

Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated

Ordination Manual



Thomas E. Keys, Jr., Chief Apostle

Elder Trina B. Garner, Ministerial Alliance Director

A Word from our Chief Apostle

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:"
John 15:16

All of you are about to embark on the journey of your life. There is nothing like receiving a divine calling. God has called you to make an impact on His world. Now that you have accepted your calling, and have been designated by your Senior Pastor as one who is ready for the next step in your journey, you must prepare to take an oral and written test. Many will say I don't need to take a test to know that I am called. This is true, but every man or woman God called in scripture he brought them through training and then tested them before they began their journey.

Moses was raised in the courts of Pharaoh, then trained in the wilderness of Midian for forty (40) years before he lead the children of Israel. He had lessons and exams all along the way. The burning bush, the rod becoming a serpent, his hand becoming leprous were all lessons and tests that moved Moses to his divine destiny. As he passed these tests God moved him into his destiny. David was anointed King around the age of twelve (12). Before he actually became king he had tests with, lions, bears, and Goliath. After David passed these tests God made him king.

*Just like Moses and David you too must endure test. Some test God Himself will give, and these test that Five Fold Fellowship will administer. This is not a joke! I am very serious about this. Once you pass, and the council lays hands on you, at that point you are a "bona fide" credentialed preacher of the Gospel. I will not lay my hands on individuals who do not pass the test. **We will not ordain those who do not take this process seriously!***

*All the information must be memorized and understood. **First of all**, the information on these pages must be memorized. Do not come before the council with excuses because they will not be tolerated. If you have any questions direct them to Elder Trina Garner. Elder Garner is the Director of the Ministerial Alliance for Five Fold Fellowship, and she will be your guide from us throughout this process. Your Sr. Pastor will instruct the Elder-Designate (you) for ordination or someone whom he appoints for this task on the church level. The Sr. Pastor will direct all of his/her questions to the Director of the Ministerial Alliance of Five Fold Fellowship or their assistant. **Secondly**, all information must be understood. Even though you only have to memorize certain items, all items must be understood. Let me explain! You may not have to memorize "Of the Scriptures", but you are still required to understand it, and you must be prepared to answer any questions about it. Every candidate must also be prepared from Genesis to Revelation. The Bible is fair game! Any questions the council ask from the scriptures make sure you have read it (The Bible), and are prepared for anything.*

Holy Ordination is an awesome ceremony, I pray that you will pass this test and be a part of this celebration. If you pass you will receive Five Fold Fellowship Ordination Credentials, a black and gold elders cord, silver cross and a Holy Bible. You must purchase a black full collar cleric shirt, a full Roman collar, and all black cassocks (robe). (The Director of the Ministerial Alliance will get with you about the purchase of the shirt, collar and the robe.)

God bless you on your pursuit of the next step in your ministry!

Dr. Thomas E. Keys, Jr., Apostle

Deuteronomy 28:12 (KJV)
The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

From the Desk of Ministerial Alliance

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Apostle Keys, your Pastors and I are extremely excited and blessed that you've decided to accept the call of the Lord and enter into this course of Ordination Understudy.

By receiving this manual and signing the enclosed commitment pledge, you are promising to dedicate the next two years of your life to intense, and concentrated service unto the Lord our God. You will be scrutinized by me, the Pastors and Elders of Five Fold Fellowship and God our Father. You will be held accountable for all the information in this binder as well as the Holy Bible.

I have been assigned the incredible task and pleasure of helping you through this process. It will not be easy. It may sometime be like climbing to the top of a greased mountain, but it has been done before. This process takes commitment from you, your family, your church and your fellow classmates. I encourage you, no I beseech you, to solicit as much support as you can. You **will need it!**

I implore you, do not give up when life get hard; that is God's way of pushing you to yet another level. After all, the Lord has need of us all. In Matthew 21: 3, Jesus sends the disciples to a specific location, to loose an ass and her colt for Him to ride upon as he entered into the city of Jerusalem. These lowly animals were as instrumental in fulfilling the prophecy, as are you to the kingdom. You have a purpose to fulfill and I am **as determined as you are** to see that you are equipped to do just that, fulfill your purpose.

This process is not for the faint of heart or babes in Christ, but for the mature, meat eating Christians who have already engrossed themselves in the Word of God and in the service of the Almighty. Your service in the church and to the community will be thoroughly inspected; your study habits will be tested; your dedication and determination will be dissected. Through this progression of development, if you are truly committed, it will seem as if your life is being turned upside down, but please remember it is for a **greater purpose**, for the just cause of serving the Lord.

I thank you for answering the call. I pray you will have the tenacity to hold to the promise and I encourage you to squeeze, push into and cling onto Holy Spirit as your comforter, friend and guide from this day until your last.

Welcome Treasure Seekers, Class of 2019 Let the journey begin.

Yours in Christ,

Elder Trina Blunt Garner



Commitment Pledge

The following statements of commitment are valuable to your success as a Candidate for Ordination by Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated. By initialing each statement and signing the line at the bottom of this document you are vowing to give your all to this process. Please return a copy of this initialed and signed document to Elder Garner and keep a copy in your binder. This form will be presented to the Examination Boards at your Catechism.

I, _____, a Treasure Seeker, Candidate for Ordination in the Class of 2019, commit:

- _____ To honor God and the process of ordination by diligently pursuing his will for my life.
- _____ To show love to God, my fellow Christians and the lost.
- _____ To regularly pray for Apostle & Co Pastor Keys, my Pastor & Co Pastor, my instructor, my fellow classmates and myself.
- _____ To believe God for my success throughout this process.
- _____ To be transparent to and trusting of God and those He has placed over me.
- _____ To support the man and/or woman of God that has rule over me.
- _____ To regularly attend church, Bible study, Ministerial Alliance meeting and/or class.
- _____ To be a tithing member of my local church.
- _____ To support Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated.
- _____ To be present and accounted for on the weekly study call.
- _____ To put forth my best effort to study, memorize, and understand the information given me.
- _____ To participate in study groups as needed to help myself and my fellow classmates.
- _____ To purchase the necessary reading material and study aids.
- _____ To purchase the required attire for ordination in a timely matter.
- _____ To meet the required financial obligations to Five Fold Fellowship.
- _____ To continue my Biblical education long after the ordination process.
- _____ To continue to work to add to the Kingdom of God and better the lives of the people of God.
- _____ To continue to grow closer to God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Date

Signature

I, Elder Trina B. Garner, sign and date this commitment pledge in verification that this Candidate has met the above requirements initialed by me. _____



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Five Fold Fellowship Ordination Manual

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Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated

Vision

Vision: *Restoring Broken Lives*

Vision Text: *Ephesians 4: 11 – 12*

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelist; 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:”

Fellowship Name: *Five Fold Fellowship, because of the text, Ephesians 4: 11 – 12*
(The Original name was Greater Bright Morning Star Churches after Hurricane Katrina)

Purpose:

Perfecting Saints – (katartismos) putting broken bones back together; mending nets

Work of the Ministry – (ergon) labor; (diakonia) serving

Edify the Body – (oikodome) building up; structure

Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated

Mission Statement

“Family”

Fathering Sons – “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”
I Corinthians 4: 15

Assisting Ministers, Elders and Pastors in their Development – “And the things that though hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
II Timothy 2: 2

Meeting Needs – “For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: naked and ye clothe me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.”
Matthew 25: 35 -36

Inspiring Leaders – “And when he hath said this, he breathe on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:”
John 20: 22

Loving Unconditionally – “And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”
Matthew 22: 39

Yoking together for the cause of Christ, Church and Clan (Family) – “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”
Psalms 133

Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporation

Executive Council

Apostle Thomas E. Keys, Jr.

1st Assistant, Overseer Dwayne Williams

2nd Assistant, Overseer Bryant Baptiste

3rd Assistant, Overseer Bruce Landing

Overseer Robert Charles

Overseer Derrick Rodgers

Pastor Amos Chandler

Pastor Kenneth Mangum

Co-Pastor Simone Keys

Co-Pastor Chauntel Williams

Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated

Officers for 2015 – 2017

Chief Apostle	<i>Dr. Thomas E. Keys, Jr.</i>
Apostle's Executive Assistant	<i>Pastor Colleen Johnson</i>
Apostle's 1st Assistant	<i>Overseer Dwayne Williams</i>
Apostle's 2nd Assistant	<i>Overseer Bryant Baptiste</i>
Apostles 3rd Assistant	<i>Overseer Bruce Landing</i>
Executive Treasurer	<i>Overseer Robert Charles</i>
Assistant	<i>Elder Hector Flores</i>
Executive Secretary	<i>Co-Pastor Chauntel Williams</i>
Assistant	<i>Elder Danielle Matthews</i>
Director of Couples Ministry	<i>Elder Almena Charles</i>
Director of Christian Education	<i>Pastor Veronda Lindsey</i>
Director of Prophets & Intercession	<i>Pastor Derrick Rodgers</i>
Assistant	<i>Elder Tangela Flores</i>
Director of Women of Worship (WOW)	<i>Co-Pastor Simone Keys</i>
Assistant	<i>Elder Angela Chandler</i>
Director of Minister's Wives	<i>Co-Pastor Simone Keys</i>
Assistant	<i>Minister Alexandra Landing</i>
Director of Ministerial Alliance	<i>Elder Trina Garner</i>
Assistant	<i>Elder Demetrius Boyd</i>
Director of Music	<i>Minister Thomas E. Keys III</i>
Assistant (Choir)	<i>Brother Bryant Baptiste</i>
Assistant (Praise Team)	<i>Sister Janell Johnson</i>
Director of Protocol	<i>Elder Tuan Severin</i>
Protocol Assistant	<i>Elder Sharon McKey</i>

Director of Armorbearers

Armorbearer Assistant

Director of Nurses

Nursing Assistant

Director of Events & Planning

Assistant of Events & Planning

Director of Deacon Ministry

Director of Men's Ministry

Director of Evangelism & Missions

Director of Singles

Director of Youth

Minister Courtney Hays

Brother Timothy Keys

Elder Elaine Hays

Sister Brynelle Baptiste

Elder Clifshaque Jones

Sis. Gabrielle Profit

Deacon Lorenzo Alston

Elder Cleveland Browder

Elder Tamika Cain

Elder Sharon McKey

Pastor Amos Chandler

Family

2nd Assistant Overseer Bryant Baptiste

Restoration Centre New Orleans

Restoration Centre Bossier City

Hope In Zion

Greater Bright Morning Star New Orleans

Greater Bright Morning Star Baton Rouge

Family

1st Assistant Overseer Dwayne Williams

New Seasons

City of Hope

God Teach Us Your Way Ministry

Church of the Redeemed

Refiners Fire Ministry

Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated

Affiliate Churches

City of Hope

Dwayne Williams, Pastor

Chauntel Williams, Co-Pastor

Church of the Redeemed

Walter Cressy, Pastor

Duana Cressy, 1st Lady

God Teach Us Your Way Ministry

Kenneth Mangum, Pastor

Greater Bright Morning Star, Baton Rouge

Robert Charles, Pastor

Almena Charles, Co-Pastor

Greater Bright Morning Star, New Orleans

Bryant Baptiste, Pastor

Stacey Baptiste, Co-Pastor

Hope in Zion

Amos Chandler, Pastor

Angela Chandler, Co-Pastor

House of New Life

Chris Ayala, Pastor

New Seasons

Bruce Landing, Pastor

Alexandra Landing, 1st Lady

Refiner's Fire

Derrick Rodgers, Pastor

Natalie Wright, Co-Pastor

Restoration Centre, Bossier City

Thomas E. Keys, Pastor

Simone H. Keys, Co-Pastor

Colleen Johnson, Pastor Liaison

Restoration Centre, New Orleans

Thomas E. Keys, Pastor

Simone H. Keys, Co-Pastor

Veronda Lindsey, Pastor Liaison

Spirit and Truth Pentecostal Ministries

Pastor Jesus Flores

Clergy Attire for Five Fold Fellowship Inc.

Attire is for all persons who are Licensed and Ordained! This includes a Solid Black Suit with no ornaments, stripes, dots, or designs!!!!!!

Chief Apostle – Scarlet Shirt, Roman Collar / Gold Chain and Cross/Gold Ring Ruby Stone

Apostolic Council of Bishops – Magenta Shirt, Roman Collar / Gold Chain and Cross/Gold Ring Purple Stone

Bishops – Jelly Shirt, Roman Collar / Gold Chain and Gold Cross/Gold Ring

Sr. Pastors – Grey Shirt, Roman Collar /Red Cord and Silver Cross/Silver Ring

1st Assistants – Light Blue Shirt, Roman Collar / Black & Gold Cord and Silver Cross

Directors – Black Shirt, Roman Collar/ Black & Gold Cord and Silver Cross

Elders – Black Shirt, Roman Collar/ Black & Gold Cord and Silver Cross

Ministers – Black Shirt with tab Collar

Shoes Males – Solid Black (No White and Black, No Designs)

Shoes Females - Modest/Solid Black with Closed in Toe & Heel. (No Peep Toe Shoes, No Sling Back Shoes, and No Excessively High Heels.)

Jewelry Males – Only Cross and Chain or Cord, Wedding Ring, Appropriate Ecclesiastical Ring, and Watch! No Earrings for Men! No Bracelets, No Necklaces, and No Piercings or Excessive Jewelry!

Jewelry Females - Modest Jewelry (Wedding Rings are Appropriate), Watch and Small Earrings for Women No Bracelets, No Necklaces, and No Piercings or Excessive Jewelry!

Makeup Men - No Make Up with the exception of recording for Television!

Makeup Women – Modest Make Up, No Outrageous Colors!

