

Daily Devotion

APEST

Apostle Prophet Evangelist Shepherd Teacher



Monday, 29 April – Sunday, 5 May 2024





Cell Groups

Do you want to sign up to a cell group but not sure which one?

Scan this QR code to register your interest in joining one and we'll try our best to match you to one.





Do you already know which group you would like to join?

The scan the QR code below or follow the instruction below on how to sign up using the 'My ChurchSuite App' on your phone...



Sign up via 'My Churchsuite App'

1. Open the App and Log in.
2. Click on the menu button - (Bottom Right) 
3. Click on 'Cell Groups'.
4. Click on the group you'd like to join.
5. Click the 'sign up' button - 
6. Finished.



⁷Now to **each one of us** grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

¹¹And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.

How do you read **each one of us** in the context above:

- a. each one of us who are apostles?
- b. each one of us who are Jews?
- c. each one of us who are in Christ?
- d. each one of us born in Tarsus?

The context suggests the whole body not a few



AdewaleAdefuye

6:00am

Daily Corporate Devotion

at:

Ipswich International Church

iic.io/daily6am



Ephesians 4:7-11: How Do you Read It?

A man approached Jesus seeking guidance on how to inherit eternal life. Jesus responded by asking, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" The message in Jesus' question remains relevant today, prompting us to consider how we interpret Ephesians 4:7-11.

The Church was intended by divine design to operate as a chosen people and a royal priesthood. However, only a small portion of the Church seems to fulfil this role as APEST while countless others spectate due to traditional interpretations of Ephesians 4:7-11.

The question arises: Should Ephesians 4:7-11 be seen as applicable solely to church leadership, or does it extend to the entire Body of Believers?

Misinterpreting Scriptures can hinder us from understanding and experiencing the truth. When Jesus approached the end of His ministry and foretold His impending death, the people's preconceived notion from the Law that the Christ would live eternally prevented them from accepting His words.¹ They dismissed Jesus' explanations about the Cross, showing no receptivity to His message, much like water sliding off a duck's back.

This week, I am inviting us to reconsider our view of Christ's gifts of **a**postles, **p**rophets, **e**vangelists, **s**hepherds, and **t**eachers. Should they be viewed solely as leadership gifts or as body gifts? Shouldn't every Believer in Christ be exercising one or more of these gifts – to one degree or another? If so, why...?

Shalom

Adewale Adefuye
25 April 2024

¹ John 12:34

To Each One of Us...



Ephesians 4:7–11, BSB

⁷ Now to each one of us grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸ This is why it says: “When He ascended on high, He led captives away, and gave gifts to men.” ⁹ What does “He ascended” mean, except that He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very One who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things. ¹¹ And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,



The context here is “the gift of Christ”. Each one of us, every Believer in Christ has something to bring to the table. Your gifting needs to be discovered, developed and deployed.

Later in this chapter we see a picture of the whole body fitted and held together by what every joint supplies so that the Body of Christ can function effectively.

With the gift comes the grace to operate in it. Christ ascended and gave gifts to his Body to equip saints for the work of the ministry and for building his Body to maturity. We need to be secure in our gifting knowing that it’s not by our own ability but by the grace that Christ supplies. The gifts are diverse and find expression in different ways. This is explained further in 1 Corinthians 12. The gifts complement each other so no one should boast that theirs is better or superior to that of someone else.”



Grace has been given to **each one of us**. Are you in Christ? Does ‘each one of us’ include you? Have you received the gift of Christ? Discuss with the Father in prayer what you have received and how you are using it.

Apostle/Sent



Ephesians 4:11–13, BSB

¹¹ And it was He who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.



"Upon this rock," Jesus declared, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail." He continues to fulfil this promise by equipping individuals with gifts for ministry to strengthen the Body of Christ. Among these gifts is the role of

apostles.

In general terms, an apostle is a vigorous, pioneering advocate or supporter of a policy, idea, or cause. In biblical terms, an apostle is one sent on a mission. This individual embodies characteristics of a leader, a person of influence, and a builder.

We are, according to Ephesians 2:19-20, "fellow citizens with the saints, members of the household of God, founded on the apostles and prophets, with Christ as the cornerstone."

Those in the office of an apostle are responsible for planting churches, pioneering movements, and spreading the good news.

According to the definition, every believer in Christ carries the apostolic grace to serve in their unique sphere of influence and contribute to the growth of the body of Christ, albeit in different degrees.



"As the Father has sent Me," Jesus tells the Disciples, "so also I am sending you." John 20:21

Do you see yourself as on a mission for Jesus?

What mindset does one on a mission adopt?

What kind of help do you require of the Father on His mission?

Prophet/Speaking forth



Ephesians 4:11–13, BSB

¹¹ And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be **prophets**, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.



Of all listed above to equip the Church, prophets and teachers were present in the Old Testament. According to the Collins Dictionary a prophet "is a person who is believed to be chosen by GOD to say the things that GOD wants to tell people."

The presence of prophets before the time of Jesus demonstrates the enduring need of people to hear from God. The fact that God has provided prophets to guide the Church indicates that this need will persist until the end of the age. It is a remarkable privilege for God to communicate with people, showing His care and interest in them.

Verses such as Numbers 12:6, Micah 6:3, and Luke 1:70 highlight God speaking through prophets and Isaiah 44:26 illustrates prophets speaking ahead of God, with God fulfilling their words.

The role of a prophet is crucial, requiring close listening to God and speaking His words accurately. Christians are urged to test prophecies to avoid deception by false prophets, as stated in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22.



Pray that our prophets can accurately hear, see, and speak God's messages.

Pray for individuals within our community who are hesitant to embrace their calling as prophets.

