

# MINISTRY GIFTS AND CALLINGS

**Bible Passage:** 1 Cor 12:1-11,28

**Memory Verse:** But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ – Eph 4:7

## Introduction

God's given gifts are also referred to as grace, talent, "charisma" or favor that enables individual believer to do certain things specially. Along with talents that we were born with, spiritual gifts are activated at salvation and propelled by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Your call is the divine assignment or task that you were born to fulfill in line with the will of God to develop His kingdom on earth (Jer 1:5, Gal 1:15). Your gifts, talents and potentials empower you to adequately accomplish your call. The main purposes of God's gifts and calling are firstly to glorify the Lord (Rev 4:11), edify the church (Eph. 4:12-15) and propagate the kingdom of God (1Cor 12:7, Matt 10: 5-8).

## Definition of Biblical Ministry

To actualize your life's calling, God will create opportunities for you to serve in places and involve in certain activities. A ministry is the office or avenue through which God allows you to serve others (career-wise, secularly, spiritually etc.), with the goal of actualizing your divine assignment on earth. Ministry is not a title but divine placement in God's service. Not what you called but what you are graced to do well. Generally, every believer operates in certain ministry from time to time, although there are some special people that persistently exercise a particular exceptional ministry for lifetime. Let's briefly review the major foundational ministries in Eph. 4:11 –

- a. Apostolic Ministry: From the Greek word "apostolos" meaning a delegate (one sent with full power of attorney). Apostle do what God would be doing if he was in the scene - Heb 3:1, Matt 28:19-20, Mark 3:14-15, Luke 6:13. E.g. Missionaries, Church Planters
- b. Prophetic Ministry: From the Hebrew word "navi" meaning God's spokesman (Heb 1:1). They preach righteousness (Acts 15:32) and foretell the future (Acts 11:28, 21:10). Sometime, it operates alongside other supernatural signs like visions, dreams, trances, inward voices and usual visitation of God's presence & power. E.g. Song Ministers, Intercessors, Pastors, Preachers
- c. Evangelistic Ministry: From the Greek word "evangelistes" meaning one that announces or spread the goodnews of God's kingdom. We are all charged to do the work of an evangelist (2Tim 4:5, 2 Cor 5:18). Most Evangelists are mobile ministers. This ministry is accompanied with gift of faith that works signs, wonders and miracles (Heb 2:3-4); therefore Evangelist always pull crowd.
- d. Pastoral Ministry: From the Greek word "ra'ah" and "poimen" meaning shepherd (to oversee, tend, feed, guard the flock of God). They give attention, counsel, pray, restore and show good example to the people of God (Jer 3:15, 1 Tim 3:1-7)
- e. Teaching Ministry: From the Greek word "didaskalos" meaning master (John3:2). They are called to impart instruction, illuminate scriptures with lot of revelational truth and communicate knowledge of the word of God

## Other Gifts, Callings and Ministries

Other gifts (in the bible and not in the bible) include working of miracles, healings, help, administration, ministering, government, consolation, exhortation, drama, music, writing, art, instrumentation etc.

## Scriptural Reading Assignment

Mark 11: 22-24, Acts 3:6, 9:36-39, 19:11-12, Romans 12:7-8, 16:1-3,9, 1 Cor 16:16, Exodus 7:10-13, Titus 1:4-5