
The Gift of the Pastor (The Shepherd of The Church)

The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Sermon: The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of the Pastor (The Shepherd of The Church)

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

- Theme Scriptures:
 - Ephesians 4:11–12 (AV)¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² 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)⁶ 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.
- Sermon: The Gift of the Apostle (Establishing The Church)
- Sermon: The Gift of the Prophet (The Voice of The Church)
 - The Purpose of the Prophet is to Preach the Word of God
 - The Work of the Prophet is to Endure the Word of God
 - The Stirring of the Prophet is to Study & Prove the Word of God

Lesson Text

Jeremiah 3:15–16 (AV)¹⁵ And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit *it*; neither shall *that* be done any more.

John 10:11–13 (AV)¹¹ **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.** ¹² **But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.** ¹³ **The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**

Introduction

We are currently teaching on 5 Foundational Gifts given to us to Establish and Build the Local Church (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, **Pastors**, Teachers)

The Apostle Establishes the Church, The Prophet is the Voice of the Church, Lets now look at the Gift of the Pastor; the Shepherd of the Church!

The Hebrew Translation for **Pastor is Shepherd**: It is the one Gift that is shared directly with our Lord and Savior, “The Good Shepherd”!

John 10: ¹¹ **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

A Shepherd is one who tends to a flock of sheep and/or goats. Since these were the most important domestic animals in Palestine, there are many references to sheep and shepherds throughout the Bible.

Many important figures in Hebrew history were pastoralists, including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jacob's sons, Moses, and David.

The economic value of sheep stands in direct proportion to the amount of supervision (i.e., guidance and protection) these beasts require. Sheep become lost easily; once lost, they are defenseless.

Matthew 18:12 (AV)¹² **How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?**

Matthew 7:15 (AV)¹⁵ **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**

Today's Message will not only teach us about the Gift of the Pastor, but how to discern the difference between a Good Shepherd and a False Prophet or Hireling.

Series and Sermon: The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of the Pastor (The Shepherd of The Church)

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

I. The Purpose of the Pastor (Lead the Sheep)

Jeremiah 3:15 (AV)¹⁵ And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

The primary purpose of a Pastor is the same as that of Shepherd, which is to lead the Sheep. He leads the sheep of God, the members of the Body of Christ of the local church.

But being a pastor is more than just leading, one must lead with a heart after God's.

1 Samuel 13:13–14 (AV)¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. ¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

Some people have the ability to lead, but they do not have the heart to lead.

Some of them even become false prophets.

Matthew 7:15 (AV)¹⁵ **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**

Both David and Saul were leaders of God's people, but what separated them was their heart. They both sinned, but what differentiated them was what they did after they sinned.

Saul deflected blame on others and lied; whereas David owned his sin and repented.

Psalms 51:3–4 (AV)³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. ⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.

David had a Heart after God's Heart, which means to have heart and life that is in harmony with the Lord.

What is important to God is important to You. What burdens God burdens you. What God Loves, you Love. What God hates, you hates.

A Heart after God's is a Heart of Humility, Obedience, Faithful, Devotion, and Repentance.

A Pastor leads the People of God with the Character of God's Heart. They lead with humility, lead with faithfulness, lead with devotion, and they lead with repentance.

II. The Work of the Pastor (Feed the Sheep)

Jeremiah 3:15 (AV)¹⁵ And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

The Work of the Pastor is feed the sheep with knowledge and understanding.

The reason why so many Christians get in trouble is because they are either not being fed by a true Pastor, or they are eating from too many tables.

They are either not being fed and are malnourished; or they are eating the wrong food and have a spiritually upset stomach. They are either Spiritually immature or Spiritually nauseated.

The Work of the Pastor is to feed God's people with knowledge and understanding of His word.

Proverbs 9:10 (AV)¹⁰ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

The fear of the Lord here is not about dread or terror, but about Worship and Obedience.

The Work of the Pastor is to feed (teach, guide, train, order) God's people into Worship of Him and Obedience to His Word.

John 21:16 (AV)¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

III. The Stirring of the Pastor (Care for the Sheep)

John 10:11–13 (AV)¹¹ **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**
¹² **But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**
¹³ **The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**

The Purpose of the Pastor is to Lead the Sheep with a Heart After God's. The Work of the Pastor is to Feed the Sheep with His Knowledge and Understanding. Finally the Stirring of the Pastor is the Care for the Sheep when they are in Trouble.

The Gift of the Pastor (The Shepherd of The Church)

Page 4 of 5 (October 27, 2019)

A lot of people have the title of a Pastor, but they don't have Heart of a Shepherd, the Knowledge of a Shepherd, nor the Care of a Shepherd.

The Gift of the Pastor is stirred when there is a burning desire to care for the Sheep from Satan.

John 10:10 (AV)¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Too many Pastors have stolen the title, but they are not True Shepherds.

John 10: ¹² **But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. ¹³ The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**

Pastoring is just a job for the hireling, and when it's no longer worth it to them, they flee.

John 10:¹¹ **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

The Pastor (Good Shepard) is Stirred to be The Watchman for the Sheep; He stays on the Wall to Warn the People

- **The Hireling:** Isaiah 56:10 (AV)¹⁰ His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.
- **The Good Shepherd:** Isaiah 62:6 (AV)⁶ I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, *which* shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

The Pastor (The Good Shepherd) is Stirred to be The Protector of the Sheep; He Walks Softly, but He carries a Big Stick

- Psalm 23:1–4 (AV)¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; **thy rod and thy staff** they comfort me.
- His Big Stick is first a Rod; It corrects and prods the sheep to get back on the path.
 - Proverbs 22:15 (AV)¹⁵ Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.
 - The Sheep that know the Voice of their Shepherd heed to His gentle prodding
- His Bid Stick is also a Staff; It can beat back the Thief, the Wolf, the Devil
 - Luke 10:19 (AV)¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**
 - Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Gift of the Pastor (The Shepherd of the Church))

Lesson Text

- Jeremiah 3:15–16, John 10:11–13
- Book: [The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit](#): Read “Foundation Gifts, Pastor”

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. The Purpose of the Pastor

II. The Work of the Pastor

III. The Stirring of the Pastor

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What are some of your favorite movies that feature good leaders or leadership skills?
2. What style of leadership appeals to you and why? Is it the style you use when you are called upon to lead?

II. Into the Bible

1. According to Acts 20:28, why is it important for pastors to shepherd the church? Name some things a pastor can do to pay attention to himself and to the flock?
2. What are watchmen in the Bible?

III. Life Application

1. How has this message helped you to “see” [understand] Jesus more clearly?
2. After hearing this message on the Gift of the Pastor, how can you help the pastor serve more effectively?