



OFFICE OF THE
APOSTLES
&
EVANGELIST

IFE ADETONA

ABOUT THE BOOK

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers...

Is the 5-fold offices still relevant today? Do we still have Apostles? Do we still have those who are called to the office of an evangelist today? Can a person be appointed by men to occupy the office of the apostle? What exactly does an apostle do? There and many more are the questions answered in this book.

The author gave elaborate insight to the office of the apostle and the office of the evangelist in this highly valuable book. Using scriptures, he explains what qualifies one to occupy either of the offices.

It is my strong believe that believers everywhere will find this book useful. May the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ife Adetona is an anointed preacher of the gospel. He is the President of the Sons and Daughters of Zion [SADOZ] Global Harvest Ministries. SADOZ is an interdenominational and discipleship ministry which has seen thousands of people baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues and helped people develop a friend to friend relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. SADOZ's daily discipleship and devotional manual called Daily Communion reaches and blesses tens of thousands of people daily to the glory of God.

The author is also the president of the Koinonia Bible Institute [KBI], an online training academy of SADOZ which offers over twenty (25) courses that cut across all facets of life. Some of the courses/schools are: School of Ministry, School of Purpose, School of Leadership, School of Business, School of Prayer, School of Deliverance, School of Healing, Masterclass on Sex Education, Masterclass on Courtship, School of Mental Health, School of Sex for the married and more.

Ife Adetona is an author of over 60 books that is imparting the body of Christ maximally. He is the husband of Elizabeth Ife-Adetona and their home is blessed with godly seeds.

Office Of The Apostle And Evangelist

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural quotations in this book are from the King James Version of the Bible.

CONTENTS

Chapter 1

THE CALL - - - - **6**

Chapter 2

THE FIVE FOLD OFFICES - - - **23**

Chapter 3

THE OFFICE OF AN APOSTLE - - - **43**

Chapter 4

THE OFFICE OF AN EVANGELIST - - **56**

END NOTE - - - - **61**

CHAPTER ONE

THE CALL

Knowledge has not only increased in this generation; confusion has also been in abundance. Many are not sure if they are called into the ministry or not while some hold the belief that a person doesn't need to be called by God before serving as a minister. By the Spirit of God, this book and especially this chapter will bring you into the understanding of what calling into the ministry is all about. We will also clarify the numerous confusions that are attached to this concept.

Are you called?

What comes to your mind? Is it a No or Yes or you are not sure? Anyone serving in the ministry must be able to answer this question confidently without flinching. If you are called and you have answered the call, I want to commend your courage but if you are confused or contemplating on whether to answer the call or not, I believe you will be helped as you go through this book. There are up to five channels available for an individual to be sure if he has been called to serve God in the ministry, namely: vision, burning desire, audible voice, third party and the word.

1. Vision:

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions
- Joel 2:28.

Here, God is saying that in these last days, there will be a lot of visions. There are up to four kinds or types of vision and we are going to describe them briefly. I want you to take note that whenever I talk on vision, God usually release His Spirit and gifts upon people for impartation, so make sure you pay attention.

- a. Open vision: this is when your eyes are wide open, your physical environment is suspended and you begin to see right into the spirit realm. Those standing with you or around you may not see those things but you can see clearly as though you are looking at it with your natural eyes. John the Baptist had such experience at the baptism of Jesus Christ. He said: **“I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. John 1:32 NLT.**

Many Christians, probably due to the way it was portrayed in the movie we all know as the Jesus film thought that it was everyone standing by the river that saw the dove but that was not so. It was a sign given only to John the Baptist: *I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, "The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit". v33.*

- b. Trance: this is when you fall asleep briefly and you see some things like a short movie in the spirit realm and then you wake. Unlike open vision, this time, your eyes are closed or you doze off for some seconds or minutes but not like a dream. Peter had a very good experience of this:

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth. Act10:9-11

- c. Picture or closed vision: in this case, your eyes are closed and you see a picture like a flash and it goes off. It comes briefly like a flash across your face. This is the commonest kind of vision.
- d. Night vision: it is also called dream but the difference is that, a dream can be a nightmare or just a rehearsal of what you had thought of or done in the day. But a night vision carries revelations. In the book of Joel, the Scripture says: *your old men will dream dreams*. Daniel had a lot of night visions- **Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel 2:19.** Paul also received a direction through the vision in the night (Acts 16:9).