Apostolic Council of Bishops- Magenta (Maroon) Roman Style - **full set include: Cassock, cincture, rochet with wristbands, chemire, tippet zucchetto (if just cassock & chemire, same price as Senior Pastors)**

Bishops (Non-Apostolic Council) – Jelly (Blue) Roman Style - **full set include: Cassock, cincture, rochet with wristbands, chemire, tippet zucchetto (if just cassock & chemire, same price as Senior Pastors)**

Senior Pastors – Grey Cassock with Black Chemire

1st Assistants- Royal Blue Cassock with Blue piping and Blue Cincture (all Blue Robe) - **\$230 + 17. Shipping**

Directors & Elders – Black Cassock with Black Piping and Black Cincture (all Black Robe) - **\$220 + 17. Shipping**

Ministers – No Robe

Shirts, cords and crosses – mercyr robes.com

Robes – Joette Jones - 281-232-6229 office, 281-777-8875, email swrobeco@gmail.com

SOUTHWEST ROBE COMPANY

Clerical Attire - Measuring Form

Customers Name _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Church & Affiliate _____

Five Fold Fellowship, Incorporated

Full Address _____

1. SHOULDER – Measure across back of shoulders, basically between arm seams where sleeves are sewn in on a shirt, blouse or dress. inches
2. BBL – Measure from the base of the neck (Base of shirt collar) to the waist. inches
3. LENGTH – Measure from the **base of the neck all the way to the floor**..... inches
4. SLEEVE – **Two measurements required. First** you measure from center of back (back bone at base of neck) to wrist bone, with arm stretched straight out to the side. inches
5. Second, with the arm straight down by the side, take measurement from the seam of the shoulder of the shirt or blouse to your wrist bone. inches
6. FRONT WIDTH – Same as the shoulders, but from the front. inches
7. NECK – Take measurement round the base of the neck and if known shirt neck size. inches
8. CHEST – measure all around the chest area. inches
9. WAIST - Measure largest part of stomach. inches
10. HIPS – **(For women only)** Measure largest part of your hips. inches
11. WRIST – Measure around wrist, if a watch is worn all the time you can measure over it. inches
12. UPPER ARM: measurement inches
13. ZUCCHETTO – take measurement on top of the head – roughly in a round where the Zucchetto is to come on head to finish. inches

**Five Fold Fellowship, Inc.
Ordination Class of 2017
Treasure Seekers**

Contact List

Deuteronomy 28:12 (KJV)

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

**Conference Call number
712-451-0011
Access Code 506060
Recording Playback number
712-451-0019
Access Code 506060**

City of Hope

Elder Trina Garner

Overseer Dwayne Williams
[**pastordwil@gmail.com**](mailto:pastordwil@gmail.com)
835-655-5029

[**trinagarner65@gmail.com**](mailto:trinagarner65@gmail.com)
409-978-5943
2525 St. Christopher Ave. #422
League City, TX 77573

Church of the Redeemed

Pastor Walter Cressy
[**waltercressy@yahoo.com**](mailto:waltercressy@yahoo.com)
901-871-2689

God Teach Us Your Way Ministry

Pastor Kenneth Mangum
[**kdmangum@bellsouth.net**](mailto:kdmangum@bellsouth.net)
504-715-9762

Greater Bright Morning Star, B.R.

Overseer Robert Charles
[**Rcharles225@aol.com**](mailto:Rcharles225@aol.com)
504-237-6490

Greater Bright Morning Star, N.O.

Overseer Bryant Baptiste
[**kingbbaptiste@yahoo.com**](mailto:kingbbaptiste@yahoo.com)
504-251-5038

Hope in Zion

Pastor Amos Chandler
[**hizchurch@aol.com**](mailto:hizchurch@aol.com)

<u>House of New Life</u>	985-514-6964 Pastor Chris Ayala 972-802-6946
<u>New Seasons</u>	Overseer Bruce Landing pastorlandin@aol.com 601-519-3350
<u>Refiner's Fire Prophetic Ministry</u>	Overseer Derrick Rodgers prophetderrick@aol.com 469-647-0529
<u>Restoration Center, Bossier City</u>	Apostle Thomas E. Keys, Jr. apostlekeys@yahoo.com 504-421-1630 Pastor Liaison Colleen Johnson ckjohnson51@bellsouth.net 504-881-9474
<u>Restoration Center, New Orleans</u>	Apostle Thomas E. Keys, Jr. Pastor Liaison Veronda Lindsey kermit_veronda@yahoo.com 504-289-7287
<u>Spirit and Truth Pentecostal</u>	Pastor Jesus Flores Jesus101889@gmail.com 254-349-2333

Candidate Name	Address	Phone	Email Address



STUDY INFORMATION



Required Reading for Elder's Exam

The Holy Bible

The Star Book for Ministers by Edward T. Hiscox

The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible by
James Strong, LL.D., S.T.D.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible by Matthew
Henry

You Have Not Many Fathers by Dr. Mark Hanby

Pigs in the Parlor by Frank and Ida Mae Hammond

The Fourth Dimension Volume One by Dr. David Yonggi Cho

He Gave Gifts unto Men by Kenneth E. Hagin

On Spiritual Gifts by Smith Wigglesworth

***Be prepared to answer questions on and summarize your
readings***

Ordination Evaluation Questions

You and Your Relationship

Answer questions 1 – 20 and submit to Elder Garner via email or snail mail.

- 1. State your Name.**
- 2. State Place, and Date of Birth.**
- 3. State Marital Status.**
- 4. State your Calling into the Gospel Ministry.**
- 5. Give a brief statement of your Salvation experience.**
- 6. How important is your family in the ministry God has called you.**
- 7. In your own words, what does it mean "to preach?"**
- 8. In your own words, describe the importance of ethical behavior as a preacher.**
- 9. How important is prayer to you.**
- 10. How important is reading the Word of God to you.**
- 11. How important is faithfulness to all things pertaining to God to you.**
- 12. How important is fasting to you.**
- 13. What is your chief motive for wanting to be ordained?**
- 14. Are you sure that you are ready to be ordained? Why or why not?**
- 15. Have you labored under your current Pastor and do you have his approval for ordination?**
- 16. If you are not ordained by this council, what will you do?**
- 17. If you are ordained by this council, what will you do?**
- 18. How important is preaching to you?**
- 19. How important is witnessing to you?**
- 20. Has God spoken to you since he called you to preach? If so, what has he said?**

Definitions

Each of these words are relative to the Word of God. Find a scripture that relates to each word.

21. **Atonement** – reparation for a wrong or an injury; the reconciliation of God and mankind through Jesus Christ
22. **Autonomy** – self-governing; freedom from external control or influence; independent
23. **Church** – ekklesia (Greek) – which we have derived the word ecclesiastical, its literal meaning is an assembly belonging to the Lord or the ‘called out’ ones.
24. **Deity** – God; divine status, quality, or nature; creator or supreme being
25. **Exegesis** – Greek work meaning to ‘lead out’. It is the critical interpretation or explanation of the scripture or text (the written word)
26. **Faith** – complete trust or confidence in something or someone; strong belief in God or in the doctrine of religion based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof; the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)
27. **Gospel** – the good news of Jesus Christ
28. **Grace** – the unmerited favor of God
29. **Hermeneutics** – the study of the text to draw out its perfect meaning; the study of methodical principals of interpretation (written, verbal and nonverbal)
30. **Illumination** – deals with how the believer can understand the truth that God gave by revelation which was written by inspiration; *the understanding*
31. **Imminent** – about to happen; an overhanging event; quickly approaching; forthcoming
32. **Infallible** – incapable of making mistakes or being wrong; never failing; always effective
32. **Inspiration** – how the Word of God was written down; *the recording process*
33. **Interpretation** – man’s way of understanding and conveying the inspiration of God
34. **Justification** – the act of God, which we access by faith, of being brought into right standing with God
35. **Mercy** – compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm; to show leniency; God withholding from us that which we rightfully deserve
36. **Obedience** – compliance with an order, request or law; submission to another’s authority
37. **Omnipotence** – the state of being all-powerful; *All power belongs to God (Psalms 147: 5; Jeremiah 32:17)*
38. **Omnipresence** – present everywhere at the same time; *God exists everywhere (Psalms 139: 7 – 10)*
39. **Omniscience** – the state of being all-knowing; *God has immeasurable understanding (Psalms 147: 5)*

40. **Ordain** – to invest in ministerial or sacerdotal functions; to decree or give orders; to destine or predestine
41. **Redemption** – the act of saving; being saved from sin, error or evil; absolution; clearing or recovering a debt;
42. **Regeneration** – being born again; gaining eternal life (Zoe – the God kind of life)
43. **Repentance** – a voluntary change in the mind of a sinner in which he turns from sin to serve the living God
44. **Revelation** – the communication process by which God revealed the truth to the Bible writers;
audible voice or visions
45. **Righteousness** – the quality of being right; justified; to be made right with God through Jesus Christ our Lord
46. **Prayer** – oral communication with God; communication out of the mouth to God’s ears and He responding back
47. **Sacrifice** - the act of dying to self; the act of giving something of value to God; loving Jesus over and above all others and anything else
48. **Salvation** – deliverance from sin and its consequences brought about by faith in Jesus; to be saved by the penalty and power of sin
49. **Sanctification** – the continual act of being cleansed, consecrated and made holy
50. **Scripture** – sacred writings and Christian values contained in the Bible
51. **Tenacity** – persistence; determination; perseverance; endurance; staying power; stamina
52. **Triune** – consisting of three in one; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one
53. **Zeal** – great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective
54. **Zealot** – a person who is fanatical and uncompromising in pursuit of their religious, political, or other ideals;
55. **Zest** – great enthusiasm and energy; gusto; passion; flavor

Biblical Foundation

56. What is the Holy Bible?

The Word of God

57. What are the six ways in which the Bible must be studied?

Prayerfully, Exegetically, Humbly, Reverently, Believingly, Trustfully

58. Name the Five Divisions of the Psalms.

Genesis (1-41), Exodus (42-72), Leviticus (73-89), Numbers (90-106), Deuteronomy (107-150)

59. How many books in the Bible?

Sixty-six (66)

60. Name the divisions of the Old Testament.

Law (5), History (12), Poetry (5), Major Prophets (5), Minor Prophets (12)

61. What is meant by the term "Major Prophet"?

A prophet who wrote one of the larger portions of the Bible.

62. What is meant by the term "Minor Prophet"?

A prophet who wrote one of the smaller portions of the Bible.

63. Name the divisions of the New Testament.

Gospel (4), History (1), Pauline Epistles (14), General Epistles (7), Prophecy (1)

64. What source of authority is every church member subject to?

The Holy Spirit

65. Name the original languages in which the Bible was written.

Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and Aramaic

66. The Bible is divided into two parts, name them.

Old and New Testament

67. How many books make up the literal Gospel?

Four - Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John

68. How wrote the majority of the Epistle letters?

Apostle Paul

69. How are Paul's Epistle letters divided?

3 Ways - Pastoral, Prison and Personal

70. Name three of the Immutable (unchanging) attributes of God.

Invisible, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Eternal, Unchanging, and Holy

71. How has God revealed himself to mankind?

God has revealed himself in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

72. What three ways has God proven His existence?

Through His Word, through Nature and through all creation

73. What are three names used to identify God.

Jehovah, El Shaddi, Yahweh, & Elohim

74. Who is the Son of God?

Jesus

True or false

75. The doctrine of the Trinity is implied in the Old Testament, and is clearly revealed in the New Testament. True

76. The Triune Godhead has three persons and one essence. True

77. There are three Gods with different agendas. False

78. Omniscient means that God is all powerful. False

79. Omnipresent means that God is actually everywhere. True

80. Name and briefly explain four indirect proofs or arguments which point to God's existence.

The four indirect proofs or arguments which point to God's existence are:

- 1) Cosmological argument - The argument for the existence of God from cause and effect (see pg. 61).
- 2) Teleological argument - The argument for the existence of God from design (see pg. 62).
- 3) Anthropological argument - The moral argument for the existence of God (see pg. 63).
- 4) Ontological argument - The moral argument for the existence of God through life (see pg. 64).

81. What were the writers of the Old Testament called?

Scribes, Prophets of the Old Testament

82. What were the writers of the New Testament called?

Apostles, Historians of the New Testament

83. List some of the ways in which God revealed His truth to the Bible writers.

Revelation, inspiration and illumination

84. What is the difference in grace and works?

Works are man's attempts to earn eternal life, Grace is God's extended mercy to freely give eternal life to all undeserving (Ephesians 2: 8 – 9)

85. What is the purpose of works for a Christian?

To shew forth the glorious light of Christ in all the earth and to give our faith a living purpose.

Note "Faith without works is dead."

86. What is man?

Man is a creature made by God, in the image of God, whose primary purpose was to have dominion over the earth.

87. Name six results of the fall of Adam and Eve.

- 1) They had a new found fear of God.
- 2) They were expelled from the garden.
- 3) They immediately died, spiritually.
- 4) The seeds of physical death were planted.
- 5) Death was passed unto all mankind.
- 6) Man became a sinner.

88. Define repentance.

Repentance is defined as a voluntary change in the mind of a sinner in which he turns from sin to serve the living God.

89. Briefly discuss how water baptism symbolizes regeneration.

Water baptism symbolizes regeneration in the fact that it pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

90. The Gospel books were written to four (4) different groups of people. Name the writer and the group of people the book was written to.

Matthew – the Jews

Mark – Christians in Rome, Romans

Luke – Theophilus and the Greeks

John – the church; new converts

91. Each Gospel writer portrayed Jesus in a different way. Name the writer and the four ways Jesus was portrayed.

Matthew – King; Messiah; Lion

Mark – Servant; Ox

Luke – Son of God; Man

John – Sovereign God; Eagle

92. Name the children of Jacob.

Asher, Benjamin, Dan, Dinah, Gad, Issachar, Joseph, Judah, Levi, Naphtali, Rueben, Simon, Zebulun

(Genesis 35: 22 – 26)

93. Name the twelve (12) tribes of Israel.

The twelve tribes are as follows: Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Ephraim and Manasseh.

94. Who is Ishmael?

Ishmael is the first born son of Abraham and Sarah by Hagar, Sarah's maid.

95. What is the significance of the telling of Ishmael's story?

He represents how our impatience to wait on God, relying on our own interpretation of God's promises and our limited thinking can muddy our vision and significantly delay the outcome of the Promise.

96. Name the twelve (12) sons of Ishmael.

Nebajoth - words, prophecies, or buds

Kedar - blackness or sorrow

Adbeel - a cloud of God

Mibsam - smelling sweet

Mishma - obeying or hearing

Duma - silence

Massa - prophecy

Hadar - greatness or power

Tema - perfection

Jetur - succession or order

Naphish - he that rests or refreshes himself

Kedemah - ancient or first

97. Where in Scripture can we find the names of the sons of Ishmael?

Genesis 25: 13 – 15

98. What is the relationship between Elijah and Elisha?

A father/son or teacher/student relationship

99. What is the purpose Elijah and Elisha's relationship?

The significance is the passing of the mantle; spiritual covering, authority or anointing.

Biblical Geography

Give scriptural reference and explain what event took place there.

100. Name three rivers in the Bible.

101. Name three lakes in the Bible.

102. Name three seas in the Bible.

103. Name three brooks in the Bible.

104. Name three valleys in the Bible.

105. Name three cities in the Bible.

106. Name three mounts or mountains in the Bible.

Biblical Doctrine

Give Scripture reference to all answers.

107. Who is the Head of the church?

Jesus (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18)

108. Who is the under shepherd in the local church?

The Pastor (Acts 20:28)

109. List three names the church is called?

Bride of Christ - Ephesians 5:22-32

The Body of Christ - Ephesians 4:12,

City of God - Hebrews 12:22,

Flock of God - 1 Peter 5:2,

God's Building - 1 Cor. 3:9,

Household of God - Ephesians 2:19,

Lamb's Wife - Rev. 19:7, Mt.

