9 26 2018 **JESUS GAVE THE CHURCH STRONG LEADERSHIP**

The church leadership is to be an expression of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are clear and plain about who is to be the focus on changing people’s lives.

Jesus, Apostle…whom we confess **(Heb. 3:1)**

Jesus, Prophet…from Nazareth **(Mat. 21:11)**

Jesus, Evangelist...the great soul winner.

Jesus, Pastor (Shepherd)…overseer of our souls. **(I Pet. 2:25)**

Jesus, Teacher…who came from God. **(St. John 3:2)**

The Lordship and character of Jesus Christ must be revealed in the ***“five-fold”*** ministry chosen by Christ Himself.

# **BACKGROUND:**

Apostle (s) in Scripture 85 times in N.T.

Prophet (s) in Scriptures 150 times in N.T.

Evangelist (s) in Scriptures 3 times in N.T.

Pastor (s) in Scriptures 1 time in N.T.

Teacher (s) in Scriptures 125 times in N.T.

Apostles, Teachers and Prophets are a combined total of at least 200 times in N.T.

Pastors and Evangelists are a combined total of 4 times in N.T.

# **BIBLE CHARACTERISICS OF N.T. APOSTLES**

1. Filled with the Spirit **(Acts 2:4)**
2. Healed the sick **(Acts 3:1-8)**
3. Were persecuted and attacked **(Acts 4:1-12)**
4. Pronounced God’s judgment **(Acts 5:1-11)**
5. Worked signs and wonders **(Acts 5:12)**
6. Preached and taught Jesus **(Acts 5:42)**
7. Ordained spiritual workers (first deacons) **(Acts 6:1-6)**
8. Laid hands of believers to receive the Spirit **(Acts 8:14-17)**
9. Raised the dead **(Acts 9:36-43)**
10. Preached to gentiles **(Acts 10)**
11. Were martyred, persecuted, and delivered **(Acts 12:1-11)**
12. The Spirit sent them to minister the Gospel of Jesus **(Acts 13:4)**
13. They confirmed disciples to the faith **(Acts 14:21-22)**
14. They ordained elders **(Acts 14:23)**
15. They settled doctrinal differences **(Acts 15:1-21)**
16. They were church leaders **(Acts 15:4, 6, 13, 19)**
17. They cast out devils (demons, evil spirits) **(Acts 16:18)**
18. They sent out others to minister **(Acts 19:22)**
19. Further acts of the apostles **(Acts chapter 20-28)**
20. Builders who laid spiritual foundation **(I Cor. 3:10)**
21. Warned other leaders in the faith **(I Cor. 4:14-15)**
22. Answered questions and counseled the churches **(I Cor. 7:1)**
23. Set the church in order **(I Cor. 11:34)**
24. Had care for the church **(II Cor. 11:28)**
25. Had authority to bring edification to the church **(II Cor. 12:10)**
26. Part of the church foundation **(Eph. 2:20)**
27. Received revelation from God **(Eph. 3:3-5)**
28. Used in perfecting the saints **(Eph. 4:11-12)**

# **BIBLE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE N.T. PROPHETS**

1. Gave word in church gatherings **(I Cor. 14:29)**
2. Are part of the N. T. church foundation **(Eph. 2:20)**
3. They received revelation from God **(Eph. 3: 3-5)**
4. They perfected the saints **(Eph. 4:11-12)**

The apostles and prophets were used extensively to aid the church in getting off in the right direction and staying on coarse.

1. Heard God’s word
2. Received God’s word
3. Proclaimed God’s word
4. Taught God’s word
5. Guarded God’s word

**God’s word reveals God’s will!**

The five-fold ministry is to reflect the will and purposes of God, through these gifts given by Jesus Christ to the church.

**Eph. 4:7-11** Church leadership given

**Eph. 4:12-16** Purpose of the leadership given

**Eph. 4:17-5:17** Results of church leadership

1. No more children V14
2. Truth in love V15
3. Put away the old life **Vs 17-22**
4. Put on the new life **Vs 23-29**
5. Grieve not the Holy Spirit **Vs 30-32**
6. Walk in love and purity **5:1-3**
7. Life filled with holiness **5:4-17**
8. Be filled with the Spirit **5:18-21**

All five of these ministries were used by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God’s will in the church from its beginning and until the Lord’s return.

**Apostles**: representative of the church, such as the first Christian missionaries. N.T. term refers to any messenger appointed and sent as a missionary or for some other special responsibility. **(Acts 14:4, 14 Ro. 16;7)**

**Prophets:** were men in the church who spoke under the direct impulse of the Holy Spirit and whose main motivation and concern were the spiritual life and purity of the church. Under the New Covenant they were raised up and empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring a message from God to His people. **(Acts 2:17; 4:8; 21:4)**

**Evangelists:** were men of God who were gifted and commissioned by God to proclaim the gospel, the good news of salvation to the unsaved and to help establish a new work in a city. **(Acts 8:4-5, 6, 7, 12-17)** Church efforts to win the lost continues with the operation and support of the evangelist.

**Pastor:** God’s purpose for the church, directing the spiritual life of believers, governed according to the mind of the Spirit, resisting the destructive forces of Satan and the world, preaching the word of God, caring for the people of God, and sound doctrine and discipline to develop godliness. **(Eph. 4:12-16; I Tim. 4:6-7)**

**Teachers:** The principle purpose of Biblical teaching is to preserve truth and to produce holiness by leading the body of Christ into an uncompromising commitment to the godly lifestyle set forth in God’s word. Scripture states the goal of Christian instruction is love “out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned **(I Tim 1:5)** and sincere godliness. Gifted teachers given by God are not to be silenced but heard. Those who stay true to the Scriptures are essential to be a strength against new winds of doctrine accepted, and religious experience and human ideas, rather than revealed truths, are to be the ultimate guide to doctrine, standards, and practices of the church. **(II Tim 1:11-14)**

These ministry gifts given by the Lord Jesus can be used interchangeably by the Holy Spirit who is working to fulfill what Jesus began both to do and to teach.