

FIVE FINGERS OF LIFE

EPHESIANS 4:11-13 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.



Quality vs. Quantity

1. **Jesus used 11 men to turn the whole world upside down.** We should never be insecure about the number of people we have with us. If the people are of good quality, they can do a lot. *Matthew 18:20*
2. **Noah was a preacher of righteousness, but he only had 7 people that he was preaching to.** He did not preach to get

people in the ark, but he preached to his family to prepare them for the coming judgement of God. this is what we are all suppose to be hearing. The coming of the Lord Jesus and preparing for it. *2 Peter 2:5*

3. **A church should be filled with those that can minister to others.** People that do not desire to share the Gospel of Christ with the world

are not filled with the spirit of God. Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance are all birthed through the Spirit of God that dwells in us. These fruit will always bear more fruit and more fruit will bear much fruit. This is God's church. *John 15:8*

5 Fingers/One Hand



The Apostle

An apostle is "one chosen and sent with a special commission." The word apostle comes from the Greek word *apostolos* which is translated "sent one" and carries the understanding that the one being sent has the full power and authority of the one sending him.

The Prophet

The ministry of the prophet is vast and quite extensive and involves being "moved by the Holy Spirit" in prophetic utterance, which can be: Predictive (Acts 21: 10-11; 11: 27-28), Directive (Acts 13: 1-3), or Corrective (Acts 15: 22-23,27,32).

The Evangelist

Evangelists extend the frontiers of God's Kingdom. They are co-workers with and extensions of apostolic ministry. They also equip the body of Christ with the Evangelistic spirit of outreach.

The Pastor

The Greek word for pastor is *poimen* which means "one who tends sheep or cares for flocks". Elsewhere in the New Testament, other words are used: "shepherd", "elder" "bishop" and "overseer".

The Teacher

A teacher is not just someone who teaches, but one who brings instruction to the Body at large. We are all encouraged to teach the Gospel message of Jesus.

1. **God gave, so God must direct** - Because God gave us these gifts, we must depend on him for instructions on how to use and operate in them. This is why carnality

cannot be tolerated in God's church. When we are carnal, we can't hear God. When we can't hear God, we cannot operate in the things of God. We are like a baby wielding a loaded shotgun. Power at our fingertips, but no understanding of how it works. We will kill others or ourselves this way. *Prov. 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

2. **Limits aren't always weaknesses** - Understanding who you are and what your call is in Christ is a must. But even more important is knowing your limits. This is why God fitly joined us together, so we would need each other. There will be times when God will not speak to you, when you can't operate in your gift, or when you will not be able to do certain things alone. God desires for us to work as a unit and he will always create a need for us to need each other. When you can't cast a demon out, can't get a prayer through, can't prophecy, or can't get understanding, God could be creating a need for your brother. Don't feel bad when you can't do it. Keep folks around you that are capable. *Eph. 4:16 From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together²¹ through every supporting ligament.²² As each one does its part, the body grows in love.*

3. **They are not your gifts they are God's for his body.** Self denial required! - To be used of God, you cannot do what thy wilt! For God's gifts to be effective you have to stay connected to the source. Imagine a lamp. It could be beautiful and designed nicely, but without oil, it won't light up. This is how we are without God's anointing. We may look good and it may be obvious that we are suppose to light up, but without the anointing of God, we cannot. *Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to become my follower,³² he must deny³³ himself, take up his cross,³⁴ and follow me.*

When these ministries are all in operation, the Kingdom of God looks like it's suppose to. We cannot fashion the church after the world's governments, corporate america, the entertainment industry, etc. God has a plan for for what our churches should look like and these gifts must illustrate that so the church will grow God's way"...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" *Ephesians 4: 13.*