

FOUNDATION OF FAITH!
GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
PART 3
EVANGELISTS, PASTOR-TEACHERS AND TEACHERS

Over the past several weeks we have been studying the Holy Spirit in our series Foundation of Faith. And we are presently looking at the gifts of the Spirit or these gifts that are given to us to move the Gospel message forward. Gifts given to us by Christ, this empowerment for service that Jesus spoke of in Acts 1:8 where He said, **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

Last time we looked at the gifts of apostles and prophets and we saw that this primary gift has passed off the scene as these men were to lay the foundation of the church and once that foundation is laid, then the rest of the structure can be built upon that. Yes, we, in a sense are all apostles, ones who are sent forth and all of us have been sent forth to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And for prophets, they not only foretold future events, but they also forth told the things of God, the Word of God and we also do that. But the primary office of apostles and prophets have passed off the scene as there is only one foundation that needs to be laid, you don't keep adding foundation upon foundation. And so, this morning we will be looking at those people that are building the rest of the structure, we will be looking at evangelists, pastor-teachers and teachers.

Our point of reference this morning will be in Ephesians chapter 4, starting in verse 7, where we read, **“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.’ . . . And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”** Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16.

What is interesting today is what people think of these gifts that God has given to the church, especially the pastor. They feel that he has been hired to do all the work and the people are there to benefit from that, to get what they are paying for. And maybe that is the reason so many pastors burn out so quickly. The average length of time a pastor lasts in a local congregation is only 3 years! That is amazing to me and again, I think many times the reason for this is that the church is making the pastor do all the work and that is exactly the opposite of what we see Paul speaking of here in Ephesians chapter 4. Let me share this story with you and then I will expound on it. We are told,

A well-known coach was once asked, “How much does college football contribute to the national physical-fitness picture?”

“Nothing,” the coach replied abruptly.

“Why not?” the startled interviewer asked.

“Well,” said the coach, “the way I see it, you have 22 men down on the field desperately needing a rest and 40,000 people in the stands, desperately needing some exercise.”

A similar situation exists in many churches today. When you compare the members who actively participate, you often find a rather pathetic situation. It’s not unusual to have a small group of diligent Christian workers struggling “down on the field” while others in the congregation are acting like spectators, “sitting on the sidelines, eating hot dogs and popcorn.”

God’s strategy for the accomplishment of His program is not like a sports event. It does not call for the job to be done only by the “professionals.” In the game of life, all believers have their own positions and spiritual gifts that they must exercise “for the profit of all” (1 Cor. 12:7).

My friend, if you’ve been sitting in the stands, you’re badly needed down on the field!

- Source Unknown

When you read through these verses here in Ephesians chapter 4 Paul specifically tells us what these gifts are to accomplish, what they are suppose to do. And it is not difficult to understand as Paul tells us that these gifted men are to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. It is not the pastor that does the work of the ministry but the saints that are being taught by those that are in these offices. It doesn't mean the pastor doesn't do these things, but that is not his primary purpose.

The Greek word that Paul uses for “**equipping**” is KATARISMOS, (kat-ar-tis-mos). It is a word that is often used as a medical term for the setting of a bone. It also illustrates to us the idea of putting something back to its original condition, that it is made complete, perfect. These offices are there to help return men and women back to God and to make them complete in their walk. Today, tragically it is not about building people up in the faith but to grow a church in numbers and so the church in America may be 3,000 miles wide but only an inch deep! And we therefore have Christians who are unstable in their walk because they don't know what to believe; they are not built up in the faith!

You see, as children mature they become less and less dependent on their parents, or at least we hope they do, until they are independent and on their own. The exact opposite is true for us as Christians. We are not to become independent from Christ but as we mature we become more dependent upon Him. And so a mature Christian is being transformed into the likeness of Christ by the renewing of his mind. He is able to discern between good and evil. And lastly, he has developed into the likeness of Christ as he manifests the fruit of the Spirit in his life – *AGAPE LOVE* and how that love is then manifested in many different ways. Remember, as we get older in Christ we also should be getting nearer to Him, becoming more like Him!

