

# Equipping Gifts

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## Apostle

- Definition:
  - o Literally, “one who is sent.”
  - o The basic function of the apostle is to cultivate receptivity toward Christ, establish long-term works in the area, and then provide oversight for those works.
- Traits of :
  - o Often has a particular burden for unreached people groups.
  - o Able to transcend cultural barriers (language, customs, etc.).
  - o Usually prefers short-term over long-term assignments.
  - o Often provides oversight for many churches.
  - o Church planters, missionaries, bishops, superintendents.
- Cautions for:
  - o Persons with the gift of apostle are not necessarily under any human accountability. They must seek it out and remember that they are always accountable to Christ.
  - o Must guard against pride that may come from being in such a prominent position of influence.
  - o Great work demands may leave apostles vulnerable to neglecting their own spiritual health.
- Biblical Examples: The Eleven Faithful Disciples, Paul

## Prophet

- Definition: This gift is often associated with the ability to foretell the future, but is more commonly demonstrated as the ability to boldly proclaim God’s Word to the current situation.
- Traits of:
  - o Tend to be staunch defenders of God’s Word.
  - o Has a special ability to accurately assess the present situation and speak boldly to it from God’s Word.
  - o Often feels deeply burdened by the world’s sin or apathy in the body.
  - o Tend to be more propositional than relational.
  - o Tends to see things in either/or categories.
- Cautions for:
  - o The Bible often warns against “false prophets.” Even sincere prophets are not above error. Thus, every prophetic word must be measured against God’s Word.
  - o Can often come across as inflexible or demanding.
  - o May have difficulties maintaining intimate relationships.
  - o Pride is constantly crouching at the door of the prophet.
- Biblical Example: OT Prophets, John the Baptist

## Evangelist

- Definition: The person with the gift of evangelism has a special ability to share or proclaim the gospel message to the unconverted with great success.

- Traits of:
  - Usually possesses great people skills.
  - Able to identify a person's point of need in order to lead them to Christ.
  - Usually espouses a very simple and practical theology, usually based heavily in experience.
  - Has a great passion for seeing others come to faith in Christ.
  - Is not limited to those who have a public platform.
- Cautions for:
  - Sometimes place so much emphasis on "getting people saved," they neglect the need for discipleship.
  - Can tend to see their work as the only worthwhile work.
  - Because of their practical theology and emphasis on personal experience, evangelists must be careful to maintain theological integrity.
- Biblical Example: Andrew, Phillip

## **Pastor**

- Definition: The gift of pastor is the special ability to assume long-term responsibility for the spiritual welfare of believers.
- Traits of:
  - Is driven by a deep and genuine concern for the spiritual health and well-being of those under his/her care.
  - Places a very high priority on unity and harmony within the body.
  - Usually highly skilled in group dynamics.
  - May or may not be serving in the office of pastor.
- Cautions for:
  - Because they bear the burdens of many, must be sure to find time for rest and recreation.
  - Must avoid the temptation to neglect their own spiritual needs and the needs of their families.
  - Must be sure to "abide in Christ" and maintain a servants heart, lest they become proud.
- Biblical Example: Timothy

## **Teacher**

- Definition: The gift of teaching equips one to impart truth and knowledge in a manner that is easily understood and applied to life.
- Traits of:
  - Loves in-depth study of God's Word.
  - Usually has a love for language and will insist on finding and using the right words.
  - More likely to focus on the meaning of scripture than events, names, dates, etc.
  - Tends to be a stickler for accuracy and truth in the handling of God's Word (context is everything).
  - Has an unusual ability to make complex truths easy to understand.
- Cautions for:
  - Too much knowledge can corrupt the mind.

- Must not become overly reliant on his or her own skills to the neglect of spiritual anointing.
  - Those who teach are held responsible for what they teach and will be judged more strictly.
  - Must resist the temptation to be overly theoretical at the expense of practicality.
- Biblical Example: Matthew