

The Fivefold Ministry

Ephesians 4:7-16

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." ⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So (and indeed – kai men emphasis) Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Fullness

Ephesians 1:22-23

²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 3:19

...to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

John 14:16-17:

¹⁶ ...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth...

The church on the journey toward fullness

Fivefold ministry

They are manifestations of Christ himself in the church

1 Corinthians vs. Ephesians 4

They are given by Christ

Paul, for example

Acts 13:1-3

¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for *the work to which I have called them.*" ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

2 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus *by the will of God...*

2 Timothy 1:11

...Of this gospel I was *appointed* a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

1 Corinthians 12:11

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, *just as he determines.*

They are given until fullness is attained

Fivefold ministry and the Church's journey toward fullness

Equipping not doing

The basis and nature of the gift of the fivefold ministry

Ascension

Psalm 68

Psalm 68:15-18

¹⁵ Mount Bashan, majestic mountain, Mount Bashan, rugged mountain, ¹⁶ why gaze in envy, you rugged mountain, at the mountain where God chooses to reign, where the Lord himself will dwell forever? ¹⁷ The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary. ¹⁸ When you ascended on high, you took many captives; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious—that you, Lord God, might dwell there.

Two mountains

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Conquest

Back to Jesus...

Exodus 29:45-46

⁴⁵ Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. ⁴⁶ They will know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

2 Chronicles 6:18

...will God really dwell on earth with humans?...

Ephesians 1:19-22

...That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Fivefold Gifts

Genesis 1:28:

“fill the earth and subdue it”

Acts 2:32-33

³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

Battle for planet earth