And Paul tells us that we should no longer be unstable in the faith, we should not be tossed back and forth by the various things that come into the church, the false doctrine. But if you don't grow, if you remain immature, instead of being stable those that don't grow in the Lord are unstable. Paul uses the Greek word, KLUDONIZOMAI (kloo-do-nid'-zom-ah-ee) for "**tossed to and fro**" and it is the same Greek word Luke uses in Luke 8:24 as he is describing the stormy Sea of Galilee.

And men come in and they use "**trickery**" or KUBEIA (koobi-ah) in the Greek, which is a word that illustrates the idea of a person who has skill in manipulating the dice. He is a master of deception. Thus, immature Christians hoist up their sails and as these men blow their false doctrine through the church, they are taken away; they go which ever way the wind is blowing them, they have no real direction. God's desire is that we would grow and not be tossed around like this! That we would use the discernment that He has given us to stay on course!

In High School, back in 1976, I ran against a man who was a stud, to say the least. His name was Greg Foster, and he was a four-time world champion and indoor world record-holder in the high hurdles. I know, I am dating myself here. I don't know if you have ever seen Greg Foster run the hurdles, something I never did, I did not make the height requirement! But it truly was a sight to see.

But as you watched him run his head was always focused straight ahead and his mind was so focused on the task ahead, of winning the race. His mind controlled every part of his body, the actions that he needs to do. Then, as the gun goes off there is an explosive driving force from his legs and arms as he is pushed out of the starting blocks. And, as he approaches the first hurdle every muscle, every part of his body responds appropriately as he just glides over the top of the hurdle. This is repeated over and over until he reaches the finish line and extends his chest forward to cross the tape and obtain the prize.

We as Christians are very much in a race. And as the body of Christ is healthy and ready for the challenge ahead it must work as a thoroughly coordinated machine, but keep in mind that the body of Christ is a living organism working together. Think about it, could Greg Foster run the race if just his head was entered or maybe an arm or leg? Of course not, it was his entire body working together for a cause!

For us, the head is Jesus Christ, and He must be in control of the entire body. If not the body will move spastically just as if Greg Foster was not thinking about what he was doing and he would plow into the hurdles instead of gliding over them. Or can you imagine as Greg Foster approached the next hurdle that his lead leg decided not to extend upward and instead decided to plow right through the hurdle? It would spell disaster for the racer and the same is true in the body of Christ. As I have said before, it is a team effort and we should think of everyone else as being more important than us as we all work towards the goal.

It is when we work in truth and love that we grow into the likeness of Christ, and as the body is knit together, working in an unselfish manner, that there will be growth and edification within the body of Christ. And this is all done in the love of God, Agape love, unconditional love. As we will see in our study this morning, these gifted men have been given to the church to edify and help it to grow so that it can do the work of the ministry.

And the three offices we are going to be looking at in this study are very much in operation today, or at least they should be. Without them there is much confusion in the church, uncertainty, not knowing what to believe and what not to believe. Remember what Paul said, “**. . . that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.**” Ephesians 4:14.

And so, as I have said, the reason Christ gave these men, these offices to the church was for the equipping of the saints so that they might do the work of the ministry, to build up and encourage the body of Christ so that the Holy Spirit may transform us into the image of Christ, which is a life-long process. Let's examine these gifts that Jesus has given to the church so that we may understand their role in the body of Christ and it will help us to understand our role.

EVANGELIST

The first office we are going to look at is that of the evangelist. The Greek word is EUAGGELISTES, which means, "one who declares good news." In other words it speaks of proclaiming the Gospel message. The work of the evangelist is to preach and explain the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to those who have not yet believed. He is a proclaimer of salvation by grace through faith in the Son of God.

Now in the broadest sense of the word, not speaking of the office of an evangelist, we are all called to evangelize. Jesus said in Mark 16:15-16, "**... 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'**"

What I want you to notice is that Jesus said to “go” out into the world and to not “come” into the church and get people saved, even though that does happen. We are to go out into the world and share our faith. We are to let our light shine in a world that is living in darkness.

In saying that, it has been estimated that 95% of all church members have never led anyone to Christ. Why do you think that is? Maybe they are afraid to do that? Maybe they don’t know how to share their faith? Those would be very good guesses, and that is what I would think, but it is wrong!