Zion - Heb. 12:22,

People of God - 1 Peter 2:10

110. What is the role of a Pastor to the local church?

To feed the flock of God, take the oversight (Acts 20:28) give spiritual guidance, preach the Word, teach the Word, warn, root-out, rebuke, correct, restore, lead, love, admonish, witness (1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 22 & Jeremiah 1: 10) and rightly divide the Word of truth. (2 Timothy 2: 15)

111. How many universal churches are there?

One - The spiritual body of Baptized believers in Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12 – 20)

112. What is the business of the deacons in the church?

Serve tables, assist the Pastor, and be about the business of the church. (Acts 6:2 – 3)

113. What is church discipline and who should administer it?

Church discipline is the process of bringing correction to a wayward, disobedient, or rebellious member. The Pastor should administer church discipline.

114. Who owns the church?

Jesus (Matthew 16:18 "I will build my church.")

115. What role does the church have in the world?

To go and make disciples of Jesus, by preaching, teaching and witnessing. (Matthew 28 the Great Commission)

116. What is church's responsibility toward its members?

Proper Bible-based training, ministries that meet every need, and a meeting place for the presence of God.

117. What are members' responsibility toward the church?

Time, talents, and treasures (Malachi 3: 10; Acts 2: 42 – 45)

118. How should the church honor its Pastor?

The liberty to preach the gospel by freeing his hands from worldly-affairs, proper respect, due honor, compensation, and benevolence. (1 Timothy 5: 17 – 18)

119. How many ordinances are there in the Baptist church? What are they?

There are two ordinances in the Baptist Church, (1) Water Baptism and
(2) The Lord's Supper

120. Which of these ordinances comes first and why?

Water Baptism – Know explanation.

121. What is Christian Doctrine?

Christian Doctrine is the truths that are taught, accepted, believed, and practiced by Christians.

122. How many statements make up the *Christian Doctrine*?

There are ten (10) statements that make up the Christian Doctrine.

123. Who owns the church?

Jesus (Matthew 16:18 "I will build my church.")

124. What role does the church have in the world?

To go and make disciples of Jesus, by preaching, teaching and witnessing. (Matthew 28 the Great Commission)

125. What is church's responsibility toward its members?

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127. How should the church honor its Pastor?

The liberty to preach the gospel by freeing his hands from worldly-affairs, proper respect, due honor, compensation, and benevolence. (1 Timothy 5: 17 – 18)

128. How many Articles of Faith are there?

There are nineteen (19) Articles of Faith

Preaching and Pulpit Etiquette

129. What does it mean to practice what you preach?

To live a life that's pleasing to God, to walk circumspectly in the world, and to do what I tell others to do; obey God.

130. What is the proper protocol when you are invited to go to another church to preach?

Pray on it, Get approval from your pastor and the pastor of the other church, confirm day, date and time in writing.

131. If you are called to Pastor a church, what should be your primary purpose of going?

To glorify and lift up Jesus in every way possible.

132. What are the three ways that a man of God is supposed to preach?

I Thessalonians 1:5

A) Assurance

B) Power

C) Holy Spirit

133. Most sermons have structure which contains how many points?

Three

134. What are the main components of a sermon?

Introduction, three points and conclusion

135. In "Components of Expository Preaching" what three things must take place?

Analyze the text, capitalize the truth, and humanize the telling

136. What is the business of the deacons in the church?

Serve tables, assist the Pastor, and be about the business of the church. (Acts 6:2 – 3)

137. What is church discipline and who should administer it?

Church discipline is the process of bringing correction to a wayward, disobedient, or rebellious member. The Pastor should administer church discipline.

138. What should be avoided in the pulpit?

Slumping, slouching, and excessive talking.

139. When should you mount the pulpit?

After you have been given approval by the Pastor of the church.

140. How can you disgrace the sanctity of the pulpit?

By treating it with lack of respect and dignity; chewing gum, competing with other preachers, leaving trash, programs and drawing attention to yourself.

141. What should you do, if you are already seated in the pulpit, and the Pastor or guest Evangelist comes into the pulpit?

Stand, greet them, and if necessary, allow another visiting minister to have your seat.

Practical Application

142. Memorize and be prepared to recite three (3) statements of the *Christian Doctrine* as well as three (3) verses of scripture.

143. Memorize and be prepared to recite three (3) *Articles of Faith* as well as three (3) verses of scripture.

144. List and explain Tiers of Leadership of the Five Fold Fellowship.

Apostle, 1st Assistant, 2nd Assistant (Name individuals who hold these positions and if vacant then say vacant)

145. Name the Leadership of your local Church.

Sr. Pastor, Co-Pastor/1st Lady, 1st Assistant (Name individuals who hold these positions and if vacant then say vacant)

146. Invitation to Discipleship!!!

You have just completed ministering the Word of God and you have to conduct the Invitation to Discipleship. Explain and demonstrate this procedure.

Salvation, Backslider, Church Membership, Baptism of Holy Spirit – or Prayer

147. Offering at Your Church!!!

What is the procedure of picking up offering, envelopes, and the flow of offering?

148. Baptism!!!

Be prepared to demonstrate how to baptize a candidate. Also be prepared to defend Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Baptism.

149. Wedding Ceremony!!!

Be prepared to conduct a wedding ceremony. (Bring your Star book with you.) Explain the importance of premarital counseling.

150. Funeral!!!

Be prepared to conduct a grave side ceremony. Where do you stand? Where do you ride? Who leads and why?

151. Sermon Writing!!!

Be prepared to write a three (3) point sermon on any given text using the “Elements of Plot Structure” and the “Components of Expository Preaching”.

66 Books of the Bible

39 Old Testament Books

5 Books of Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

12 Books of History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

5 Books of Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Songs of Solomon

5 Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

12 Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

27 New Testament Books

4 Books of Gospel

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

1 Book of History

Acts

14 Pauline Epistles (Letters)

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

7 General Epistles (Letters)

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

1 Book of Prophecy

Revelation

****Be prepared to
answer any other
questions that may be
asked by the Ordination
Council****

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

1. We believe in the Triune God the eternally self-existent, I AM, the Creator of heaven and earth and Redeemer of mankind manifested in three persons: Almighty Father, Divine Son, and Holy Ghost (***1John 5:7; Deuteronomy 33:26-27; Revelation 1:4; Exodus 3:14; Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1, 14; 4:24***).
2. We believe in the Bible as the inspired, infallible, Word of God, inerrant in the original autographs, and the only rule of faith, guide for practice, and indisputable, and ultimate authority of the revelation of God, His Will and His Way (***2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119: 7-11; 2 Peter 1:16-21***).
3. We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ, the incarnation of the Son, born of a virgin, very God of very God for whom and by whom all things were created (***John 1:1-14; Genesis 1:1; Luke 1:34,35***).
4. We believe in the substitutionary atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, that He by the grace of God tasted death for every man and that all must be born again through faith in Him, or are forever lost. Redemption is accomplished by the Cross and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, by grace, through faith, believing in the heart that God raised Him from the dead. Salvation is by Jesus Christ and none other for God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and of those in earth, and of those under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (***Hebrews 2:9; John 3:1-18; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:9-11***).
5. We believe in the physical resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that He ascended bodily into heaven; and is now at the right hand of the father as our mediator, high priest, and advocate (***Acts 3:12-26; John 20:17; Hebrews 9:24; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14; I John 2:1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-28; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:26***).
6. We believe in water baptism and Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as the ordinances of the church which are to be observed as public declaration of salvation through Jesus and in commemoration of his death, burial, and resurrection in victory over Satan, death, hell, and the grave (***Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:27, 28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34***).
7. We believe in the personal, visible imminent return of Jesus Christ both "for" His Saints and "with" His Saints, to reign in victory (***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-55; Revelation 19:19-20; 20:1-6***).
8. We believe in the authority of the believer over the enemy, Satan and the victory to be gained by the exercise of that authority in the areas of deliverance, healing, and holiness (***Ephesians 6:10-17; Mark 5:13; Mark 10:7, 8; Mark 16:17***).

9. We believe in the personality and reality of Satan as the enemy of the kingdom of God and the Saints of the Lord; and in his ultimate defeat by the Lord Jesus Christ and potential defeat in the lives of spirit-filled believers, clothed in the armor of God (**Mark 16:17; Revelation 12:9-10; Matthew 4:2-11; Isaiah 14:12-17; Revelation 20:10**).
10. We believe in the autonomy of the local church as an independent entity with regard to matter of government, polity, operation and discipline (**1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Acts 6:3-5; 11:22; 14:23; Titus 1:5**).

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instructions, that has God for its author salvation for its end and truth without any mixture or error for its matter, that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christians union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Proverbs 30:5-6; II Peter 1:20, 21; II Timothy 2:15)

2. THE TRUE GOD

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, and infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

(John 4:24; I John 5:7; Exodus 15:11)

3. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe the Scripture teach that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God; positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation, without defense or excuse.

(Genesis 1:27; Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12; Psalms 51:5; Genesis 6:5; Romans 6:23)

4. THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe the Scriptures teach that salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who, according to the will of the Father, became man, yet without sin; honored the divine law by His personal obedience and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tender sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

(I Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:5 - 10; John 3:16, 17; Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:10, 11; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:13, 14)

5. JUSTIFICATION

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justified, that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life

on principles of righteousness; that is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in Christ; by mean of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

(John 1:16; Romans 5:1)

6. THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent, and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own determination depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

(Isaiah 55:1; Acts 17:30; John 4:14)

7. REGENERATION

We believe the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved men must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

(John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17)

8. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in the soul by the regeneration Spirit of God, whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus as our prophet, priest, and king, and relying on Him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior. **(Mark 1:15; John 16:8; Acts 2:38)**

9. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility; that it encourages the use of means; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly accept Christ that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves that utmost diligence.

(Ephesians 2:8, 9; II Timothy 1:8-9; II Thessalonians 2:13-14)

10. SANCTIFICATION

We believe the Scriptures teach that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word—God—self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer; and in the practice of all godly exercise and duties.

(1 Thessalonians 4:3; Proverbs 4:18)

11. PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe the Scriptures teach that such as are truly regenerate, being born of the Spirit, will not utterly fall away and perish, but will endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

(John 8:34; I John 2:19)

12. THE LAW AND GOSPEL

We believe the Scripture teach that the law of God is eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their sinful nature, to deliver them from which and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and the means of grace connected with establishment of the visible church.

(Romans 3:3; 7:12)

13. A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible Church of God is a company of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested by them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus. **(Acts 2:41; II Corinthians 8:5)**

14. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in his death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper.

(Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 28:19)

15. THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and wine, representing Christ's body and blood, partaken of by member of the church assembled for that purpose, in commemoration of the death of their Lord, showing their faith and participation in the merits of His sacrifice, their dependence on Him for spiritual life and nourishment, and their hope of life eternal through His resurrection from the dead; its observation to be preceded by faithful self-examination.

(Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:26)

16. THE LORD'S DAY

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor, except works of mercy and necessity; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for the rest that remaineth for the people of God. **(Acts 20:7; Exodus 20:8)**

17. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

(Romans 13:1-7; Matthews 22:21)

18. RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as regenerated, being justified through faith in Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are, in His sight, wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men, both in and after death. **(Malachi 3:18; Romans 1:17)**

19. THE WORLD TO COME

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless sorrow, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

(1 Peter 4:7; Acts 1:11).

Tribes of Israel

Part I - Introductory Facts about the 12 Tribes of Israel

Abraham begot Isaac. Isaac begot Jacob.

- To be an Israelite by blood, a person must be a descendent of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Jacob begot 12 sons who are listed herein in subsequent sections.

- The 12 sons of Jacob are the patriarchs of the 12 Tribes of Israel.
- For example, Jacob's son Benjamin is the patriarch of the Tribe of Benjamin. Jacob's son Reuben is the patriarch of the Tribe of Reuben. And so forth.

Well-known descendants of certain Tribes

- Tribe of Benjamin - King Saul, Paul the apostle [a.k.a. Saul of Tarsus]
- Tribe of Levi - Moses, Aaron
- Tribe of Judah - King David, King Solomon, many other kings; Jesus, the Messiah

The Promised Land [Canaan], plus an area on the east side of the Jordan River, was allocated among the 12 Tribes. [Num 33.54; Num 36.3-9]

- As the priestly Tribe, Levi was given no land. [Num 18.20, 18.24] Instead of land, God gave Levi the tithes of the people of Israel.
- Jacob's son Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
- By Jacob's command [Gen 48.5], Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, were regarded as de facto "Tribes" of Israel.
- Thus, the land allocations of Joseph and Levi were given instead to Ephraim and Manasseh, preserving *twelve* as the number of tribes. [Josh 14.3-4]

There is no such thing as "10 lost tribes of Israel." [Mt 10.6, Acts 26.7, Jam 1.1, Rev 7.1-8; Ezek 37]

Part II Sons of Jacob [Names, Mothers, Birth Verses]

Sons of Jacob	Meaning of Name	Mother	Birth Verse
01-Reuben	See, a son	Leah	So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely seen my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me." Gen 29.32
02-Simeon	Hearing	Leah	Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. Gen 29.33
03-Levi	Joined; attached	Leah	She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. Gen 29.34
04-Judah	Yah be praised	Leah	And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise Yahweh." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing. Gen 29.35
05-Dan	Judge	Bilhah (Rachel's servant)	Then Rachel said, "God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan. Gen 30.6

06-Naphtali	My wrestling	Bilhah (Rachel's servant)	Rachel said, "With great wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and indeed I have prevailed." So she called him Naphtali. Gen 30.6
07-Gad	Troop; invader; good fortune	Zilpah (Leah's servant)	Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad. Gen 30.11
08-Asher	Happy	Zilpah (Leah's servant)	Then Leah said, "I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher. Gen 30.13
09-Issachar	Man of hire	Leah	Leah said, "God has given me my hire [wages] because I have given my maid to my husband." So she called his name Issachar. Gen 30.18
10-Zebulun	Dwelling	Leah	Leah said, "...now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. Gen 30.20b
11-Joseph	Increaser	Rachel	So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son." Gen 30.24
12-Benjamin	Son of the right hand	Rachel	As her soul was departing (for she died), she called his name Ben-Oni [son of my sorrow]; but his father called him Ben-Jamin. Gen 35.18

Part III - Prophecies about the 12 Sons of Jacob

**Sons of
Jacob**

**Jacob's Prophecies
Genesis 49.1-27**

**Moses' Blessings
Deuteronomy 33.6-25**

01-Reuben

Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and
the beginning of my strength, The excellency
of dignity and the excellency of power.
Unstable as water, you shall not excel,
Because you went up to your father's bed;
Then you defiled it -He went up to my
couch.

