

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

I Called by God's grace as He wills.

"By the grace of God I am what I am."

Ephesians 4:7-8

*But to each one of us **grace** was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

⁸Therefore it says,

***"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN!"***

1 Corinthians 12:11

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Galatians 1:1

Paul, an apostle (not sent from men, nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ.

II The grace of God enables/empowers us to labor.

"I labored even more than all of them, yet not, I, but the grace of God with me."

Acts 4:33

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Ephesians 3:7

Of which (the gospel) I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

III Our labor by God's grace and through His grace is not in vain.

"And His grace toward me did not prove vain."

Romans 15:18-20

For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— ¹⁹ in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

¹ *anthrōpos*: human beings, mankind

IV God's grace is enough to get us through persecutions.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A Paul's thorn in the flesh was the constant persecutions and distress he suffered as a result of the ministry (not an ongoing sickness).

B When we are weak, we are strong because our strength is made perfect in weakness.

C His grace IS sufficient.

V The gifts of God are for serving others thereby glorifying God.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift (charisma), employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace (charis) of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We are stewards (managers and distributors) of the manifold grace of God. This means we distribute His grace to each other using the gifts He has given us by His grace to serve one another. He supplies the strength (ability).

VI The grace gifts of God are for each other.

Ephesians 4:11-16

He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

**For the equipping of the saints for the work of service,
to the building up of the body of Christ**

1 Apostle

apostolos: a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle

- a There are 19+ apostles mentioned in the New Testament, but there were probably many more (just as there are only two evangelists mentioned).** Thus, this office gift was not limited to the first twelve apostles nor did it cease to exist after the first twelve passed away.
- b One of the apostles, Junia, was a woman.** Some translators switched the female name, Junia, to the male name Junias².
- c The apostles spoken of in the New Testament are:**
The twelve disciples of Jesus plus Matthias (Acts 1:26), Paul, Barnabas (Acts 14:14), Andronicus and Junia (female) (Romans 16:7), a non-disclosed number (2 Corinthians 8:23), James, the Lord's brother (Galatians 1:19), Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25), Jesus (Hebrews 3:1)
- d There are false apostles. We need to be aware of this. It is not "being judgmental" to decide if someone who claims to be an apostle is or isn't.**

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. ⁴For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully. ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

² Most biblical scholars are of the conviction, as am I, that the second named individual in verse 7 is a female. Junia, after all, was a very common feminine name at that time. "All early sources attest Junia as female, especially Jerome (340-420 A.D.) and John Chrysostom (345-407 A.D.). Although the name often appears in masculine forms in English translations, they are unattested in ancient times. Junia is the only woman called an 'apostle' in the NT" (Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible, p. 756). Andronicus and Junia are believed by the vast majority of these biblical scholars to be yet another husband and wife team (like Priscilla and Aquila), or possibly a brother and sister team. "It is surely not at all impossible that St. Paul should include a woman among the apostles in the wider sense of accredited missionaries or messengers, a position to which their seniority in the faith may well have called this pair" (Dr. James Hastings, Dictionary of the Apostolic Church, vol. 1, p. 665).

*It was certainly not unusual for God to use women in very prominent roles among His people, and we find this revealed in both OT and NT historical writings. Athaliah, for example, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, reigned as queen over Judah for six years (2 Kings 11:3; 2 Chron. 22:12). Deborah, who was a prophetess of God, served as a judge over Israel for 40 years (Judges 4:4-5). We find several female prophets of God mentioned -- Miriam (Ex. 15:20), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14; 2 Chron. 34:22), Noadiah (Neh. 6:14), Anna (Luke 2:36), and the four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:9). We also see a husband and wife team of prophets -- Isaiah and his wife (Is. 8:3). Joel 2:28-29 even foresaw a time, during the Christian dispensation, when both "your sons and daughters will prophesy ... and even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days." Thus, it should not surprise us too greatly to find a woman deacon (Phoebe -- Rom. 16:1-2), a woman apostle (Junia -- Rom. 16:7), and women prophets (Philip's daughters) in the church. http://www.inplainsite.org/html/andronicus_and_junias.html
D.H. and C.D. Hildebrand*

2 Prophet

prophētēs: a foreteller (“prophet”); by analogy an inspired speaker

a Prophets mentioned in the New Testament are:

Jesus (Acts 3:22), “some” prophets from Jerusalem (Acts 11:27), **Agabus**, who predicted a famine which caused the disciples to send as they were able to help the believers in Judea (Acts 11:28) and who predicted that Paul would be bound in Jerusalem; Paul did not let this prophecy deter him from going (Acts 21:10-14), **prophets from Antioch** through whom the Holy Spirit spoke calling Barnabas and Paul (Acts 13:1-2), **Judas and Silas** who “encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message” (Acts 15:32), the **four daughters of Philip**, one of the seven (Acts 21:9).

b New Covenant prophets ARE NOT THE SAME as Old Covenant Prophets.

