What is a Revival service, and why should the church not need Revival services?

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Lesson Five

READ: II Timothy 2:15; 4:1-4; II Peter 2:1-22; Jude 3,4,12,13

THINK: Someone once said, "Stand for something, or you'll fall for anything." There is truth in that statement. But how many church-going people have no idea where their churches stand on doctrinal issues? When the people are not taught truth, and are not taught to stand on that truth, disastrous things can happen.

In the 1960's, the Charismatic movement began as the Spirit of God "jumped" denominational boundaries and began to fall on Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, etc. A wonderful spirit of praise broke forth in the denominational churches. But these poor people had only the most rudimentary understanding of what had happened to them. They had no knowledge of how the Baptism of the Holy Ghost operated, or of what the gifts of the Spirit were. The result was (and still is) misuse of the gifts and misinformation in the extreme. The Charismatics rejected offers from Pentecostals (who had 60+ years experience with the Holy Ghost) to teach them the proper use of what they had. (In fairness, those offers were often made with smugness, and not in a true spirit of love.) A mass of confusion enveloped the Charismatic movement. Here is a true example of what the lack of proper teaching can lead to:

At a Charismatic prayer meeting in Johnstown, NY (somewhere in the early to mid 1970's), an elderly Brother informed the group that he had received a revelation from God. Now, we, as Apostolic believers, know that if anyone receives a "revelation" that contradicts scripture, it didn't come from God, and must be rejected. But these people did not know that, for they had not been taught by anyone. They knew very little of the Word. Eagerly, they awaited the new "revelation." The Brother went on to inform them that "God" had revealed to him that every time a person would say the words "Jesus, Mary, I love you: Save souls," someone would be released from Purgatory!

This group did not know that the concept of Purgatory is not biblical, nor did they

know that Mary cannot save souls. They knew only how to worship and that they could speak in tongues. We, having been taught, can reject that man's "revelation" as gross error. They, having received no biblical teaching, accepted the "revelation" as truth.

God placed Teachers in the church so that His people would know right from wrong, truth from error, light from darkness. In some denominations, church attendance and some semblance of abstinence from sin are all that is required. No one expects the people to know scripture or doctrine. The Apostolic church CANNOT be like that. Christians have an obligation to know what they believe *and* why they believe it (I Peter 3:15).

WRITE: If the Apostolic church had no Teachers to train future ministers, what effect do you think that would have on the church -- not just immediately, but in years to come?

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Lesson Six

READ: Jeremiah 23:1-4; Ezekiel 34:1-16

THINK: The word Pastor means Shepherd. Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus made many references to His sheep, His flock. And He, of course, is the Good Shepherd, who gives His life for the sheep (John 10:11-16). But Jesus has placed other shepherds over portions of His flock. These are the Pastors.

It can be seen from the scriptures in the READ section of this lesson that God takes the work of the Pastor very seriously. If the sheep are neglected, abused, or mistreated in any way, God will require it at the Pastor's hand. If a Pastor is truly called as a Pastor, no mistreatment is likely to occur. This is because a man or woman who is called by God to be a Pastor is given a Shepherd's heart. A called Shepherd loves the sheep, and would give his/her life for them.

Sadly, today, the ministry of the Pastor is seriously confused. Following the traditional Protestant model, we have made the Pastor the head of the local church, rather than part of a ministerial team. This is an error, and results in pastors burning out and failing. The modern concept of the super-pastor, leading a church of hundreds or thousands, is wrong. Biblically, a city should have one church, led by a Bishop, which means "overseer." This church meets during the week in small groups, sized to fit comfortably in someone's home. The Pastor is the person in whose home they meet. So the church will have as many Pastors as it has home groups. The Pastor nurtures, protects, and feeds the small group from the word of God. A Pastor can easily do that for a small group, whereas in a mega-church, the Pastor is unlikely to even know everyone, let alone be able to minister to all of them. One day a week, all the groups meet together in their church building, and worship together, hear teaching and preaching from the Teachers and Evangelists, etc. This will be examined in much more detail in the class Church Administration.

WRITE: Final Exam follows this lesson.

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Final Exam

1. Name the Five Ministries.
2. What is the common name given to Apostles today?
3. Which kind of minister preaches the Good News?
4. What does Pastor mean?
5. How long does an Apostle stay with a new work?
6. Who should decide for the Apostle where he/she will go?
7. Name one of the ways in which some Apostolic churches cripple the ministry.
8. Who should determine for a new minister into which ministry (or ministries) he/she will go?

9. Why do we need Teachers?

10. Explain the purpose of the Five-Fold Ministry using Ephesians 4:11-16.

Student's Name

Date