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# The Gift of the Apostle (Establishing the Church)

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## The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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***Sermon: The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of the Apostle (Establishing the Church)***

***Previous Series Messages: “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”***

- Sermon: The Purpose of the Gifts (Empowering the Mission)
- Sermon: The Discovery of the Gifts (Stirring Up Your Anointing)
- Sermon: The Responsibility of the Gifts (We Need Your Anointing)
  - Your Anointing Profits the Body
  - Your Anointing is Necessary to the Body
  - Your Anointing Blesses the Body

***New Series Messages: “The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit”***

- The Gifts that Build the Foundation of the Church
- Ephesians 4:11–12 (AV)<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- 2 Timothy 1:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

***Lesson Text***

Luke 6:12–13 (AV)<sup>12</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

1 Corinthians 9:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

Matthew 4:18–19 (AV)<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**

***Introduction***

If you recall when we studied the Fruit of the Spirit, we learned that there were three categories:

- Fruit from our Relationship with God (Love, Joy, and Peace)
- Fruit for our Relationship with Each other (Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness)
- Fruit for our Relationship with Ourselves (Faith, Meekness, Temperance)

Well the Gifts of the Spirit are also divided into three categories:

- Foundation Gifts (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers)
- Works Gifts (Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Discerning of Spirits, Helps, Administrations)
- Sign Gifts (Healings, Miracles, Tongues)

The foundation gifts are the group of gifts that establish the groundwork, infrastructure, underpinning, or foundation for the body of Christ and Church.

When a child is born, it is very important that the baby has a solid foundation. Love, support, food, protection, and nurturing are all things that are provided to that child to make sure he or she starts out life with a solid foundation.

The Holy Spirit gives us the foundation gifts to setup a healthy foundation for the body of Christ and local Church.

The first foundation gifts we will study today is the gift of the Apostle; a special gift given to us to Establishing the Church.

***Series and Sermon: The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of the Apostle (Establishing the Church)***

“The Purpose, Mission, and Stirring of the Apostle”

***I. The Purpose of the Apostle***

1 Corinthians 9:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? <sup>2</sup>If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

The primary purpose of the Apostle is to go out and establish a work, ministry, or church. In scripture there are three types of Apostles with unique purposes

The first type of Apostles is “Apostles of Christ”. They were a small and special group of men consisting of the original twelve, and later Paul (who replaced Judas); specifically, because they were chosen by Christ and they have no successor.

- Luke 6:<sup>12</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;
- Galatians 1:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)
- These men were specifically chosen by Christ to establish the original and first Church; they were eyewitnesses of the risen Lord, thus in the strictest sense, they have no successors!

The second type of Apostles is “Messengers of the Church”. These are individuals who are sent out by the church as messengers such as Titus and Epaphroditus.

- The Message that we all dance to in Philippians 4:<sup>19</sup>, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”; was sent by an Apostle
- Philippians 4:<sup>18</sup> But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

The third type of Apostle are “Establishers of the Church”. These are those who are sent out into the world to establish ministries and churches. Although technically we all are called to go out into the world, today we recognize certain among us who have a special calling to establish a work or local church.

John 17:17–18 (AV)<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Any Pastor who has founded a church is considered an Apostle of the work he establishes.

## *II. The Work of the Apostle*

1 Corinthians 9:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> **If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.**

The Corinthians didn't want to take care of him, and he said even if others don't want to recognize me as an Apostle, surely you should as I'm the one who preached you out of your sins and established the church at Corinth.

Unlike the 12 Apostles of Christ, who were unique and have no successor, the work of the modern-day Apostle is the work of establishing and building the local church.

Paul said to the church at Corinth, even if others don't want to acknowledge me as an Apostle (Chosen by the Lord, or Messenger), you are the proof of my Apostleship.

In Paul's argument to those that were examining and criticizing him concerning their responsibility to care of him, His argument was his work as an Apostle to them.

1 Corinthians 9:9 (AV)<sup>9</sup> For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

The Apostle is the Ox; the strongest animal around. It was used to tread on to corn to separate the grain from the husk to give everyone a harvest. Without the Ox, there's no harvest.

1 Corinthians 9:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

The work of the Ox produces natural things, the work of the Apostle produces Spiritual things.

1 Corinthians 9:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

That ultimate work of the Apostle is to establish/build a local church by the preaching of Gospel

1 Corinthians 1:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (AV)<sup>21</sup> For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

### ***III. The Stirring of the Apostle***

Matthew 4:18–19 (AV)<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**

The Bible says to stir up the gift of God within us. How is the gift of Apostleship stirred up?

The Purpose of the Apostle is Establish the Church, the Work of the Apostle is to Preach out the Church, and the Stirring of the Apostle is the Call to the Church.

The stirring of the Gift of the Apostle comes from accepting and being made for the Call.

Matthew 22:14 (AV)<sup>14</sup> **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

Paul had a call on his life, but he had to be knocked down off his horse to take the call.

Acts 9:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

To kick against the pricks means to work or fight against the will or call of God. Regardless of your calling, **pick up the phone!**

Once you accept the call, you then need to wait on your calling.

Why does God call us, and then tell us to hurry up and wait? Because He needs to make us!

2 Peter 1:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

The reason why so many people fail at their calling is because they were never made for it. They got the call but didn't wait on the instructions.

Jesus said to his disciples, **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”!**

The reason why so many Pastors quick every year, why so many Churches never grow and mature is because the Apostle was never made.

Peter said if you make your election sure, you will never fail!

Isaiah 40:<sup>31</sup> But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

If you wait on longsuffering, you won't quick and give up when the going gets tough.

If you wait on joy, you won't fall into depression when life gets tough

If you wait on peace, you won't fall worry when trouble gets tough

If you wait on love, you won't fall into hate when people get tough

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Gift of the Apostle (Establishing the Church))**

**Lesson Text**

- Luke 6:12–13, 1 Corinthians 9:1–2, Matthew 4:18–19
- Book: [The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit](#): Read “Foundation Gifts, Apostles”

**Sermon Outline (Notes)**

**I. The Purpose of the Apostle**

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**II. The Work of the Apostle**

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**III. The Stirring of the Apostle**

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**Questions**

**I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What do you do to get to know someone better? What should a person who wants to get to know you better do?
2. What do (or should) you do in the times that you are waiting on the Lord to answer your prayer?

**II. Into the Bible**

1. According to Acts 26:12-18 (NKJV), Saul traveled to Damascus on an assignment. What was his assignment? Whose voice did he hear and the charge that was made against him?
2. Saul asked two questions that are the *right* questions for any believer to ask. Why are these questions significant?
3. The New King James Version uses the word, goads, instead of pricks in Acts 26:14b. What are goads? How were they used in biblical times? Why does Jesus use this proverb regarding Saul and his life? Would Jesus use this proverb about us and our lives?
4. Did Saul’s new assignment make him an apostle? How?

**III. Life Application**

1. How will this teaching on apostleship and establishing the church help you better serve your own calling?
2. This sermon has taught that the pastor is a type of a modern-day apostle. How will you use this sermon to help your pastor improve the local church?