The late Dr. D. James Kennedy had a seminar called Evangelism Explosion to help teach people how to share their faith. And they did a survey to find out why people don’t share their faith, and the results were shocking. The number one reason why people don’t share their faith is they feel their lives don’t match up to what they are saying. They are not living what they believe! The only solution to that is to repent before God and walk in a manner that would be worthy of the high calling by which you have been called, allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our lives.

And so, living a life that is pleasing to God will cause people to take notice. But understand this. That only opens a door for you to share your faith. You see, faith doesn’t come by seeing! Paul said in Romans 10:17, “**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” Thus, our life should open a door by which we can speak the Gospel message, and as we do, lives will be changed, “**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**” Hebrews 4:12.

Again, that is not the gift that Paul is speaking of here but we are all called to be witnesses of Him. But there are some who have this gift, they are evangelists. And you talk to people who have this office, and people are getting saved all the time. Waiting in line at the movies, people get saved. The waitress at the restaurant gets saved while the person is ordering his meal. He comes out of the bathroom and someone got saved in there! Pastor Raul Reis can mess up a Bible story and 300 people get saved! And it makes you nuts, thinking their must be something wrong with you. You present the same information, the same message as they do, but you don't have the same results. It is because they have this gift. It is a divine appointment by God and they do get results. And it does make me nuts, but I don't have this gift, but in saying that it shouldn't stop us from sharing our faith.

Now when we think of an evangelist we many times think of the old tent meetings where Hell, fire and brimstone was preached. And yet the word evangelist means, "one who declares good news." Yes, people need to be aware that they are sinners, but, as Paul said in Romans 2:4, "**Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**" Let us not forget that fact; it is His love that draws people to Him!

Now the New Testament evangelist went to where the sinners were, he didn't wait for them to come into the church. And they preached the good news and as people got saved they would remain with them until a pastor could be raised up or sent to these new believers. And that is very important. Too often people go out and witness, see fruit, and then never follow up or get these new believers into a church that teaches the Word where they can grow in the faith.

In the New Testament we find the word “evangelist” used only three times. Here in Ephesians 4:11, where it is speaking of the office of an evangelist. In II Timothy 4:5, where Paul is encouraging Timothy to use the gift that God has given him. It seems that Timothy had both the gift of an evangelist and pastor-teacher. And lastly, in Acts 21:8 Philip is called an evangelist.

We are going to look at a couple of passages of Scripture to show you how this gift operated. But understand this, all the apostles were evangelists, but not all evangelists were apostles. And as the office of apostle was passing off the scene, the evangelist picked up where they left off, going from town to town with the good news. They did not bring forth new doctrine or new revelations as the apostles did, but had the same kind of itinerant ministry as they did.

First of all Peter was an evangelist. In Acts chapter 2, on the day of Pentecost, as the 120 disciples were empowered by the Spirit of God and they spoke in languages they didn't understand, Peter stands up and points the crowd that had gathered around them to the Scriptures. He tells them that this is what the prophet Joel spoke of.

And from there, Peter launches into a sermon that is clear, it is concise, and it is Christ centered. That is the way all teaching should be. Let's pick up His sermon beginning in verse 22 of Acts chapter 2. We read, "**Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know – Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.**" Acts 2:22-24. The focus is the death and the resurrection of Jesus and that is truly the heart of the Gospel.

The result is seen beginning in verse 37, which says, "**Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for [because of] the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.' And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.'**" Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; **and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**" Acts 2:37-41.

Notice, they were convicted, they repented and got saved, and 3,000 people came to the Lord from just that one sermon. And many believe that the 3,000 just spoke of the men, not the women and children. And it has been estimated that on that first day the church began, they had over 10,000 people. Peter was an evangelist, appointed by God for that office.

Then, in Acts chapter 8 we see Philip, who was also an evangelist. Philip was a lay person who became a deacon in the church, overseeing the food pantry, and then God raises him up to be an evangelist. And in Acts chapter 8 God uses persecution to scatter the saints and to spread the Gospel. They were comfortable in Jerusalem and now God was stretching them and sending them out. And beginning in verse 5 of Acts chapter 8 we read, **“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.”** Acts 8:5-8.

