



devotion_called to serve

“¹¹ And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

¹² His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church).” Ephesians 4:11-12 AMPC

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to people to use to serve one another, but Christ gives PEOPLE as gifts to His church - the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers – to equip his ministers (all believers) to build up the church.

When God called Abraham in Genesis 12, He called him to move out of his father’s house and country; away from the familiar, to an unknown place. He could no longer rely on his own abilities and knowledge but had to fully trust God for everything. Not only did he put his own life in God’s hands, but he also had to entrust his family into His hands. He “launched out into the deep” in obedience to God’s call; and God honoured his faith.

So too, did Jesus’ disciples leave everything to follow Him. When Jesus calls us, we must obey Him. Some of us are called to equip His church in this way. May each of us follow Jesus fully in His callings and giftings, so that His church can be healthy and growing and full of love.

Think on this

Have you heard Jesus’ call to be an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher? If so, how have you responded to it?

Have you received the gifts Jesus has given to His church and are you being equipped by them?

Prayer

Father, thank you for not leaving us on our own but for giving us your Holy Spirit to guide and lead us, and for giving us men and women to equip us to be your ministers. Help me to identify my calling and purpose in your church and in the world and to be equipped to do it, in Jesus’ name. Amen.