

Spiritual Gifts - Apostles
Calvary Chapel of Wilmington
Equipping the Saints Series

Workbook Session #2

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:1-16

Additional readings are provided within the individual sections.

Scripture Focus: Eph 4:1-3

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Teaching Schedule

Session	Date	Topic	Teacher
1	6/14	Introduction	Pastor Clay
2	6/21	Apostleship	Pastor David
	6/28	<i>Agape & Communion</i>	
3	7/5	Prophecy	Pastor Clay
4	7/12	Evangelism	Pat Pridgen
5	6/19	Pastor	Pastor Clay
	7/26	<i>Agape & Communion</i>	
6	8/2	Teaching / Exhortation	Pastor David
7	8/9	Leadership / Administration	Pastor Clay
8	8/16	Giving / Mercy	Pastor David
9	8/23	Helps / Service	Pastor Clay
	8/30	<i>Agape & Communion</i>	
10	9/6	Word of Wisdom / Knowledge	Pastor David
11	9/13	Healings & Miracles	Pastor Clay
12	9/20	Faith	Pastor David
	9/27	<i>Agape & Communion</i>	
13	10/4	Distinguishing of Spirits	Pastor David
14	10/11	Tongues & Interpretation	Pastor Clay
15	10/18	Love	Pastor David

Outline of Session 2:

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Our English word “apostle” comes directly from the Greek language with only a minor ending modification. We occasionally encounter words like this in both the Old and New Testament, words which are brought from one language into another with only minor changes in form. Baptism (from “baptizo”) is another word which has undergone a similar transfer from Greek to English..

Definition: “Apostle”: one who is sent forth, an emissary, a messenger

A. Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:7-16

Observation:

What is the topic of this passage?

Who is the “He Himself” of verse 11?

Who gives the gift of “Apostle”?

Who receives the gift?

Of what value is this gift to the one receiving it?

Who is this gift ultimately for?

What does this gift achieve (what is its purpose)? Gal. 2:7-8; Eph. 4:11ff

B. Scripture Reading: Heb. 3:1; Gal. 1:1, 19; Acts 14:12-15

Initially, the Apostles were “The Twelve” that were with Jesus from the time of His baptism. They were taught by him as they listened to His teachings and observed His actions.

There are more Apostles than “The Twelve.”

List the apostles identified in the scripture readings above.

Read: Acts 13: 1-4

In verse 1, how are the 5 men identified?

What are the 5 men doing in this passage?

As a result of the above activity, what did they do?

Note: in 14:14, that Paul and Barnabas, who were referred to in 13:1 as prophets and teachers, are now identified as:

C. Scripture Reading: Acts 6:2, 4; I Cor. 9:1-5

What were Apostles not to do?

What were they to do?

What other “rights” did they have?

D. Scripture Reading:. I Cor. 12:28-29

In what order is the gift of Apostle placed?

What does this indicate?

E. Additional question:

Do we have Apostles in the church today? (Eph. 4:11)

The passage in Ephesians 4 lists ministry gifts that are given by Jesus to the church. This list includes pastors, teachers and evangelists, ministries that are still operative today. How can we exclude apostles from the list under the pretext “They are no longer needed today.”

Every evidence indicates that Apostles are still needed today. In fact, the apostolic ministry should be the first “line of ministry” to areas that have not been reached by the gospel. The apostle lays the foundations of the church.

In a number of churches, the apostolic minister is characterized as a “missionary.”

II. The Calling and Work of an Apostle

We have already established in Section I that Jesus gives the gift of “Apostle.”

We have also indicated that an apostle is “one who is sent forth.”

The Apostle is a representative, an emissary, a messenger for the One who has sent him, i.e. Jesus.

And, since Jesus appoints the apostle, the apostle’s authority comes from Jesus.

**A. Scripture Reading:. Gal. 2:1-10; I Thess. 2:4; Eph. 4:11-16;
I Cor. 3:6-11**

What is the message to be delivered by the apostle?

What work does the apostle do within the church?

How did Paul characterize his work as an apostle?

B. Scripture Reading:. II Cor. 12:12; I Cor. 9:1-2; Heb. 2:1-4

What evidences did Paul say an Apostle would have in his ministry?

What other evidence will an Apostle have?

The author of the book of Hebrews provides an additional evidence of Apostleship. What is it?

What gift did some of the apostles have? (See Acts 8:14-10; 19:1-6)

III. The Character of an Apostle

A. Scripture Reading: II Cor. 12:12; II Cor. 1:8-10; I Thess. 2:6;
Acts 1:21-22; Eph. 3:4-5; I Thess. 2:10

How were the signs of an Apostle accomplished?

What difficulties of “endurance” might an apostle expect?

What did the Apostles not seek?

What qualification did the apostles require of an apostle when seeking a replacement for Judas?

What does this mean for us today?

What word characterizes an apostle in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians in chapter 3?

What does this mean for apostles today?

How else does Paul characterize an apostle in his letter to the citizens of Thessalonica?

Some additional qualifications:

1. one who has been tested
2. not a new believer
3. one who is strong in the foundations of the faith and is able to teach
4. one who has a love for the truth
5. one who has a realistic assessment of the life of an apostle
6. one who abides in Christ

How can you know if you're an apostle?

1. God reveals it to you. (see example of Paul)
2. Testimony of the leaders of the church by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1-4)
3. The signs of an apostle (signs, wonders, spiritual gifts and local churches) are evidenced in your life as you follow the leading of the Spirit.
4. the desire of your heart is firm as you earnestly seek His will

This is not a gift/ministry that is to be lightly sought!

You must have the heart for it!

IV. Testing Those Who Claim to be Apostles

A. Scripture Reading: Rev. 2:2; II Cor. 11:13-15;

What did the church of Ephesus do with regard to those who said they were Apostles but were not?

What are two things that false Apostles do?

Tests for false Apostles:

- 1. They must be sent by Jesus/the Holy Spirit (see Acts 13:1-4)**
- 2. It is expected that the ministry of an Apostle will be accompanied by signs and wonders. (II Cor. 12:12)**
- 3. It is expected that the ministry of an Apostle will be accompanied by gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Heb. 2:4)**
- 4. An Apostle exhibits perseverance/endurance in the midst of many difficulties. (II Cor. 1: 8-10)**
- 5. An Apostle has a lifestyle of “living the truth” (Eph. 3:4-5; I Thess. 2:10) and has the fruit of the Spirit in evidence.**
- 6. An Apostle does not seek his own glory. (I Thess. 2:6)**
- 7. An Apostle is supernaturally enabled. (Acts 2:1-4)**
Note that they were told to wait until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit before doing anything else. (Acts 1:4-8)
- 8. An evidence of the legitimate ministry of an Apostle is also seen in the establishment of local churches. (I Cor. 9:1-5)**
- 9. A truly “spiritual” Christian will have discernment from the Holy Spirit that a person is false. (The Spirit within them will not bear witness with the spirit within the false Apostle.)**

For further thought:

Consider:

- **the implications of the fact that Jesus entrusts His gospel in the hands of mortal beings. How great then, must the character and commitment of the Apostle be to faithfully discharge so enormous an entrustment.**
- **the magnitude of the privilege of serving our Creator God in this way.**
- **the apostle will mostly be found in uncharted waters, virgin territory, places where the gospel has not been preached. He often will not have the benefits afforded others by modern society (safe water, electricity, other servants in the body, music ministry, air conditioning, easy access to food markets, gas, etc..)**

It may be a ministry of privation (lack of the basic comforts or necessities of life.)