Philip preached Christ to them, people got saved, and there was great joy there. Things were happening in Samaria, but Philip gets a call from God to go down to the barren, dry wilderness of Gaza, a desert! Why? Because there is one person there that is searching and he needs to hear the good news. That is the heart of an evangelist. It doesn't matter if he is speaking to the thousands or just one!

And as Philip shares with this eunuch, he gets saved, there is great joy, and Philip is on the move again to the area of Azotus or Ashdod and then to Caesarea. And one thing you will notice with Philip and Peter is they were students of the Word. If God has placed this upon your heart, if you have a joy in sharing your faith, and you see results, know the Scriptures! You will need them and you will use them.

Now for the rest of us who don't see those kinds of results; just take those steps of faith as God leads. We may not have that gift of being an evangelist, but God does call us to share our faith.

And so, this gift or office of an evangelist, these gifted men are uniquely designed and given to the church to reach the lost with the saving gospel, and every church should consider this ministry as high priority. Local churches should raise up evangelists, to send some out in mission enterprises and to have others remain permanently in the church fellowship - to teach, mobilize, and lead others out to fulfill the commission of winning the lost to Christ. The gift of evangelists!

PASTOR/TEACHERS

Now when we speak of a pastor, this gift that Jesus gave to the church, we need to understand that a pastor is also a teacher. There is no such thing as just a pastor. We see this in I Timothy 5:17, "**Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.**" Those two functions define the teaching shepherd. You can be a teacher without being a pastor and we will look at that in a few minutes, but to be a pastor and not a teacher is not biblical!

Now the word for, “pastor” in the Greek is POIMEN, and it speaks of one who feeds, one who leads, one who cares for a group of people just like a shepherd does for a group of sheep. That is the heart of a pastor and for me, when I first came up here and met with the board of elders here at Calvary, they wanted to know what my plans were if I was the pastor of this church. And what God had shown me before I even met with these men was as simple as this. To make these people the best loved and the best fed sheep in Manitowoc. And that continues to be my hearts desire some 16 years later!

This role of a pastor is important in the body of Christ and I firmly believe that God has placed the pastor as the shepherd over local flocks. I don’t believe the church is run by congregational rule, where everyone votes on what to do, what to teach. That is very dangerous because you have the sheep leading the shepherd, and in any given church 10% is the core or heart of the church. Another 30% are just getting fired up for the Lord. But 60% are new believers and unbelievers just checking out the church. Thus, you have the 60% leading the 40%!

I also don’t believe the church is run by the elders, where the pastor is just one of the elders, all are equal. And in a situation like that, the pastor can be told what to teach, what to do and-so-on. He is a hireling and not a shepherd. He is controlled by the elders. I don’t think the Scriptures support this either.

I truly see that the pastor is the shepherd of the church, and he leads them as he is lead by God. Now if you don’t believe your pastor is being led by God, what are you doing in that church! Yes a pastor is an elder, PRESBUTEROS in the Greek. We see that in Acts 20:17 where Paul is calling for the pastors of the local churches in Ephesus to come out to meet him. The thing we need to remember is that not all elders are pastors.

Elder's deals with the spiritual matters of the church while deacon's deal with the physical matters of the church. These men are there to assist in the work, to support the pastor, but too often they try to usurp that position.

Now if you look at I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, which gives us the qualifications for bishops, or overseers, EPISKOPOS in the Greek, you will notice that "bishop" is in the singular, not the plural, speaking of the pastor. And both in I Timothy and Titus they are to be able to teach sound doctrine. Remember what we read back in I Timothy 5:17, **"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine."** This can't be just speaking of pastors, for some of the elders didn't teach! And so, all pastors are elders, but not all elders are pastors or bishops!

Now what is the primary responsibility of the pastor? Interestingly enough a survey was done to find out what the ideal pastor was like. And in this survey they wanted people to write down the time a pastor should spend in Bible study, visiting members of his church, visiting the sick in the hospital, counseling, administrative work, and-so-on. When they averaged things all out they discovered that the average Christian expects their pastor to put in 135 ½ hours per week in ministry! That would leave 32 ½ hours per week to eat, sleep, spend time with their family. That is about 4 ½ hours a day! Now I don't see that here in our congregation but that is the mentality in many churches.