Let Reuben live, and not die, Nor let his men
be few.

02-Simeon

Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments
of cruelty are in their dwelling place. Let not
my soul enter their council; Let not my
honor be united to their assembly; For in
their anger they slew a man, And in their
self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be
their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath,
for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And
scatter them in Israel.

[Moses makes no mention of Simeon in
blessing the tribes of Israel.]

03-Levi

Of Levi he said: "Let Your Thummim and
Your Urim be with Your holy one, Whom
You tested at Massah, And with whom You
contended at the waters of Meribah, Who
says of his father and mother, 'I have not
seen them'; Nor did he acknowledge his
brothers, Or know his own children; For they
have observed Your word And kept Your
covenant. They shall teach Jacob Your
judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall

		<p>put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar. Bless his substance, LORD, And accept the work of his hands; Strike the loins of those who rise against him, And of those who hate him, that they rise not again."</p>
04-Judah	<p>Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.</p>	<p>And this he said of Judah: "Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, And bring him to his people; Let his hands be sufficient for him, And may You be a help against his enemies."</p>
05-Dan	<p>Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the</p>	<p>And of Dan he said: "Dan is a lion's whelp; He shall leap from Bashan."</p>

		<p>way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward. I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!</p>	
06-Naphtali	<p>Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.</p>	<p>And of Naphtali he said: "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, And full of the blessing of the LORD, Possess the west and the south."</p>	
07-Gad	<p>Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.</p>	<p>And of Gad he said: "Blessed is he who enlarges Gad; He dwells as a lion, And tears the arm and the crown of his head. He provided the first part for himself, Because a lawgiver's portion was reserved there. He came with the heads of the people; He administered the justice of the LORD, And His judgments with Israel."</p>	
08-Asher	<p>Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.</p>	<p>And of Asher he said: "Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil. Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be."</p>	
09-Issachar	<p>"Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens; He saw that rest was</p>	<p>And of Zebulun he said: "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, And Issachar in your tents!</p>	

	<p>good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.</p>	<p>They shall call the peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas And of treasures hidden in the sand."</p>
10-Zebulun	<p>Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.</p>	
11-Joseph	<p>Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.</p>	<p>And of Joseph he said: "Blessed of the LORD is his land, With the precious things of heaven, with the dew, And the deep lying beneath, With the precious fruits of the sun, With the precious produce of the months, With the best things of the ancient mountains, With the precious things of the everlasting hills, With the precious things of the earth and its fullness, And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Let the blessing come 'on the head of Joseph, & on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.' His glory is like a firstborn bull, And his horns like the horns of the wild ox; Together with them He shall push the peoples To the ends of the earth; They are the ten thousands of</p>

		Ephraim, And they are the thousands of Manasseh."
12-Benjamin	Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil.	Of Benjamin he said: "The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders."

Part IV - Marching Order of the Tribes

From Egypt to the Promised Land

Military Organization & Marching Order of Israel

Numbers Chapter 2

	North - last to break camp Dan 62,700 Asher 41,500 Naphtali 53,400 Total 157,600	
West - 3rd to break camp Ephraim 40,500 Manasseh 32200 Benjamin 35,400 Total 108,100	Center - Tabernacle of Meeting Levi unnumbered [Num 2.33]	East - 1st to break camp Judah 74,600 Issachar 54,400 Zebulun 57,400 Total 186,400
	South - 2nd to break camp Reuben 46,500 Simeon 59,300 Gad 45,650 Total 151,450	

Map of the 12 Tribes of Israel



A Short List of Prophecies About Jesus Christ and their Fulfillment from 4004 BC to AD 33

Prediction about Jesus	OT Prophecy	NT Fulfillment
Seed of Abraham	Genesis 12:3	Matthew 1:1
Seed of a Woman	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
Seed of Isaac	Genesis 17:19	Luke 3:34
Seed of Jacob	Numbers 24:17	Matthew 1:2
Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Matthew 1:2
Heir to the Throne of David	Isaiah 9:7	Luke 1:32-33
Born in Bethlehem ("House of Bread")	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4-6
Time of His Birth	Daniel 9:25	Luke 2:1-2
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Luke 1:26-31
Slaughter of the Innocents	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
Flight to Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14-15
Preceded by a Forerunner	Malachi 3:1	Luke 7:24, 27
Declared the Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:17
Galilean Ministry	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:13-16
A Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:15	Acts 3:20-22
To Heal the Brokenhearted	Isaiah 61:1-2	Luke 4:18-19
Rejected by His Own People, the Jews	Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11
Priest after the Order of Melchizedek	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6
Triumphal Entry into City of Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	Mark 11:7-9
Betrayed by a Friend	Psalms 41:9	Luke 22:47-48
Sold for Thirty Pieces of Silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
Silent to Accusations	Isaiah 53:7	Mark 15:4-5
Accused by False Witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Mark 14:55-64
Spat upon and Smitten	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
Hated without Reason	Psalms 35:19	John 15:24-25
Vicarious Sacrifice	Isaiah 53:5	Romans 5:6-8
Crucified with Malefactors	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27-28
Pierced through Hands and Feet	Zechariah 12:10	John 20:27
Scorned and Mocked	Psalms 22:7-8	Luke 23:35
Given Vinegar and Gall	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
Prayed for His Enemies	Psalms 109:2-5	Luke 23:34
Soldiers Gambled for His Coat	Psalms 22:17-18	Matthew 27:35-36
No Bones Broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:32-36
His Side Pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Buried with the Rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
To Be Resurrected	Psalms 16:10, 49:15	Mark 16:6-7
His Death Announcement	Daniel 9:24	Matthew 27:46
His Ascension to God's Right Hand	Psalms 68:18	Mark 16:19; 1Cor.15:4; Eph. 4:8

<i>PROPHECY</i>	<i>PREDICTION</i>	<i>FULFILLMENT</i>
Isa. 7:14	Virgin-born...	Luke 1:26-53
Micah 5:2	... in Bethlehem	Matt. 2:1
Hos 11:1	Flight into Egypt...	Mt 2:14
Je 31:15	... to escape the massacre of the infants	Mt 2:16
Gen 49:10	Of the tribe of Judah	Luke 3:33
Isa. 7:14	Called Immanuel	Matt. 1:23
Isa. 9:1-2	Ministry in Galilee	Matt. 4:12-16
Zech. 9:9	Triumphal entry into Jerusalem	Matt. 21:1-11
Ps. 41:9	Betrayed by a friend...	Matt. 26:20-25
Zec 11:12	... for 30 pieces of silver...	Matt. 26:15
Zec 11:13	... & the money used to buy a potter's field	Matt. 27:6,7
Is 53:3	Rejected by Jews	John 1:11
Ps. 35:11	Falsely accused...	Matt. 26:59-68
Isa. 53:7	... yet silent before accusers	Matt. 27:12-14
Isa 50:6	Smitten and spat upon	Mark 14:65
Is 53:4,5	Suffered vicariously	Mt 8:16,17
Isa. 53:12	Crucified with robbers	Matt. 27:38
Ps. 22:16	Hands and feet pierced...	John 20:25
Ps. 34:20	... but bones not broken	John 19:33
Ps. 22:18	Lots cast for clothes	John 19:23-24
Ps. 22:15	Thirsted on the cross...	John 19:28
Ps 69:21	... and given vinegar to drink	John 19:29
Ps 22:1	"My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"	Matt. 27:46
Isa. 53:9	Buried in tomb of rich	Matt. 27:57-61
Ps 16:10	His resurrection	Matt. 28:9
Ps 68:18	His ascension	Lu 24:50,51

Jesus of Nazareth Proved to Be the Promised Messiah

The incident or event	Hebrew Scripture prophecy	Greek Scripture fulfillment
Born of the tribe of Judah	Gen. 49: 10	Matt. 1: 1-3
Born in Bethlehem	Mic. 5: 2	Matt. 2: 1, 5, 6
Born of a virgin	Isa. 7: 14	Matt. 1: 22, 23
Babes killed after birth	Jer. 31: 15	Matt. 2: 17, 18
Way prepared before	Mal. 3: 1; 4: 5; Isa. 40: 3	Matt. 3: 3; 11: 10-14; 17: 12; Mark 1: 2-4
Called out of Egypt	Hos. 11: 1	Matt. 2: 15
Commissioned	Isa. 61: 1, 2	Luke 4: 18-21
Start of ministry	Isa. 9: 1, 2	Matt. 4: 13-16
To speak in parables	Ps. 78: 2	Matt. 13: 31-35
Bore infirmities	Isa. 53: 4	Matt. 8: 17
Not believed in	Isa. 53: 1	John 12: 38
Hated without cause	Ps. 69: 4	John 15: 25
Entry into Jerusalem	Zech. 9: 9	Matt. 21: 4, 5
Rejected	Isa. 53: 3; Ps. 69: 8; 118: 22, 23	Mark 9: 12; 12: 10, 11; John 1: 11; Acts 4: 11
One apostle unfaithful	Ps. 109: 8	John 17: 12; Acts 1: 20
Betrayed by follower	Ps. 41: 9	Matt. 26: 14-16, 47-50
For 30 pieces of silver	Zech. 11: 12	Matt. 26: 15
Disciples scatter	Zech. 13: 7	Matt. 26: 31, 56
Tried and condemned	Isa. 53: 8	Mark 15: 1-15
Use of false witnesses	Ps. 35: 11	Matt. 26: 59
Silent before accusers	Isa. 53: 7	Matt. 27: 12-14
Smitten	Isa. 50: 6; Mic. 5: 1	Mark 14: 65; 15: 19
Impaled on tree	Ps. 22: 16	Mark 15: 25
Numbered with sinners	Isa. 53: 12	Matt. 27: 38
Reviled on the tree	Ps. 22: 7, 8	Matt. 27: 39, 43
Pierced	Zech. 12: 10	John 19: 34, 37
Lots cast for garments	Ps. 22: 18	Matt. 27: 35
Given vinegar and gall	Ps. 69: 21	Matt. 27: 34, 48
Seemingly forsaken by God	Ps. 22: 1	Matt. 27: 46
No bones broken	Ps. 34: 20	John 19: 33, 36
Dies sacrificial death	Isa. 53: 5, 8	John 1: 29; 1 Cor. 15: 3
Buried with rich	Isa. 53: 9	Matt. 27: 57-60
Raised before corruption	Ps. 16: 10	Mark 16: 6; Acts 2: 31

Apostle Paul's Conversion, First Missionary Journey & Map

32 A.D. to Fall 46 A.D.

(Acts 13:4-52, 14:1-26)

32 A.D. Martyrdom of Stephen / Saul Leads Persecution against Believers

Stephen, whose Grecian name means "crown," is stoned for his testimony about Jesus (Acts 6-7). Stephen was one of the first deacons specially appointed by the early church to serve (Acts 6:1-6) and is considered the first Christian martyr.

A young, zealous Saul (Paul) consents to and witnesses Stephen's death (Acts 7:58-8:1), afterwards he leads persecution against believers of Christ (Acts 8:1-4).

33 A.D. Saul of Tarsus' Conversion

Saul (Paul) receives written permission from the High Priest (*Sanhedrin*) to search in Damascus' synagogues for those who believe Jesus is the Messiah. Saul is also given the authority to arrest and bring these believers to Jerusalem for trial and punishment. (Acts 9:1-2)

Saul, accompanied by several others, travels to Damascus. As he approaches the city a burst of light suddenly appears and causes him to fall to the ground (Acts 9:3-4). He then hears the booming voice of Jesus saying: "**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**" (Acts 9:4, NIV) Saul is struck blind and led into Damascus by his traveling companions. Three days later Jesus inspires a disciple named Ananias to visit Saul and heal him of his blindness. After he is healed Saul is baptized and receives God's Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:4-18)

Saul (first referred to as **Paul** in Acts 13:9) stays in Damascus and powerfully preaches the gospel. After learning of the plot against his life, Paul flees the city at night by having Christians lower him down a gate wall using a basket! Once out of the city he travels to Arabia. (Galatians 1:11-12, 15-18).

36 A.D. Paul's First Visit to Jerusalem after Conversion

After three years in Arabia, Paul journeys back to Damascus in the spring of the year (Galatians 1:17). He then travels to Jerusalem and stays fifteen days (Acts 9:26, Galatians 1:18-19). Although Paul tries to get to know other converted people in Jerusalem, the brethren are suspicious of him and stay away (Acts 9:26). Barnabas, a disciple known for encouraging others, takes Paul to the apostles and personally vouches for his converted character (Acts 9:27).

36 - 40 A.D. Paul Stays Home

Paul stays in his hometown of Tarsus.

40 A.D. Barnabas Seeks Paul's Help with Gospel's Success

Barnabas travels to Tarsus to solicit Paul's help with the newly converted Antioch brethren. Paul and Barnabas stay in Antioch for an entire year (Acts 11:25-26).

44 A.D. Relief Effort in Jerusalem

Food and relief are sent to Jerusalem by the hands of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 11:30). After delivering relief Paul and Barnabas, along with John Mark, return to Antioch (Acts 12:25).

Spring 44 A.D. Apostle Paul begins his First Missionary Journey

From Antioch Paul, Barnabas and John (surnamed Mark) begin Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13:4-52, 14:1-25). They travel to Cypress (Cyprus) and Perga. John Mark leaves Paul and Barnabas at Perga and returns to Jerusalem (see Acts 13:13).

After Perga Paul and Barnabas journey to Antioch in Pisidia, then to the cities of Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. When they finished preaching the gospel in Derbe, they retrace their steps through Lystra, Iconium, Pisidia, Antioch and Perga to strengthen and teach the brethren (Acts 14:21-25). From Attalia they sail back to Antioch (Acts 14:25-26).

Paul and Barnabas stay in Antioch for almost three years - from autumn 46 A.D. to late summer 49 A.D. (Acts 14:26-28).



Apostle Paul's Second Missionary Journey & Map

Late Autumn 49 A.D. to Late Autumn 52 A.D.

(Acts 15:40 - 18:23)

Autumn 46 A.D. to Summer 49 A.D.

Paul and Barnabas are in Antioch for almost three years - from autumn 46 A.D. to late summer 49 A.D. (Acts 14:26-28).

Summer to Fall 49 A.D.

Pharisaic Judaizers come down to Antioch (Acts 15:1, 5) in the summer of 49 A.D. and teach that circumcision is necessary before a person can be saved.

Paul, Barnabas, Titus and certain others (Galatians 2:1-2) are sent to Jerusalem to confer with other apostles, elders and brethren concerning the relationship between circumcision and salvation. This gathering in Jerusalem is commonly referred to as the Jerusalem Conference. This conference occurs in the fall of 49 A.D. around the time of the Feast of Tabernacles (Acts 15:2).