Ask for discernment to identify false prophets and seek guidance to recognise the authenticity of God's chosen prophets.

Evangelist/Evangelising



Ephesians 4:11–13, BSB

¹¹ And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.



Although Jesus commanded all His disciples to engage in the work of bringing those who are lost to faith in Him and to live in obedience to His teachings, some are specifically called by the Lord to be evangelists. These individuals feel a deep

compassion for those who are lost and possess a readiness to share the gospel of Christ.

From the biblical account of Philip the Evangelist (Acts 6, Acts 8:26–29, Acts 21:8–9), we can understand the following characteristics of an evangelist:

- Strong Conviction: They firmly believe that the gospel of Christ is the sole path to redeem humanity from its sins.
- Filled with the Holy Spirit: They are filled the Holy Spirit.
- Eagerness to Preach: They demonstrate a keen enthusiasm and readiness to proclaim the gospel to others.
- Miraculous Signs: Their preaching is often accompanied by miracles, leading sinners to place their trust in Christ.



- Is God stirring your heart to take action for those who are lost around you?
- How are you responding to this calling?
- Is there someone you know who might be called by the Lord to do the work of an evangelist? How can you encourage them?
- Pray that those whom the Father is calling to evangelism will discern His direction and find the courage to respond to His call.

Shepherd/Shepherding



Ephesians 4:11–13, BSB

¹¹ And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be **pastors** and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.



The Greek term for 'pastors' is *poimén*, which translates to Shepherd, reflecting their role as protectors and caretakers.

Jesus' teaching on the Good Shepherd in John 10:1-18 exemplifies this pastoral gifting within the church.

Shepherds are known for their personal touch, concern for others' well-being, and gentle approach to guiding and disciplining. A common saying in church leadership circles is "a shepherd will smell like their sheep," emphasizing the shepherd's close involvement with the people.

Pastoral care is a natural gift from God, but the Holy Spirit can enhance and amplify this gifting in both church and secular settings. In the workplace, they are the individuals who strive to foster unity among colleagues, often seen distributing get-well cards and helping those facing challenges.

Reflect on these questions to assess your pastoral tendencies:

- a. Do you often find yourself providing more pastoral care than others?
- b. Are you naturally inclined to watch over and support your friends or colleagues?
- c. How can the Holy Spirit amplify and deepen this caring aspect in your life?



Thank God that He has given shepherds who can look after the flock but also for the example set by Jesus.

Teacher/Teaching



Ephesians 4:11–13, BSB

¹¹ And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and **teachers**, ¹² to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.



Teachers—*didaskalos* in Greek—are those who instruct or communicate knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the Scriptures to others. The gift of teaching is rooted in the Scriptures (Acts 13:1; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11),

where individuals are called to effectively communicate and explain the Word of God to others. They provide valuable instruction, guidance, and spiritual insights to help others deepen their understanding of God's Word and grow in their faith. They can explain complex theological concepts in a clear and understandable manner, making the teachings of the Bible accessible to a wide audience.

Soon after my spiritual rebirth, I quickly recognised a deep curiosity to enhance my understanding of God and a strong inclination to impart this truth to others.



How do you perceive yourself in relation to Ephesians 4:7, ² a verse that we have been reflecting on prayerfully this week?

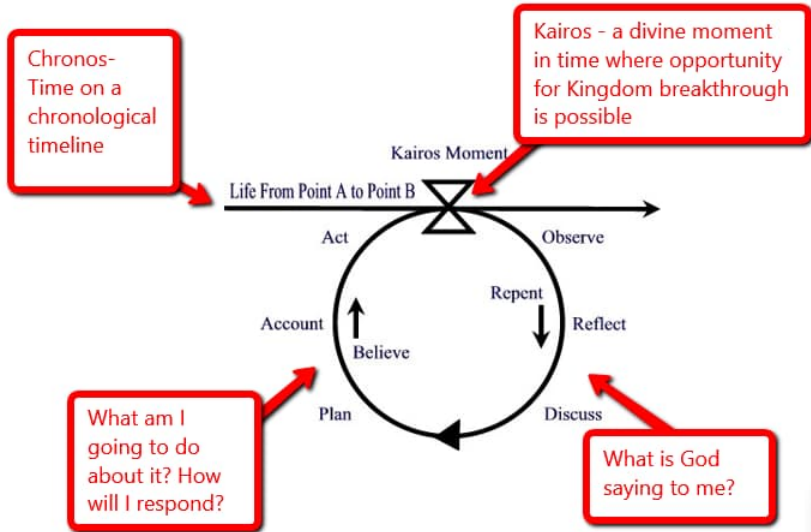
Which of these gifts do you recognise in yourself?

How do you ensure that you see things as God sees them?

Pray for your community of faith to function in the fullness of the Father's provision.

² Ephesians 4:7 "Now to each one of us grace has been given..."

Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____



Our Priorities

ELIM 850.1462/ADVANCE

**MAKING
DISCIPLES**

»»» ADVANCE

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white shirt, is singing into a microphone with her right hand raised. The background is dark blue with a light blue chevron shape pointing right.

Elim

ELIM 850.1462/ADVANCE

**DEVELOPING
LEADERS**

»»» ADVANCE

A man with short hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, is speaking into a microphone with his hands clasped. The background is dark blue with a light green chevron shape pointing right.

Elim

ELIM 850.1462/ADVANCE

**GROWING
CHURCHES**

»»» ADVANCE

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a patterned top, is singing into a microphone. The background is dark blue with a yellow chevron shape pointing right.

Elim

ELIM 850.1462/ADVANCE

**REACHING
NATIONS**

»»» ADVANCE

A man with short hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, is speaking into a microphone with his hands clasped. The background is dark blue with a red chevron shape pointing right.

Elim