Like I have said, it's like going to a football game, where you have 22 people doing all the work on the field, and 40,000 people in the stands just sitting and watching. And many pastors have burned themselves out doing it all, because you can't! That is why it is the body of Christ.

There are basically three primary responsibilities that a pastor has for his flock, and let's look at those for a few minutes.

First of all the pastor is to *guide* those who have been entrusted to him by God. The pastor is to lead his flock down the right path. You see, there are so many paths out there competing for their attention, but there is the right one they are to travel on. And the way a pastor guides his flock is by example. You see, you don't drive sheep from behind like cattle, but you lead them by going out in front and showing them the way.

Remember back in II Timothy 3:16-17 where Paul wrote, "**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" Here is a difficult area. People, for the most part, have no problem with what is right, what is wrong, how to stay right, but when I, as a pastor have to correct someone, then I am unloving, uncaring, and-so-on. I must say that when someone receives what I have to say, and they may not agree with it at first, but they pray about it, beautiful things come out of that. When I see people get angry because of what I have to say, that rebellion tends to grow, things may get ugly, and many times that person will leave the church because they don't want to be corrected.

I think, for the most part, I am pretty gracious; at least I try to be. In fact, when compared to Paul the apostle, I'm a pushover. Paul named names in letters of people who were in rebellion; he had their names read in front of the congregation to expose their sin. Why? So they would get right! Yes, Paul told Timothy, "**Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**" A shepherd is to lead his flock down the right path, and correct them when they are heading in the wrong direction.

Secondly we see that the pastor is to help his flock to *graze*. I know that sounds kind of funny, but hear me out. As a shepherd we are to bring the sheep into rich, fertile fields to feed upon, that is the Word of God. We are to teach them, for if we don't they will be spiritually sick and malnourished. There are so many winds of doctrine blowing through the church today, no wonder the sheep are so sick, weak, and easy prey for the wolves that are out there.

Remember what Jesus said to Peter, that if you love Him, that is love Jesus, then "**Feed My lambs**", "**Tend My sheep**", "**Feed My sheep.**" And Peter never forgot what Jesus said to him. In I Peter 5:2-4 Peter tells us, "**Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.**"

Speaking to pastors, he is telling them not to be in the ministry because of some duty, but do it joyfully unto the Lord. Don't do it for the money but from the heart. Don't do it to lord over the people, but serve them, be examples to them. My pastor, Phil Ballmaier is that kind of example to me, and I thank God for this man and the example he has given to me on what a shepherd is all about. Feed the flock that God has given you with the rich Word of God!

And the third and last point is that a pastor is to *guard* his sheep. As a pastor, as a shepherd, I am to guard the sheep from the wolves that come in disguised as Christians, as sheep, but are ready to destroy and devour the sheep with their false doctrine. A shepherd needed to be on guard at all times, watching over the sheep, and if a wolf was spotted, they would launch their rod to send those wolves scampering away. Folks, I am sorry to say that in the church today we have people protecting the wolves instead of exposing them, and that is wrong. If someone came into this church leading this flock astray, they would either stop what they are teaching, or they would leave the church, end of story. Now some may feel that is harsh, but how many of you would allow your children to play with wolves? None of you, and I won't allow wolves to come in and destroy the sheep God has entrusted to me.

Now some like to say, “What gives you the right to do that? Or “Who has given me the right to do that?” It is very easy, God has through His Word! Paul tells us in Acts 20:28 as he was speaking to the Ephesian pastors, “**Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**” God has made me an overseer in this church, and to allow false doctrine in would show my lack of concern for the sheep that God has entrusted to me, the sheep He has purchased with His own blood! If someone did begin teaching false doctrine, Paul told Timothy what to do. He said, “**As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.**” I Timothy 1:3. A shepherd is to protect his sheep, to guard them.

In all three of these areas we have just looked at, *guiding*, *grazing* and *guarding*; they all contain one important element, the teaching of God’s Word! You teach them so they know where to go. You teach them so they can feed on the nutrients of God’s Word and be strengthened in the inner man. You teach them so they are aware of the danger that is out there. It is as Nehemiah 8:8 says, “**So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.**” Ezra read the Word, explained the Word, and then he applied the Word of God to their lives! That is what I try to do here at Calvary Chapel.