Paul and his traveling companions are greeted in Jerusalem (Acts 15:4).

Paul and Barnabas have a private meeting with the apostles James, Peter and John about the circumcision question (Galatians 2:4-10). They agree that circumcision is not required for Gentiles to be saved. The ministry of Paul and Barnabas is confirmed.

The circumcision question is discussed further among the conference attendees. Peter offers his judgment then Paul and Barnabas tell the conference about the miracles and wonders God has wrought among the Gentiles through them (Acts 15:12). After James renders his judgment (Acts 15:13-21) the apostles, elders and the whole church agree that Gentiles need not be circumcised. The conference has Judas (Barsabas) and Silas travel with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch to deliver a letter, written by James, summarizing what was decided in Jerusalem regarding the circumcision question.

Paul and party arrive in Antioch (Acts 15:30-32). Paul and Barnabas stay in Antioch a certain number of days until they have a sharp disagreement over whether to take John Mark with them on another missionary journey. The argument becomes so heated that Paul and Barnabas separate: Barnabas decides to take John Mark to Cyprus while Paul decides to take Silas on what would become his second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-41).

Late Autumn 49 A.D. to Late Summer 50 A.D.

In late 49 A.D. Paul begins his second missionary journey by taking Silas with him to Tarsus. From there they travel to Derbe and Lystra. It is in Lystra that Paul meets Timothy, who

would become his frequent traveling companion, fellow laborer in spreading the gospel and his closest friend (Acts 16:1; 1Timothy 1:2, 4:14).

Paul has Timothy circumcised and then takes him and Silas to Iconium, Antioch in Pisidia, and then to the Asia Minor port city of Troas. In Troas Paul has a vision of a man in Macedonia (Greece) asking for help (Acts 16:8-9). Paul and his traveling companions immediately set sail for Neapolis (Acts 16:10-11). From there they travel to Philippi, where a woman named Lydia hears Paul's preaching. On Pentecost in 50 A.D. Lydia is baptized along with her entire household (Acts 16:12-15).

While in Philippi Paul casts a demon out of a female slave (Acts 16:16-18). Her masters, however, angry that they have lost the ability to make more money from the slave's demonic divination, stir up the city against Paul and Silas. The two evangelists are arrested, beaten and put in prison (Acts 16:19-24).

Soon after arriving in jail a miraculous earthquake causes all the cell doors to open and the bonds of Paul, Silas and the other prisoners to be loosed. This event leads to the conversion of the prison guard.

A freed Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, travel through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia and arrive in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1). In Thessalonica Paul visits a Jewish synagogue and for three consecutive Sabbaths (Saturdays) explains why Jesus is the Old Testament prophesied Savior of Mankind (Acts 17:2-4). Although many believe what is said certain Jews, envious of the Gospel's success, form a mob and start a riot (Acts 17:4-5). The riotous crowd goes to the house of Jason seeking Paul and Silas. When they are not found, the crowd drags Jason and some brethren to the local civil magistrates and accuses them of wrongdoing (Acts 17:5-8). In a short time, however, Jason and the brethren are let go. Paul, Silas and Timothy soon leave the city for Berea.

Paul and Silas preach in a synagogue in Berea. The Bereans are not only willing to listen to what Paul has to say they also verify what is preached against the Old Testament scriptures (Acts 17:11-12). Many Bereans come to believe the Gospel. Unfortunately, Jews from Thessalonica arrive in the city seeking to cause more trouble for Paul (Acts 17:13). He immediately leaves for the coast and sets sail for Athens while Silas and Timothy stay in Berea (Acts 17:14). While in Athens Paul preaches the gospel on Mars Hill.

Late Summer 50 A.D. to Autumn 52 A.D.

Paul leaves Athens and travels to Corinth. He preaches the gospel every Sabbath in the synagogue. Silas and Timothy join him in Corinth. (Acts 18:1-5). The synagogue eventually

splits and a new church is formed. After the split Paul stays and teaches in Corinth for a year and a half.

In the winter of 51 A.D. Paul is brought before the judgment seat of Gallio (Acts 18:12-18) and is released. Paul remains in Corinth until the spring of 52 A.D. when he travels to Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila. In Ephesus Paul preaches in the synagogue. After a short time Paul leaves Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus while he sails to Caesarea. From Caesarea Paul travels to Jerusalem to visit the church and keep the Feast of Tabernacles. In Autumn 52 A.D. Paul returns to Antioch (Acts 18:21-22).

Apostle Paul's Third Missionary Journey & Map

53 A.D. to 58 A.D.

([Acts 15:40 - 21:17](#))

Autumn 52 A.D. to Summer 53 A.D.

Paul stays in Antioch from the autumn of 52 A.D. to the summer of 53 A.D. (Acts 18:23).

The Apostle Peter visits Antioch during the [Spring Holy Day season](#). Peter doesn't mind eating or fellowshiping with uncircumcised Gentile converts until brethren from Jerusalem, who still believe all Christians should be circumcised, arrive. When they come Peter, Barnabas and other church members stop eating with the Gentile converts and begin withdrawing contact with them. Paul, knowing this behavior is not according to the truth of God, publicly corrects Peter (Galatians 2:11-20).

Summer 53 A.D. to early winter 57 A.D.

Paul begins his third missionary journey by traveling from Antioch to [Tarsus](#) and then to the Asia Minor regions of Galatia and Phrygia in order to strengthen the faith of some Christians (Acts 18:23). He eventually arrives at [Ephesus](#) and stays in the city for a little more than three years - from Autumn 54 A.D. to early winter 57 A.D. (Acts 19:1-20). He then journeys to [Macedonia](#). During his three month stay in the region he visits [Corinth](#) (Acts 20:1-3).

58 A.D.

Paul and company travel through Macedonia to Troas, where they keep the [Feast of Unleavened Bread](#) (Acts 20:6). After the Feast Paul walks to Assos while the rest of his company (which includes Luke) takes a ship and sails to the city (Acts 20:13-14). Once they meet they take a ship to Mitylene (Acts 20:14). They sail again, visit a few cities, then come to [Miletus](#) (Acts 20:15). From [Miletus](#) Paul requests elders from the [Ephesian](#) church to visit him. When they arrive he warns them about the coming apostasy in the church (Acts 20:15-38).

Paul leaves Miletus and goes to [Caesarea](#). He stays at the house of Philip the evangelist for several days (Acts 21:1-8). Paul then sets off for Jerusalem and arrives in the city around late spring of 58 A.D., possibly near the time of the [Feast of Pentecost](#) (Acts 21:17).



The Four Indirect Arguments or Proofs that God Exists

The Cosmological Argument

A system of beliefs that seeks to describe or explain the origin and structure of the universe.

[by Matt Slick](#)

The Cosmological Argument attempts to prove that God exists by showing that there cannot be an infinite number of regressions of causes to things that exist. It states that there must be a final uncaused-cause of all things. This uncaused-cause is asserted to be God.

The Cosmological Argument takes several forms but is basically represented below.

Cosmological Argument

- 1. Things exist.**
- 2. It is possible for those things to not exist.**
- 3. Whatever has the possibility of non existence, yet exists, has been caused to exist.**
 - A. Something cannot bring itself into existence, since it must exist to bring itself into existence, which is illogical.
- 4. There cannot be an infinite number of causes to bring something into existence.**
 - A. An infinite regression of causes ultimately has no initial cause, which means there is no cause of existence.
 - B. Since the universe exists, it must have a cause.
- 5. Therefore, there must be an uncaused cause of all things.**
- 6. The uncaused cause must be God.**

Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274) had a version of the Cosmological Argument called the Argument from Motion. He stated that things in motion could not have brought themselves into motion but must be caused to move. There cannot be an infinite regression of movers. Therefore, there must be an Unmoved Mover. This Unmoved Mover is God.

Strengths of the argument

The strengths of the Cosmological Argument lie in both its simplicity and easily comprehensible concept that there cannot be an infinite number of causes to an event. Some arguments for God's existence require more thought and training in terms and concepts, but this argument is basic and simple. Also, it is perfectly logical to assert that objects do not bring themselves into existence and must, therefore, have causes.

Weaknesses of the argument

One of the weaknesses of the argument is that if all things need a cause to exist, then God Himself must also, by definition, need a cause to exist. But this only pushes causation back and implies that there must be an infinite number of causes, which cannot be.

Also, by definition, God is uncaused.

The Teleological Argument

tel·e·o·log·i·cal [tel-ee-uh-loj-i-kuh l, tee-lee-] Show IPA

adjective Philosophy .

of or pertaining to teleology, the philosophical doctrine that final causes, design, and purpose exist in nature

[by Matt Slick](#)

The Teleological Argument is also known as the "argument from design." Quite simply, it states that a designer must exist since the universe and living things exhibit marks of design in their order, consistency, unity, and pattern.

A typical analogy of this is the Watchmaker Argument, which was given by William Paley (1743-1805). The argument goes as follows. If you found a watch in an empty field, you would logically conclude that it was designed and not the product of random formation. Likewise, when we look at life and the universe, it is natural to conclude there is a designer since we see how perfectly the universe and life forms operate. The eye is typically used as an example of design. It is a marvelous development. In order for it to work, there must be many different convergent parts that individually have no function but have value only in a designed whole. It is only in the combined total that they exhibit their total function. This function is by design.

Paley's argument is as follows:

1. Human artifacts are products of intelligent design.
2. The universe resembles human artifacts.
3. Therefore the universe is a product of intelligent design.
4. But the universe is complex and gigantic, in comparison to human artifacts.

5. Therefore, there probably is a powerful and vastly intelligent designer who created the universe.

Strengths of the argument

This argument is simple to understand and has merit, since humans are designers by nature and it is natural to think in terms of things having purpose. It is also consistent with [Rom. 1:20](#):

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

I think the teleological argument carries weight because it is consistent with Scripture. The [Bible](#) states that we are made in God's image. Therefore, there are certain things with which we will resonate. Even though the unbeliever suppresses the truth of [God](#) in his unrighteousness ([Rom. 1:18-32](#)), the truth is still there.

Additionally, evolutionists have difficulty accounting for apparent design in objects like the eye, the heart, and the brain where many different parts come together to form the whole. These individual parts have no purpose except in the function of the whole. How can evolution account for these detailed congruent occurrences? So far, it can't.

Weaknesses of the argument

The idea that the universe is designed is subjective. Different observations in the natural world can produce different theories to account for their existence. Also, this proof is built upon an analogy. If we find things in the universe that are chaotic, then by analogy, that would imply there is no designer.

Ontological Argument

1. *philosophy* the branch of metaphysics that deals with the nature of being
2. *logic* the set of entities presupposed by a theory

The Ontological Argument is an attempt to prove [God](#)'s existence, first postulated by Anselm. In brief, it states that God is a being of which no greater thing exists or can be thought of. Therefore, since we can conceive of God as the greatest of all things that exist, then God must exist.

Ontological arguments attempt to show that we can deduce God's existence from, so to speak, the very definition of God.

Ontological arguments are arguments, for the conclusion that God exists, from premises which are supposed to derive from some source other than observation of the world—e.g., from reason alone. In other words, ontological arguments are arguments from nothing but analytic, *a priori* and necessary premises to the conclusion that God exists.

The first, and best-known, ontological argument was proposed by St. Anselm of Canterbury in the 11th. century C.E. In his *Proslogion*, St. Anselm claims to derive the existence of God from the concept of a *being than which no greater can be conceived*. St. Anselm reasoned that, if such a being fails to exist, then a greater being—namely, a *being than which no greater can be conceived, and which exists*—can be conceived. But this would be absurd: nothing can be greater than a being than which no greater can be conceived. So a being than which no greater can be conceived—i.e., God—exists.

In the seventeenth century, René Descartes defended a family of similar arguments. For instance, in the *Fifth Meditation*, Descartes claims to provide a proof demonstrating the existence of God from the idea of a supremely perfect being. Descartes argues that there is no less contradiction in conceiving a supremely perfect being who lacks existence than there is in conceiving a triangle whose interior angles do not sum to 180 degrees. Hence, he supposes, since we do conceive a supremely perfect being—we do have the idea of a supremely perfect being—we must conclude that a supremely perfect being exists.

The Anthropological Argument

an·thro·pol·o·gy - [an-thruh-pol-uh-jee] Show IPA

noun

1. the science that deals with the origins, physical and cultural development, biological characteristics, and social customs and beliefs of humankind.

The anthropological argument tries to demonstrate the existence of a personal God from the personal nature of human beings. The essence of the argument is this: we as human beings are personal beings. This means that we are constituted by a mind which is self-aware and is rational, a heart which is free and can love and which is therefore morally responsible, and a soul which longs for meaning and significance. Consciousness, rationality, love, morality, and meaning: these constitute the essence of what it is to be a person in the full sense of the term.

Anthropology is the study of mankind, and the subject of this argument are the qualities that separates us from other forms of life. We must ask ourselves why we are different from the rest of our planets inhabitants. Are we, as evolutionists propose, simply the highest evolved animal on our planet? Or is it possible that we are the dominant species because we are in fact different from the animals? This question deals with who we are and how we relate to God. Humanity differs from earth's other occupants because we are self-aware, we think rationally, and we are imaginative. No other species on earth displays our level of intelligence, creativity, and emotion. So this raises the question, are we the dominant form of life because we possess these qualities? Or do we possess them because we were created to be dominant? How could mankind have evolved into a rational, creative, and emotional being from the chaotic process of microbe to man evolution?

One aspect of the anthropological argument reveals that mankind is so widely different from our world because our creation was different from that of the rest of the universe. We were created in the image of God, and because of this we have been given certain attributes that separates us from all other forms of life. We were not made in God's likeness in appearance, for scripture tells us that God is spirit and we should not infer that God's physical appearance is that of a man's. It is our non-physical attributes that were granted to us by being made in the image of our Creator. Our intelligence, imagination, emotion, creativity, and morality are many of the attributes of God that He has blessed us with.

A second aspect of the Anthropological argument demonstrates that it is impossible for mankind to be a personal beings made from an impersonal universe. We are beings that desire to be free, we long for intimacy, we acknowledge morality, and we seek significance. This is what it means to be human. But this world does not feed our desires, and they cannot come from the universe. Allow me to explain, we hunger for food and thirst for drink. The universe in which we live includes an environment that supplies the necessities to satisfy these desires. But our environment is not personal; it is not rational, loving, moral, or purposeful. Our environment does not meet these needs. They are only met by a personal, rational, loving, moral, and significant Creator. It is these desires that lead us to the truth that satisfaction can only be found in God.

ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Introduction

The main places in the Bible where we learn about Spiritual Gifts are:

1 Corinthians 12-14

Romans 12

Ephesians 4

From Scripture, we learn the following key information about Spiritual Gifts:

Biblical Summary about Spiritual Gifts

1. Every Christian has at least one Spiritual Gift (1 Peter 4:10)
2. No Christian has all the gifts (1 Corinthians 12:28-30)
3. We cannot choose our gifts; God does that job (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
4. There is no gift that every Christian possesses (with the exception of Faith to a varying degree) (1 Corinthians 12:29-30)
5. Believers will account to the Lord for how they use their gifts (1 Peter 4:10)
6. Spiritual Gifts indicate God's call and purpose for a Christian's life (Romans 12:2-8)
7. Gifts used without love do not accomplish God's intended purposes (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
8. Spiritual Gifts are for the common good to build up the Body (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Biblical Guidelines for using Spiritual Gifts

1. Usage of the gift(s) conforms to Biblical teaching (2 Timothy 3:16 ; Romans 12 ; 1 Corinthians 12-14 ; Ephesians 4 ; 1 Peter 4)
2. There is affirmation and positive feedback within the Body of Christ for the expression of the gift (1 Corinthians 12:7 ; Ephesians 4:16)
3. There is agreement within the Body of Christ that the Holy Spirit is at work (1 John 4:1 ; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)
4. The Holy Spirit provides peace in our spirits as we offer our gift(s) to the Body of Christ (John 15:26 ; Romans 8:16)
5. There is evidence of godly fruit in the life of the Body (John 15:8 ; Matthew 7:16-20)
6. Believers offer their gifts for the common good as others have need (Acts 2:44-45 ; 1 Corinthians 12:7)
7. Unless gifts are offered in love, they have no worth (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
8. We should strive to live a life worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1)

How Many Different Spiritual Gifts Are There?

There is little agreement among Christians as to exactly how many different Spiritual Gifts there are.

- Some people look at the key Bible passages on Spiritual Gifts and limit the Gifts to the ones listed there:
- Romans 12 - Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouragement, Giving, Leadership, and Mercy
- 1 Corinthians 12 - Message of Wisdom, Message of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miraculous Powers, Prophecy, Distinguishing between spirits, Speaking in Tongues, and Interpreting Tongues
- Ephesians 4 - Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher
- Some say that the Gifts of Administration and Leadership are the same Gift.
- Some say the Gifts of Service and Helps are the same Gift.
- Some add the Gifts of Craftsmanship and Music because of the skills that God gave to people to help with the Old Testament Tabernacle.
- Some see Craftsmanship as a vehicle to exercise the Gift of Service.
- Some stick to the gifts listed in the New Testament.
- Some believe that certain Spiritual Gifts were only given to people by the direct laying on of hands of the original Apostles and that these Gifts ceased to exist after the first century.
- Some add the possibility of other gifts:
- 1 Corinthians 7:1-9 - Celibacy
- 1 Peter 4:9-10 - Hospitality
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - Martyrdom (not included in this test!)
- Ephesians 3:6-8 - Missionary
- 1 Corinthians. 13:1-3 - Voluntary Poverty
- Ephesians 6:18 - Intercession / Prayer
- Luke 1:1-3 - Writing
- Some see Prayer and Intercession as a vehicle through which the Gifts of Faith, Healing, and Miracles operate.

Some of these "gifts" are obviously Spiritual Gifts. Others are debatable. However, it is not particularly important whether a certain ability is a Spiritual Gift, a blessing from God, a God given talent, an inherited trait, a natural human ability, or something learned. The thing that is important is that we discover what Gifts are more pronounced in us and to learn how to use them to serve God. God is just as pleased when we use a learned ability to serve Him as He is when we use a Spiritual Gift to serve Him. The key is to discover our abilities (Spiritual Gifts and Talents) and learn to use them to Love, Worship, and serve God.

Spiritual Gifts Definitions:

Administration

Administration (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others.

The divine enablement to understand what makes an organization function and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that accomplish the goals of the ministry.

People with this gift:

- develop strategies or plans to reach identified goals
- assist ministries to become more effective and efficient
- create order out of organizational chaos
- manage or coordinate a variety of responsibilities to accomplish a task
- organize people, tasks, or events.

(See also Leadership)

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Luke 14:28-30

Apostle

Apostle (Leadership Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to exercise general leadership or oversight over a number of churches with an authority in spiritual matters, which is readily recognized. In the strict sense this gift was confined to the twelve apostles. The New Testament does, however, give this title to a number of others, e.g. Romans 16:7 and Acts 14:14 . It is the gift whereby the Spirit appoints certain Christians to lead, inspire, and develop the churches of God by the proclamation and the teaching of true doctrine.

The divine ability to start and oversee the development of new churches or ministry structures.

People with this gift:

- pioneer and establish new ministries or churches
- adapt to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware
- desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries
- have responsibilities to oversee ministries or groups of churches
- demonstrate authority and vision for the mission of the church.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Ephesians 4:11-16

2 Corinthians 12:12

Matthew 10:1-8

Acts 2:42-44

Celibacy

Celibacy - The special ability God gives to some to voluntarily remain single without regret and with the ability to maintain control over sexual impulses so as to serve the Lord without distraction.

Celibacy is a state totally opposed to all of the biological, social, and emotional needs built into man or woman by God. Only God is able to overrule instincts and by grace control them so that a person can remain unmarried.

Being unmarried is not necessarily the same as having this gift. Those who have this gift remain single because they feel they can serve the Lord better that way.

People with this gift:

- remain single so as to be able to devote themselves completely to ministry
- have other gifts that they are able to use more effectively because they are celibate.

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Matthew 19:10-12

Craftsmanship / Artist

Craftsmanship / Artist - The gift that gives the believer the skill to create artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. Skilled Craft - the gift that enables a believer to create, build, maintain, or repair items used within the church.

The divine enablement to creatively design and/or construct items to be used for ministry or the divine enablement to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms.

People with this gift:

- work with wood, cloth, paint, metal, glass, and other raw materials
- make things which increase the effectiveness of other's ministries
- design and build tangible items and resources for ministry use
- work with different kinds of tools and are skilled with their hands
- use the arts to communicate God's truth
- develop and use artistic skills such as drama, writing, art, music, dance, etc.
- use variety and creativity to captivate people and cause them to consider Christ's message
- challenge people's perspective of God through various forms of the arts
- demonstrate fresh ways to express the Lord's ministry and message.

Exodus 28:3-4

Exodus 31:1-11

Exodus 35:30-35

Discernment / Distinguishing Spirits

Discernment / Distinguishing of Spirits - The special ability God gives to some to know with assurance whether certain behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power.

The divine enablement to distinguish between truth and error, to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong.

People with this gift:

- distinguish truth from error, right from wrong, pure motives from impure
- identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness
- determine whether a word attributed to God is authentic
- recognize inconsistencies in a teaching, prophetic message, or interpretation
- are able to sense the presence of evil.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 John 4:1-6

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

2 Chronicles 2:12

Psalms 119:125

Proverbs 3:21

1 Kings 3:9

Hebrews 5:14

Encouragement

Encouragement (Speaking Gift) - The special ability God gives some to offer comfort, words of encouragement, hope, and reassurance to discouraged, weak, or troubled Christians in such a way that they are consoled.

People with this gift:

- come to the side of those who are discouraged to reassure them and give them hope
- emphasize God's promises and confidence in his will.

(See also Exhortation)

Romans 12:6-8

Titus 1:9

Acts 11:23-24

Acts 14:21-22

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

Evangelism / Evangelist

Evangelism / Evangelist - The special ability God gives to some to proclaim the Gospel of salvation effectively so that people respond to the promises of Christ through conversion to Christianity.

The divine enablement to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so they respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

People with this gift:

- communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction

- seek out opportunities to talk to unbelievers about spiritual matters
- challenge unbelievers to faith and to become fully devoted followers of Christ
- adapt their presentation of the gospel to connect with the individual's needs
- seek opportunities to build relationships with unbelievers.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Matthew 28:16-20

Acts 2:36-40

Acts 8:5-6

Acts 14:21

Acts 8:26-40

2 Timothy 4:5

Exhortation

Exhortation (Speaking Gift) - The special ability God gives some to help strengthen weak, faltering, and fainthearted Christians in such a way that they are motivated to be all God wants them to be.

The ability to help others reach their full potential by means of encouraging, challenging, comforting, and guiding.

The divine enablement to present truth so as to strengthen or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

People with this gift:

- come to the side of those who are weak in spirit to strengthen them
- challenge or confront others to trust and hope in the promises of God
- urge others to action by applying Biblical truth
- offers advise, an outline for a solution, or a program for progress
- motivates others to grow.

(see also Encouragement)

1 Timothy 5:1-2

Hebrews 3:13 (King James Version)

Hebrews 13:22

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (King James version)

Faith

Faith - The special conviction God gives to some to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction.

The divine enablement to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in God's ability to fulfill his purposes.

People with this gift:

- believe the promises of God and inspire others to do the same

- act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles
- demonstrate an attitude of trust in God's will and his promises
- advance the cause of Christ because they go forward when others will not
- ask God for what is needed and trust him for his provision.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Mark 5:25-34

Acts 27:21-25

Hebrews 11

Romans 4:18-21

Giving

Giving (Serving Gift) - The gift that enables a believer to recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully giving of one's resources (time, talent, and treasure) without thought of return.

The divine enablement to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. People with this gift do not ask, "How much money do I need to give to God?" but "How much money do I need to live on?"

People with this gift:

- manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to give as much of their resources as possible
- support the work of ministry with sacrificial gifts to advance the Kingdom
- meet tangible needs that enable spiritual growth to occur
- provide resources, generously and cheerfully, trusting God for His provision
- may have a special ability to make money so that they may use it to further God's work.

Romans 12:6-8

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

2 Corinthians 8:2-5

Mark 12:41-44

Matthew 6:3-4

Healing

Healing (Sign Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to serve as a human instrument through whom it pleases Him to cure illness and restore health (physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually) apart from the use of natural means.

The divine enablement to be God's means for restoring people to wholeness.

People with this gift:

- demonstrate the power of God
- bring restoration to the sick and diseased
- authenticate a message from God through healing
- use it as an opportunity to communicate a Biblical truth and to see God glorified

- pray, touch, or speak words that miraculously bring healing to one's body.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Acts 3:1-10

Acts 14:8-10

James 5:14-16

Luke 9:1-2

Helps / Serving

Helps / Serving (Serving Gift) - The gift that enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled. The special ability God gives to some to serve the church in a supporting role or to invest their talents in the life and ministry of other members of the body enabling them to increase their effectiveness.

The divine enablement to accomplish practical and necessary tasks which free-up, support, and meet the needs of others.

People with this gift:

- serve behind the scenes whenever needed to support the gifts and ministries of others (without having to be asked)
- see the tangible and practical things to be done and enjoy doing them
- sense God's purpose and pleasure in meeting every day responsibilities
- attach spiritual value to practical service
- enjoy knowing that they are freeing up others to do what God has called them to do.
- would rather do a job than find someone else to do it.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Romans 16:1-2

Acts 9:36

Mark 15:40-41

Galatians 6:2

Romans 12:6-8

1 Peter 4:11

Philippians 2:19-23

Luke 22:24-27

John 13:14

Hospitality

Hospitality (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to provide an open home and warm welcome to those in need of food, lodging, and fellowship. It involves a readiness to invite strangers to your home (or church) for the sake of the Gospel.

The divine enablement to care for people by providing fellowship, food, and shelter.

People with this gift:

- provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for

- meet new people and help them to feel welcomed
- create a safe and comfortable setting where relationships can develop
- seek ways to connect people together into meaningful relationships
- set people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings.

1 Peter 4:9-10

Romans 12:9-13

Acts 16:14-15

Luke 10:38

Hebrews 13:1-2

Intercession / Prayer

Intercession / Prayer (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

The divine enablement to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results.

People with this gift:

- feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause
- have a daily awareness of the spiritual battles being waged and pray
- are convinced God moves in direct response to prayer
- pray in response to the leading of the spirit, whether they understand it or not
- exercise authority and power for the protection of others and the equipping of them to serve.

Ephesians 6:18

1 Timothy 2:1-2

1 Kings 13:6

Luke 11:1-10

Matthew 6:6-15

Mark 11:22-25

James 5:14-16

Colossians 4:12-13

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Knowledge

Knowledge (Speaking Gift) - The special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to understand in an exceptional way the great truths of God's Word and to make them relevant to specific situations in the church. Also, the desire to seek out and learn as much about the Bible as possible through gathering much information and the analysis of that data.

The divine enablement to bring truth to the body through a revelation or Biblical insight.

People with this gift:

- receive truth which enables them to better serve the body

- search the scriptures for insight, understanding, and truth
- gain knowledge which at times was not attained by natural means
- have an unusual insight or understanding that serves the church
- organize information for teaching and practical use.

(See also Wisdom)

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

2 Chronicles 1:7-12

Colossians 2:2-3

2 Corinthians 11:6

Daniel 2:20-21

Proverbs 2:6

Proverbs 9:10

Psalms 119:66

Jeremiah 3:15

Leadership

Leadership (Serving Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to set goals in accordance with God's purpose and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish these goals for the glory of God.

The divine enablement to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God.

People with this gift:

- provide direction for God's people or ministry
- motivate others to perform to the best of their abilities
- present the "big picture" for others to see
- model the values of the ministry
- take responsibility and establish goals.

(See also Administration)

Romans 12:6-8

Hebrews 13:7

Hebrews 13:17

Mercy / Compassion

Mercy / Compassion (Serving Gift) - The special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to feel exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are suffering (physically, mentally, or emotionally) so as to feel genuine sympathy for their misery, speaking words of compassion, but more so caring for them with acts of love that help alleviate their distress.

The divine enablement to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need by putting compassion into action.

People with this gift:

- focus upon alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort in suffering people

- address the needs of the lonely and forgotten
- express love, grace, and dignity to those facing hardships and crisis
- serve in difficult or unsightly circumstances and do so cheerfully
- concern themselves with individual or social issues that oppress people.

Romans 12:6-8

Luke 7:12-15

Luke 10:30-37

Matthew 20:29-34

Matthew 25:34-40

Mark 9:41

Matthew 5:7

Miracles

Miracles (Sign Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to serve as a human intermediary through whom He pleases to perform acts of supernatural power that are recognized by others to have altered the ordinary course of nature and authenticated the divine commission.