1) Before the New Covenant, God spoke to His people through the prophets. Now, He speaks to us through His Son.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

- We need to be aware that there ARE false prophets among the body of Christ.

Matthew 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

2 Peter 2:1

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- ALL PROPHECY IS TO BE JUDGED.

1 Corinthians 14:29

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

- Spoken prophecies should NEVER be taken to be as the same as Scripture. If a prophecy does not match up with God’s word IT IS INVALID.

- Prophecies mentioned during the New Covenant were not directive but informative.

1. We are led by the Spirit of God, not prophecy. ALL PROPHECY MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST WHAT GOD IS SPEAKING TO OUR HEARTS.

2. **We are not to be led by each other, but rather each person should be listening to what the Spirit is telling him/her personally.** Leaders and other believers can share wisdom, and give their opinions, but they should not be directing individuals how to live and what specific decisions to make. This is widely abused in the body of Christ today.
3. **Avoid seeking “a word from God” by so-called prophets as opposed to hearing from God. There is no such thing in the body of Christ as a Christian fortune teller!!!**

3 Evangelist

euaggelistēs: from G2097; an evangelist, a bringer of good news

a There are only two evangelists spoken of in the New Testament by name, but without naming someone specifically as evangelists, others did share the gospel, as do we all. Philip (Acts 21:8) and Timothy (2 Timothy 4:5). Of course this doesn't mean there were only two.

- **Evangelists bring the gospel, good news.**
- **Evangelists need to know what the good news is. Many so-called evangelists today are actually bringing bad news.**
 - **Ministry of reconciliation via the cross of Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 15:1

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ¹⁸And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

- **Gospel of Grace**

Acts 20:24

But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

- **We should be careful not to preach “another gospel”.**

Galatians 1:8

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

4 Pastor

poimeñ: a shepherd, pastor

b *It is interesting to note that no one individual is referred to as a pastor in scripture. The word that is more commonly associated with shepherding the sheep is “overseer”. It is safe to conclude that an overseer is a pastor or other minister, such as a bishop who is responsible for the spiritual welfare of a group of people.*

▪ **Act 20:28**

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd³ the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1. Overseer: episkopos—overseer, guardian, someone who watches over others.

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.

1 Timothy 3:1

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

▪ **Paul warned those whom he had taught to be aware of wolves. Wolves do not care for the sheep.**

Acts 20:28-31

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

5 Teacher

didaskalos: an instructor, teacher

a Few teachers are mentioned by name.

Acts 13:1

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

b The office gift of teacher is often combined with other gifts. In fact, anyone who is in Christian service and any believer should be able to teach.

2 Timothy 1:11

For which I was appointed a preacher (herald) and an apostle and a teacher.

³ *Poimaino: to tend as a shepherd (Notice this is the verb form of pastor.)*
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c 2 Timothy 2:23-25

But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.

Hebrews 5:12-14

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

d Just as there are false apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, there are false teachers. 2 Peter 2

Jesus was an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher.
When he ascended, He gave these gifts to us, His body!

VII Message above Method

It is easy to get caught in the trap of focusing on where to and how to do the ministry. Some want large beautiful buildings. Others wish to meet only in homes. Others want a combination of the two. The method of presentation is also debated. Some insist we should teach verse by verse, others think topics make more sense, still others believe a combination is best. All of these things are details that have much inferior importance compared to **WHAT IS BEING TAUGHT**. No matter where or how, the most important thing is to be very careful not to add to or take away from the pure and simple gospel of Jesus Christ.

VIII What do we teach which will feed and equip Jesus' sheep?**A We teach of His great love.****Ephesians 2:4-7**

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:18-19

That you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

B We teach Jesus.**Ephesians 1:15-17**

For this reason I too having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints ¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

Colossians 1:27-28

To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

C We teach believers to believe in Him.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

D We teach believers to love one another as Jesus loves them.