Now what about those pastor's that are not feeding their flock? They are nothing more than hirelings who are more concerned about their own well being than shepherding the flock. Listen to what God has to say in Ezekiel 34:1-10 regarding false shepherds. He said, **“And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: ‘Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them.’ ‘Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: “as I live,” says the Lord GOD, “surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock” – “therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD! ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them.”””**

Remember, a pastor's responsibility is to guide the sheep, allow the sheep to graze on the Word of God, and guard the sheep from the wolves that are coming in to destroy them. It is truly a shame that when leaders are looking for a pastor they look for someone who is good with people, good with administrative type work, and teaching, if it is thought of at all, it is at the bottom of the list, and that should not be.

Let me show you with this story of what some think is the perfect pastor. This story is from Ann Landers and what she found out when she tried to discover what the perfect pastor was all about. In her story, *The Perfect Pastor*, she said:

The results of a computerized survey indicated the perfect pastor preaches exactly 15 minutes. [I'm already out of the picture]. He condemns sin but never embarrasses anyone. He works from 8 in the morning till midnight and is also the janitor. He makes \$60 a week, wears new clothes, drives a new car and gives \$50 a week to the poor. He's 28 years old and has been preaching for 25 years. He is wonderful, gentle and handsome and loves to work with teenagers and spends countless hours with senior citizens and makes 15 calls a day on parish families, shut-in's and hospital patients. And he is always in his office when you need him. If your pastor doesn't measure up simply send this letter to 6 other parishes that are tired of their pastors too, then bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of the list. And in one week you'll receive 1,643 pastors. One of them should be perfect.

- Ann Landers, *The Perfect Pastor*

I am sorry to say, there is no such thing as a perfect pastor and pastor's need to remember that you can't please everyone and you won't! Serve God, please the Lord, do those things that God is leading you to do, and you will be rewarded for faithful service. Here is this gift of a pastor that Jesus has given to the church.

TEACHERS

Now we are going to look at teachers, and this is a very broad office. Think about it for a minute. We have teachers at Bible Colleges, teachers who teach at seminars, teachers who teach small group Bible studies, teachers who teach through books they write, we have teachers that teach the young children in Sunday School, the middle aged children in Sunday School, and the teenagers in Youth Group, home Bible study and-so-on. All very important, all the same office, but used in a different way.

And please, don't take any of these teaching roles lightly, we don't here at Calvary. There comes a big responsibility with teaching and I am always bothered when someone new comes into the church and is ready to come and teach a Bible study, even a Sunday morning! I don't know them and I would not allow them to do something like that until I did know them.

Remember what James tells us in James 3:1, “**My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.**” You see, if you are not teaching right, be it a Bible study, Sunday School, in books, at Seminars, or whatever, then you are misleading God’s people and He will hold you accountable for that! I am not trying to scare you, but from what I have seen, especially from the Seeker Friendly, Purpose Driven and Emerging Church, but not exclusively, they are taking away or adding to God’s Word, and they see no problem with that, and I think they are taking what James has said far too lightly! Thus, stick to the Word of God and you won’t go wrong. The gift of teachers that Christ has given to His church!

As I begin to rap things up this morning, think about this for a minute. Every believer today is indebted directly or indirectly to these specially gifted men God has given to His church. Through their preaching, teaching, writing, exhortation, and other ministries, they lead the lost to Christ, enrich our knowledge of God and His Word, and encourage us, “**to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which [we] have been called.**” Ephesians 4:1.

All of the gifts that Christ gives to individuals and to the church as a whole are gifts which He Himself perfectly exemplified. If ever there was a preacher it was Christ, if ever there was a teacher, ruler, administrator, servant, helper, or giver it was Christ. He is the perfect illustration and example of every gift, because His gifts to us are gracious gifts of Himself.

And so, as we bring this study to a close, remember these gifts of evangelists, pastor-teachers, and teachers that they are given as gifts to the church by Jesus to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we are transformed into His image when we go to be with Him!