People with this gift:

- speak God's truth and may have it authenticated by an accompanying miracle
- express confidence in God's faithfulness and ability to manifest Christ's presence
- bring the ministry and message of Jesus Christ with power
- claim God to be the source of miracles and glorify the Lord
- represent Christ and through this gift, point people to a relationship with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Mark 16:17-18

Acts 9:36-42

Acts 20:9-12

Hebrews 2:4

Romans 15:17-19

Acts 8:13

Acts 19:11-12

Missionary

Missionary (Leadership Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in another culture.

Those with this gift find it easy or exciting to adjust to a different culture or community.

Missionaries find great joy working with minorities, people of other countries, or those with other distinct cultural differences. Those with this gift have a stronger-than-average desire to be a part of the fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world.

People with this gift:

- have an intense spirit of unease at the thought of all the unsaved people in the world

- adapt themselves and core Biblical principles to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware
- have the ability to reach out people groups of a different ethnicity, language, or cultural background
- can establish meaningful relationships with people of other nationalities or cultures
- desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries.

Ephesians 3:6-8

Mark 16:15

Acts 1:8

Acts 13:2-5

Acts 22:21

Romans 10:14-15

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Music

Music - The gift that gives a believer the capability to present personal witness and inspiration to others through instrumental music, singing, or dancing.

The special gift whereby the Spirit enables certain Christians to praise God through music in such a way as to enhance the worship experience of other believers. It gives the believer the desire and capability to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument, singing, or dancing. The spiritual aspect of the gift is revealed as the gift bearer gives witness to love and praise for the Lord, and thus glorifies God. Those listening or watching become inspired to feel the presence and majesty of God when music, song, or dance uplifts their soul in a manner that brings them closer to their Lord.

People with this gift:

- sing or play a musical instrument quite well, and enjoy it
- have special joy singing praises to God, either alone or with other people
- feel secure in the fact that their musical ability will be of benefit to other people with whom they come in contact
- can use their musical ability to help and inspire others to worship God
- see that their singing or instrument playing is a spiritual encouragement for others.

1 Samuel 16:14-23

1 Corinthians 14:26

Psalms 33:1-3

Psalms 96:1-2

Psalms 100:1-2

Psalms 149:3

Psalms 150:1-6

Colossians 3:16

2 Chronicles 5:12-13

2 Samuel 6:14-15

Pastor / Shepherd

Pastor / Shepherd - The special ability God gives to some to assume a long-term personal responsibility for leadership and the spiritual care, protection, guidance, and feeding (teaching) of a group of believers.

The divine enablement to nurture, care for, and guide people toward on-going spiritual maturity and becoming like Christ.

People with this gift:

- take responsibility to nurture the whole person in their walk with God
- provide guidance and oversight to a group of God's people
- model with their life what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus
- establish trust and confidence through long-term relationships
- lead and protect those within their span of care.

John 10:1-16

Acts 20:28

Ephesians 4:11-15

1 Timothy 3:1-7

2 Timothy 4:1-2

1 Timothy 4:11-16

1 Peter 5:1-4

Poverty (voluntary)

Poverty (voluntary) - The special ability God gives to some to purposely live an impoverished lifestyle to serve and aid others with their material resources.

The special ability that God gives to some members of the body of Christ to renounce material comfort and luxury and adopt a personal lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in a given society in order to serve God more effectively.

People with this gift:

- will often choose to live among people who are considered poverty-stricken
- live at a poverty level although they have the means to live at a higher standard
- choose this lifestyle in order to minister more effectively to people through identification.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

2 Corinthians 8:9

Acts 2:44-45

Acts 4:32-35

Prophet / Prophecy

Prophet / Prophecy (Special Gift) - The special ability God gives to some to proclaim the Word of God with clarity and to apply it fearlessly with a view to the strengthening, encouragement, and comfort of believers and the convincing of unbelievers. The special gift whereby the Spirit empowers certain Christians to interpret and apply God's revelation in a given situation.

The divine enablement to reveal truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. There may be immediate or future implications.

People with this gift:

- expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation
- speak a timely word from God causing conviction, repentance, and edification
- see truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond
- warn of God's immediate or future judgment if there is no repentance
- understand God's heart and mind through experiences He takes them through.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Romans 12:6-8

Ephesians 4:11-13

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Deuteronomy 18:18-22

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

1 Corinthians 14:30-33

1 Corinthians 14:37-40

Teaching / Teacher

Teaching / Teacher - The special ability God gives to some to explain the truths of the Word of God clearly and to apply them effectively so that those taught understand and learn. To instruct others in the Bible in a logical and systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth.

The divine enablement to understand, clearly explain, and apply the word of God causing greater Christ-likeness in the lives of listeners.

People with this gift:

- communicate Biblical truth that inspires greater obedience to the word
- challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of scripture
- focus on changing lives by helping others understand the Bible better
- give attention to detail and accuracy
- prepare through extended times of study and reflection.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Hebrews 5:12-14

Acts 18:24-28

Tongues (interpreting)

Tongues (interpreting) - The special ability God gives to some to translate the message of one who speaks in tongues.

If a tongue is spoken without an interpretation, the speaker is edified. If the tongue is interpreted, it is for the edification of the body.

People with this gift:

- express with an interpretation a word by the Spirit which edifies the Body
- enable the gift of tongues to build up the church by interpreting God's message for the people.

(see also Tongues (speaking))

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Tongues (speaking)

Tongues (speaking) - The special ability God gives to some to speak prayer or praise in a language they have never learned or to communicate a message from God to His people. The special ability God gives to some to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language.

If a tongue is spoken without an interpretation, the speaker is edified. If the tongue is interpreted, it is for the edification of the body.

People with this gift:

- may receive a spontaneous message from God which is made known to His body through the gift of interpretation
- communicate a message given by God for the church (if there is someone to interpret)
- speak in a language they have never learned and do not understand
- worship the Lord with unknown words too deep for the mind to comprehend
- experience an intimacy with God which inspires them to serve and edify others
- speak in tongues as a private prayer language
- when used in a group setting, an interpretation must take place, or else the one speaking the tongue should remain silent.

(see also Tongues (interpreting))

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Acts 2:1-12

Acts 10:44-46

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 16:17

Romans 8:26-27

Wisdom

Wisdom (Speaking Gift) - The gift that allows the believer to sort through opinions, facts, and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers. The ability to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision making and daily life situations.

The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the body of Christ.

People with this gift:

- focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take
- receive an understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the body
- provide divinely given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion
- hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation
- apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways.

(See also Knowledge)

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

James 3:13-18

2 Chronicles 1:7-11

Acts 6:3-10

1 Corinthians 2:6-13

James 1:5-8

1 Kings 3:16-28

Writing

Writing - the gift that gives a believer the ability to express truth in a written form; a form that can edify, instruct and strengthen the community of believers.

The special God-given ability to formulate thoughts and ideas into meaningful written forms so that the reader will find courage, guidance, knowledge, or edification through the words shared with them.

The Bible was written by people with this gift.

People with this gift:

- may write stories, sermons, devotions, histories, prayers, songs, or poetry to be used to build up the body of Christ
- may be inspired by the Holy Spirit in what they write
- may teach God's word to others through what they write
- may use writing to express other gifts

- may be better at expressing their thoughts in written form than in verbal form.

Luke 1:1-3

1 John 2:1

1 John 2:12-14

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Jude 1:3

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Definitions and Descriptions

The spiritual gifts listed below are found in three passages:

Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30, and Ephesians 4:11

Administration	Knowledge
Apostleship	Leadership
Discernment	Mercy
Evangelism	Miracles
Exhortation	Pastor / Shepherd
Faith	Prophecy
Giving	Serving / Ministering
Healing	Teaching
Interpretation of Tongues	Tongues
Wisdom	

Administration

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of administration is *Kubernesis*. This is a unique term that refers to a shipmaster or captain. The literal meaning is "to steer," or "to rule or govern." It carries the idea of someone who guides and directs a group of people toward a goal or destination. We see variations of this word in verses like Acts 27:11, and Revelation 18:17.

With this gift the Holy Spirit enables certain Christians to organize, direct, and implement plans to lead others in the various ministries of the Church. This gift is closely related to the gift of leadership, but is more goal or task oriented and is also more concerned with details and organization. See also 1 Corinthians 12:28, Titus 1:4-5.

Apostleship

The spiritual gift of apostleship is sometimes confused with the *office* of Apostle. **In the Bible the office of Apostle was held by a limited number of men chosen by Jesus, including the twelve disciples (Mark 3:13-19) and Paul (Romans 1:1). The requirements for the office of Apostle included being a faithful eyewitness of Jesus' ministry and His resurrection (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1), and being called by Jesus Himself (Galatians 1:1). The Apostles were given authority by Jesus to do many different things to establish the church, including writing Scripture and performing miracles (John 14:26, 2 Peter 3:15-16, 2 Corinthians 12:12).**

(Some ministries teach that there are no more that hold the office of Apostle today, but the gift of apostleship continues in a different sense. Jesus gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers at His ascension (Ephesians 4:7-12), and these represent a distinct category of apostles. They believe that Apostles do not have the authority to write Scripture as the original Apostles did as proof that Apostles no longer exist. Because they believe Apostles have a different purpose in the sense of establishing the church and that the foundation has already been set the office of the Apostle has become extinct.) We believe that because the Bible does not teach us anything on the non-existence of the Office of the Apostle is proof enough that the office is still in existence.

The mission for those **in the office** of apostleship today is to plant new ministries and churches, go into places where the Gospel is not preached, reach across cultures to establish churches in challenging environments, raise up and develop leaders, call out and lead pastors and shepherds,

and much more. They often have many different gifts that allow them to fulfill their ministry. These are leaders of leaders and ministers of ministers. They are influencers. They are typically entrepreneurial and are able to take risks and perform difficult tasks. Missionaries, church planters, certain Christian scholars and institutional leaders, and those leading multiple ministries or churches often have the gift of apostleship. See also Ephesians 4:11, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Acts 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 9:1.

Discernment

The spiritual gift of discernment is also known as the gift of "discernment of spirits" or "distinguishing between spirits." The Greek word for the gift of discernment is *Diakrisis*. The word describes being able to distinguish, discern, judge or appraise a person, statement, situation, or environment. In the New Testament it describes the ability to distinguish between spirits as in 1 Corinthians 12:10, and to discern good and evil as in Hebrews 5:14.

The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain Christians to clearly recognize and distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in a given situation. The church needs those with this gift to warn believers in times of danger or keep them from being led astray by false teaching. See also 1 Corinthians 12:10, Acts 5:3-6; 16:16-18; 1 John 4:1.

Evangelism

All Christians are called to evangelize and reach out to the lost with the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), but some are given an extra measure of faith and effectiveness in this area. The spiritual gift of evangelism is found in Ephesians 4:11-12 where Paul says that Jesus "gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." The Greek word for evangelists is *Euaggelistes* which means "one who brings good news." This word is only found two other places in the New Testament: Acts 21:8 and 2 Timothy 4:5.

Evangelists are given the unique ability by the Holy Spirit to clearly and effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others. They are burdened in their hearts for the lost and will go out of their way to share the truth with them. Evangelists are able to overcome the normal fear of rejection and engage non-believers in meaningful conversations about Jesus. Their gift allows them to communicate with all types of people and therefore they receive a greater response to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. They continually seek out relationships with those who don't know Jesus and are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit to approach different people. They love giving free treasure away for Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:7), and it brings them great joy knowing that the "feet that bring good news" are beautiful to those who believe (Isaiah 52:7). See Ephesians 4:11, Acts 8:5-12, 26-40, 21:8, Matthew 28:18-20.

Exhortation

The spiritual gift of exhortation is often called the "gift of encouragement." The Greek word for this gift is *Parakaleo*. It means to beseech, exhort, call upon, to encourage and to strengthen. The primary means of exhortation is to remind the hearer of the powerful and amazing work of God in Christ, particularly in regard to the saving work of Jesus in the atonement. We see Paul commanding Titus to use this gift in Titus 1:9 and throughout chapter 2, particularly Titus 2:11-15. He also charges Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2.

The Spirit of God gives this gift to people in the church to strengthen and encourage those who are wavering in their faith. Those with the gift of exhortation can uplift and motivate others as well as challenge and rebuke them in order to foster spiritual growth and action. The goal of the

encourager is to see everyone in the church continually building up the body of Christ and glorifying God. See also Romans 12:8, Acts 11:23-24; 14:21-22; 15:32.

Faith

The spiritual gift of faith is not to be confused with saving faith. All Christians have been given saving faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), but not all receive this special gift of faith. The word for faith in the New Testament is *Pistis*. It carries the notion of confidence, certainty, trust, and assurance in the object of faith. The gift of faith is rooted in one's saving faith in Christ and the trust that comes through a close relationship with the Savior. Those with this gift have a trust and confidence in God that allows them to live boldly for Him and manifest that faith in mighty ways.

In the Bible the gift of faith is often accompanied by great works of faith. In Acts 3:1-10 we see this gift in action when Peter sees a lame man at the Beautiful Gate and calls on him to stand up and walk in the Name of Jesus. Jesus said even a small amount of this faith could move mountains (Matthew 17:20; 21:21). Paul echoed this truth in 1 Corinthians 13:2.

The Holy Spirit distributes this gift to some in the church to encourage and build up the church in her confidence in God. Those with the gift of faith trust that God is sovereign and He is good. They take Him at His Word and put the full weight of their lives in His hands. They expect God to move and are not surprised when He answers a prayer or performs a miracle. See also 1 Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 11:1-40.

Giving

The Greek word for the spiritual gift of giving is *Metadidomi*. It simply means "to impart" or "to give." However, this word is accompanied in Romans 12:8 by another descriptive word: *Haplotes*. This word tells us much more about the kind of giving that is associated with this gift. The word Haplotes means "sincerely, generously and without pretense or hypocrisy."

The Holy Spirit imparts this gift to some in the church to meet the various needs of the church and its ministries, missionaries, or of people who do not have the means to provide fully for themselves. The goal is to encourage and provide, giving all credit to God's love and provision. Those with this gift love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others. They are also excellent stewards and will often adjust their lifestyles in order to give more to the spread of the Gospel and the care of the needy. They are grateful when someone shares a need with them, and are always joyful when they can meet that need. See Romans 12:8, 13, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-15; Acts 4:32-37, Galatians 4:15, Philippians 4:10-18.

Healing

The spiritual gift of healing found in 1 Corinthians 12:9 is actually plural in the Greek. *Charismata iamatōn* is literally translated "gifts of healings." This spiritual gift is closely related to the gifts of faith and miracles. All spiritual gifts are to be exercised in faith, but gifts of healings involve a special measure of it. This gift is interesting in that there is no guarantee that a person will always be able to heal anyone he or she desires. It is subject to the sovereign will of God, as all spiritual gifts are.