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

E We teach the word of God, both Old and New Testaments, from a New Covenant perspective.

F We teach the gospel of the grace of God and the gift of righteousness, not “another” gospel.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:9

Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

Hebrews 5:13

For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

G We teach the unsearchable riches of Christ; that is to say, the things which were accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus (those things with which we are already blessed).

Ephesians 3:8-9

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints (God's consecrated people), this grace (favor, privilege) was granted and graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out], ⁹Also to enlighten all men and make plain to them what is the plan [regarding the Gentiles and providing for the salvation of all men] of the mystery kept hidden through the ages and concealed until now in [the mind of] God Who created all things by Christ Jesus.

Some Common Misconceptions about Ministry and Liberating Truth

False	True	Scripture
<p>Touch not God's anointed! This means to never speak against something a leader does or teaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are to prove all things comparing what is said with what is written. ▪ Paul invited believers to hold him accountable for his message, even pronouncing a curse on himself for preaching another gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acts 17:11 ▪ 1 Thes. 5:21 ▪ Gal. 1:8-9
<p>Full-time paid ministry is the ultimate in Christian service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paul often worked to support himself and his companions in ministry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Thes. 2:9 ▪ 2 Thes. 3:8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christian leaders are a higher class of believers. ▪ Certain ministry gifts are more valuable than others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaders are servants of all ▪ The gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher are valuable, but they are servant positions meant to equip the body of Christ and build it up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mt. 25:25-27 ▪ Eph. 4:12
<p>The goal of Christian leadership is to get others to do what the leader believes needs to get done.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The goal of the office gifts is to EQUIP the saints for the work of the ministry by giving them sound doctrine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eph. 4:12
<p>The best way to find out what your ministry is would be to take an aptitude test.</p>	<p>While these tests are interesting, they often reveal only your personality traits, and not your calling. For example, the question, "Do you enjoy public speaking," might be answered, "No," by most people, but if God is calling someone to speak, He will equip him/her by His grace. Scoring low on these tests in any certain area is not a limitation to God but a reflection of natural tendencies. <u>We are supernaturally graced.</u></p>	
<p>All spiritual ministries must be imparted by the laying on of hands of the presbytery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Holy Spirit gives gifts as He wills. Often He simply speaks it to our hearts or makes it obvious to us while we are serving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Cor. 12:11 ▪ 2 Tim. 1:6
<p>The gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and evangelist are ministries God uses to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are lead by the Spirit of God, not other believers. While the Holy Spirit may speak through these ministries to call you to a particular ministry as is clearly seen in scripture in some instances, <u>you</u> must 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rom. 8:14 ▪ 1 John 4:1

<p>direct our lives.</p>	<p>always have peace in <u>your</u> heart about it.</p>	
<p>When we can't hear from God, we should find someone who is "prophetic" and ask them to give us a word from God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are led by God's Spirit. If we lack wisdom, we are to ask of GOD, not seek the equivalent of a "Christian" fortune teller. ▪ Seeking counsel is fine. ▪ God will confirm His word sometimes through prophetic messages, but each individual Christian is capable and responsible to know what God's will is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rom. 8:14 ▪ James 1:5 ▪ Prov. 11:14 ▪ Eph. 5:17 ▪ 1 Cor. 2:16
<p>In order to be effective as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher, one should attend seminary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A person should be mature in Christ and well-versed in the Scripture, but a degree is not necessary to be used by God in these ministries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Tim. 3:6 ▪ 2 Tim. 2:15
<p>Getting married is inferior to being single if you want to be in ministry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some ministries will be better served as a single person, but being married does not inhibit us from serving. If all persons had adopted Paul's decision, there would likely be no Christians today. We know that other ministers did have spouses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Cor. 9:5
<p>It is a compromise to work to take care of our families instead of going into full-time ministry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our spouses and children will always be our primary ministries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Tim. 5:8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A person who has many spiritual gifts is obviously closer to God than others. ▪ Since a spiritually "gifted" person is so close to God, we should hold them in awe and reverence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A gift is not earned. It is given. We cannot boast about the gifts God has given us nor should we worship someone who is extraordinarily gifted by God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acts 3:12 ▪ Rom. 3:27 ▪ 1 Cor. 4:7 ▪ 1 Cor. 9:16