The Disciples were given authority to heal and cast out demons, but they were not always successful. The Apostle Paul was not able to heal himself and was told that God's grace was sufficient to carry him through his infirmity without removing it from him (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). This gift is given at various times and places to reveal the God of heaven to the sick and

tormented. If healing is not granted, then we can conclude that God has greater plans for letting the person go through the illness or infirmity.

The spiritual gift of healing is an intimate one as it reveals the heart and compassion of God. Jesus is the Great Healer and Physician and during His ministry on earth He healed countless people and cast out demons (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16; 9:35, Mark 1:34). Healings reveal that God is near to His people and He cares about their sufferings. Healings are meant to draw people to God through His Son Jesus Christ. God wants those healed to respond in faith with thanksgiving and love as the leper did in Luke 17:15-19, and as the demon-possessed man did in Mark 5:18-20. By God's grace, physical healing should lead to spiritual healing (faith in Jesus) and eternal life with Him in heaven.

Those who have this gift are compassionate toward the sick and pray over them regularly. They have great faith and trust that God can and will heal some and are not deterred when He chooses not to. They are motivated knowing that God's revealed power will draw people to faith in Jesus. Their ultimate concern is the spiritual well-being of those being healed and their relationship with Jesus. They yearn for the day that there will be no more pain and suffering, and sin will no longer wreak havoc on the people of God. See 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30, James 5:13-16.

Interpretation of Tongues

Expanded description coming soon.

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit gives certain Christians the ability to clarify and interpret messages uttered in an unknown language. See 1 Corinthians 12:10.

Knowledge

The spiritual gift of knowledge is also known as the "word of knowledge" or "utterance of knowledge." The Greek word for this gift is *Gnosis* and it simply means knowledge and understanding. The Scriptural emphasis in 1 Corinthians 12:8 is on the ability to speak this knowledge to others in a given situation. In the opening passages of 1 Corinthians, Paul spoke of knowledge and recognized that the highest form of knowledge among men is the Gospel of Jesus Christ (i.e. the testimony about Christ, cf. 1 Corinthians 1:4-7). What we can conclude then is the gift of knowledge is an understanding of the things in this world and in our lives that is founded in the Gospel and rooted in the Scriptures. This gift is closely related to the gift of wisdom which is alluded to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

The Holy Spirit gives this spiritual gift to some believers to bring about understanding and to inform the church or individual believers. The person with this gift is usually well-versed in the Scriptures and often has much committed to memory. They can retain the truth and communicate it effectively at the appropriate times. The gift of knowledge allows a believer to relate the Scriptures, and particularly the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to all aspects of life in this world. They can see how it connects to every situation and circumstance and how the reality and truth of the Gospel is to inform every decision a Christian makes. See also 1 Corinthians 12:8; Romans 15:14; 2 Corinthians 2:14.

Leadership

The spiritual gift of leadership is closely related to the gift of administration and, interestingly, the spiritual gift of pastor/shepherd. The Greek word for the spiritual gift of leadership is *proistemi*. This word means to lead, to assist, to protect and to care for others. The spiritual gift of leadership is found in Romans 12:8 sandwiched between the gifts of giving and of

mercy. It is placed there intentionally to show that it is a gift associated with caring for others. This is what connects it to the gift of pastor/shepherd, and what differentiates it from the gift of administration. It is more people oriented than task oriented in its application. This is not to say those with the gift of administration do not care for people, of course they do, but those with the spiritual gift of leadership focus on people and relationships more directly.

The word *proistemi* is connected to caring for people in other passages as well. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 Paul says to “respect those who labor among you and are over (*proistemi*) you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.” The labor and work of those who were leading the believers in Thessalonica was that of tirelessly caring for their souls. Paul also connects leadership to caring for others when he asks, “If someone does not know how to manage (*proistemi*) his own household, how will he care for God’s church?” 1 Timothy 3:5

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of leadership to some in the church to care for God’s people and lead them into deeper relationship with Christ and each other. They base their success on how well they help others succeed and grow in their spiritual walk with Jesus. They are able to accomplish many different tasks and objectives as they lead, but they will always lead relationally and with a deep concern for the well-being of others. They are “visionary” and less concerned with mundane details than those with the spiritual gift of administration. Many are entrepreneurial and willing to take risks to see the kingdom of God advanced through the church. They will go to great lengths to protect those under their care and are well-equipped to lead through crisis situations. See also Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; 5:17.

Mercy

All Christians are called to be merciful because God has been merciful to us (Matthew 18:33; Ephesians 2:4-6). The Greek word for the spiritual gift of mercy is *Eleeo*. It means to be patient and compassionate toward those who are suffering or afflicted. The concern for the physical as well as spiritual need of those who are hurting is covered by the gift of mercy. Those with this gift have great empathy for others in their trials and sufferings. They are able to come alongside people over extended periods of time and see them through their healing process. They are truly and literally the hands and feet of God to the afflicted.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of mercy to some in the church to love and assist those who are suffering, and walk with them until The Lord allows their burden to be lifted. The gift of mercy is founded in God’s mercy towards us as sinners and is consistently expressed with measurable compassion. Those with this gift are able to “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15) and “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). They are sensitive to the feelings and circumstances of others and can quickly discern when someone is not doing well. They are typically good listeners and feel the need to simply “be there” for others. See Romans 12:8, Matthew 5:7; Luke 10:30-37; James 3:17; Jude 22-23.

Miracles

The spiritual gift of miracles is described in Scripture much like the gift of healing. It is found in 1 Corinthians 12:10 and the Greek phrase *energēmata dynameon* literally translates “workings of powers.” The double plural most likely means that these gifts were diverse and were not permanently available at the will of the gifted believer, but instead were bestowed at various times and circumstances. Thus, the gifts are subject to the divine will of God and His purposes and are not decided by the one who performs the miraculous works.

We know that Jesus performed many miracles in His earthly ministry, even more than those recorded in Scripture (John 20:30-31, Acts 2:22). The Apostles regularly performed miracles of all kinds including casting out demons, healings, raising people from the dead, striking people dead, causing blindness, and much more (Acts 2:43; 3:1-10; 5:1-16; 9:36-43; 13:4-12; 19:11-12). Other believers performed miracles as well, including Stephen (Acts 6:8) and Phillip (Acts 8:4-8).

Miracles were given by God to the church to reveal the presence and glory of God among His people and to create a sense of awe and wonder and Godly fear. Though there were many enemies of the church, often the result of miracles being performed was more people coming to faith in Jesus and glorifying God, as well as greater faith and boldness within the church (Acts 4:29-31; 9:35, 42).

Those with the spiritual gift of miracles often have a heightened sensitivity to the presence and power of God through His Holy Spirit. They have a special measure of faith and desire for God to reveal Himself and draw many to faith in His Son Jesus Christ. They take care not to draw attention to themselves or have a following of people, but are constantly pointing others to Jesus. Those with this gift understand that God is Sovereign and He can work when and how He desires, but they make sure they are available and listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This gift is often accompanied by prayer and strong petition by these individuals for God to reveal His glory to people. They do not claim power themselves, but always give credit and glory to God for His mighty works. Often God will deliberately humble them to keep them relying on His grace and pointing to His Son, rather than miracles. See also 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-29; Acts 1:8; Galatians 3:5.

Pastor/Shepherd

The spiritual gift of pastor or pastor/shepherd is one that carries many different responsibilities. This gift is closely related to the spiritual gifts of leadership and teaching. The Greek word for pastor is *Poimen* and simply means shepherd or overseer.

In the Biblical context, shepherds had several different responsibilities to their sheep and ultimately, to the owner of the sheep. They kept a lookout for predators and protected the sheep from attackers. They cared for wounded and sick sheep, nursing them back to health. They rescued them if they became lost or trapped. They spent enormous amounts of time with them guiding them to the places of nourishment and rest. The result was a trust and relationship that kept the sheep following the shepherd. The sheep were attuned to the shepherd's voice to the point that even if they were temporarily mixed with another herd, at the call of the shepherd they would separate and follow him.

Pastors are called shepherds because their calling and gifting are much like those who care for sheep. They are called and gifted to care for the spiritual well-being of a local body of God's people. Pastors are first and foremost servants. They are servants of God and servants of His bride, the church. They are given a mixture of abilities by grace that allows them to serve the needs of an entire community.

The goal of the pastor is to reveal the glory of God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to a people who need God's grace for life. The primary way the pastor will do this is by teaching the Word of God to the church. The gift of pastor is directly linked to the gift of teaching in Ephesians 4:11 and elsewhere. In fact, this gift could be called the gift of pastor-teacher. The ability to teach the Scriptures is also one of the many requirements of being an overseer (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9). By teaching the Scriptures to the church, the pastor feeds the "sheep" of God.

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of pastor to some in the church to humbly teach them, guide them, protect them, and to lead them in the mission that God has for His church, namely the Great

Commission. The pastor loves the Gospel of Jesus Christ and puts it at the center of his life and ministry. Pastors do not seek fame or recognition for themselves, but they are placed in a position of authority by the Holy Spirit. The role of a pastor is one of humility and service as he is reminded daily of his overwhelming need of God's grace for the task at hand. See also Ephesians 4:11; Jeremiah 3:15; Acts 20:28; John 10:11-18.

Prophecy

Expanded description coming soon.

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit empowers certain Christians to receive revelation and speak powerful messages from God to people. See Romans 12:6, I Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-5, 30-33, Ephesians 4:11, I Peter 1:20-21.

Serving/Ministering

The spiritual gift of service, or ministering, covers a wide range of activities in its application. There are two Greek words for this gift. The first one, found in Romans 12:7, is *Diakonia*. The basic meaning of this word is "to wait tables," but it is most often translated in the Bible as "ministry." It refers to any act of service done in genuine love for the edification of the community. The word *Antilepsis* is translated "helping" and is found in 1 Corinthians 12:28. It has a similar meaning: to help or aid in love within the community.

The Holy Spirit endows some believers with this gift to fill the many gaps of ministry and meet the needs of the church as it fulfills the Great Commission. The goal is to energize the church and free up others to use their gifts to the fullest. The result is the continued edification of the church and the added ability to see beyond its own needs and reach out into the community.

We see people with this gift in passages like Acts 6:1-7, 1 Corinthians 16:15-16, and many others. Those with the gift of service are committed to the spread of the Gospel. They serve in ways that benefit others with different gifts and ministries that are more public. They have a heart devoted to Jesus and a desire to follow His command and example in Matthew 20:25-28 (cf. Mark 10:42-45). Those with this gift do not seek recognition or a position in the "spotlight," they just love to help out. They are content with serving in the background knowing that their contribution will bless the church, display the love of Christ to the world, and bring glory to God. See also Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 28, Acts 20:35; 2 Timothy 4:11; Revelation 2:19.

Teaching

The spiritual gift of teaching is one that carries a heavy responsibility in the church. In fact, James 3:1 warns, "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness." Like every believer, teachers are to be stewards of every word that comes out of their mouths. But the greater responsibility to which they are called is to be stewards of the Word of God to His people. Teachers have been entrusted with the task of effectively communicating what the Bible says, what it means, and how we as followers of Jesus Christ are to apply it to our lives here and now.

The Greek word for those with the spiritual gift of teaching is *didaskalos*. From the root of this word we get our English word, "didactic." The word *didasko* means to teach, instruct, instill doctrine, explain, and expound. Those with the spiritual gift of teaching love to study the Word of God for extended periods of time. They consume the Scriptures as food for their hearts, souls and minds with the expressed purpose of knowing Him and then making Him known to others. They want to know what God has revealed of Himself and what He requires of us as people created in His image. They take great joy and satisfaction in seeing others learn and apply the truth of God's

Word to their lives. They love to see how the Gospel is woven throughout the Scriptures and how it glorifies and magnifies Jesus Christ in the hearts and lives of those who love Him by grace. The Holy Spirit gives certain people the spiritual gift of teaching so that they would help the church fulfill her ministry as “a pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Without this gift, the church would quickly fall into error and sin. Teachers are there to make sure that doesn’t happen. They hate when Scripture is abused and used out of context or with ill intent. They love the truth and speak the truth in love. They will never hide or withhold it. On the contrary, they desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who taught in the synagogues and in the Temple as well as anywhere the people were gathered. They are called to demonstrate God’s love while revealing His truth to the world without fear. The effect of their ministry is the upholding of God’s Word and the growth and maturity of His Bride until the day of His return. See also Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7; James 3:1

Tongues

Expanded description coming soon.

This is the spiritual gift where the Spirit enables a Christian to supernaturally speak a previously unknown language. See 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30, 14:4, 39, Acts 2:4, Acts 19:6.

Wisdom

The spiritual gift of wisdom, like the gift of knowledge, is also referred to as the “word of wisdom” or “utterance of wisdom.” The Greek word for wisdom is *sophia* and it refers to the intimate understanding of God’s Word and His commandments which results in holy and upright living. In the context of 1 Corinthians 12:8, it means to speak to the life of an individual or to a specific situation with great understanding and a righteous perspective, with the goal of guiding others toward a life of holiness and worship.

Several Scriptures reveal the true beauty and fruit of wisdom. Psalms 111:10 says: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!” Wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD. It begins with knowing who God is and who we are in comparison to Him. That leads to understanding and then to practicing righteousness. A life of wisdom ultimately results in the praise of God.

James 3:17 says “the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” This is undoubtedly a work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. The highest wisdom is found in the cross of Christ, which is “folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

The Holy Spirit gives some the spiritual gift of wisdom to not only impart the truth and understanding to believers, but to invoke a response of holiness and worship lived out in the world and amongst God’s people. Wisdom doesn’t end with knowledge, but is expressed in transformed hearts and lives.

Those with the gift of wisdom have a deep understanding of the holiness of God and the lack of holiness in their own hearts. They can recognize this in others as well and have the compassion and boldness to share that truth with them. They are able to take from their own life experiences and share what God has taught them through those things. They can easily recognize where a decision or action may lead and can warn against those that may be harmful or unfruitful. They can often see through the confusion of a situation and can give direction that would help an individual or group obtain a God-glorifying goal. The church needs those with the spiritual gift of wisdom to guide her through uncertain or difficult times. See also 1 Corinthians 1:17-31, 2:1-16, 12:8; Colossians 1:9-10, 2:1-3; James 3:13-18

List of Spiritual Gift Possibilities in Key Bible Passages

Romans 12

exhortation

giving

leadership

mercy

prophecy

service

teaching

poverty

Ephesians 4

Apostle

evangelism

pastor

prophecy

teaching

1 Corinthians 12

administration

apostle

discernment

faith

healing

helps

knowledge

miracles

prophecy

teaching

tongues

tongues interpretation

wisdom

Misc. Passages

celibacy

hospitality

martyrdom

missionary

voluntary