I often advise that when you are called into the ministry through visions, you should be patient to see it up to three times or confirm through other channels through which God speaks. That is because vision can be manipulated by the devil.

2. Burning Desires

Someone may not have a vision or dream or hear any voice but have a burning desire. This desire usually comes from the heart, from the spirit of a person. Ministry is not bread and butter; it is not an occupation where people can do as they wish. When someone is having an extraordinary urge for missions or the ministry, it could be a serious sign that the person is called into the ministry. We saw how Paul got a strong conviction in his spirit: **Acts 18:5- And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.**

The desire we are talking about here is not the one that arise from your flesh or lust but right from your spirit-man. It is not the one that comes from the wonderful sight of how Pastors dress or the kind of cars they ride. It also goes beyond your love for God or emotions. David desired to build a temple for God but he wasn't allowed. The peculiar feature of this desire is the intensity; it will be long lasting and very deep. You may even be drawn to the point of shedding tears for days or at different times. Even though God spoke to me about the ministry through diverse ways but I shed a lot of tears at different times both in the public and private.

3. Audible Voice

God can call through an audible voice even though it is not very common. Someone like Saul that became Paul was called by God through an audible voice -Acts 9:3-4. The audible voice could be

accompanied by a vision or sight. Paul saw a blinding light alongside the voice and Moses also saw a burning bush.

4. Third Party

This is when somebody tells you that you are going to become a minister or when there is a prophecy said over your life concerning the call of God. While this channel is quite good, it cannot be solely relied upon. We often said that it should be a confirmation of an existing word from God and if you are hearing it from a third party for the first time; you need to hear God personally. If you can't hear God when He calls you, how will you hear the message He wants to send through you to the people you are called to minister to?

5. The Word

Scriptural word(s) is needed to affirm your call into the ministry. If you don't have one already, please wait upon God to get it. God can also call through His word before backing it up with other means. In addition to the word, make sure the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you heard God well. **For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one-1 John 5:7.**

Let me emphasize that God can lead through more than one channel and *in the mouth of two to three witnesses shall every truth be established-* 2Corinthians 13:1. So, it is safe to ensure that God leads you through various means or up to three times even if it is the same means. Some may want to know if those who are called through open vision or audible voice are more relevant to God than others. Those two channels are not a

regular tool God uses to call people into the ministry. More oftentimes, God use it to gain the attention of those who aren't already in fellowship with Him or those who have a tendency of stubbornly refusing Him if they don't have a strange encounter. People like Moses and Saul may never pay attention to God if He didn't use these two channels.

TYPES OF CALLING

There are up to three types of calling and a believer must answer at least two of these callings: call unto salvation, call into service and call to the ministry.

1. Call unto salvation

The call unto salvation is for all mankind. The Bible says *those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved- Romans 10:13.*

2. Call into service

After answering the call unto salvation, the next calling is the call into the service of God. God expects that everyone will serve in His Vineyard. Many people are called by God at a very tender age. It doesn't mean that they should venture into the ministry immediately but they must serve in one capacity or the other in the house of God. It is in that process that they can be led into the ministry.

Also, some people are called into the ministry at a more advanced age; such people are expected to immerse themselves into service before venturing into the ministry. Most people such as converts from other religions or those converted from occultism or from the world, that didn't

pass through calling into service before entering the ministry usually become invalid within a short time.

Meanwhile, call into service is not only for those who are called into the ministry. The book of Romans 12:6-8 detailed various service gifts. I believe these gifts are actually limitless; they are as much as it is needed in the body of Christ. Today, we can include: music, ushering, protocol, evangelism, interpreting and many others.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophecy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

3. Call into the Ministry

This is also called the pulpit ministry. It could also be further categorized into three: lay ministry, part-time ministry and fulltime ministry.

- a. Lay Ministry: this has to do with a believer who is involved in pulpit ministerial work. Pulpit ministry simply involves preaching or teaching the word of God to a congregation. A lay minister may not be called into the ministry but is appointed to teach the word or pastor a congregation. Such person is also allowed to go about doing his career. What it takes to be involved in the lay ministry

includes: being a believer, a lover of God and available to bear the demand. **This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach- 1 Timothy 3:1-2.**

The word Bishop here means being an overseer or elder. As we can see in the passage that it is all about desire and availability. A lay minister can go as far as establishing a branch of a church or lead an established branch. A lay minister can also be a teacher or preacher in a para-church organization (interdenominational ministry). Lay ministry is simply an extension of call to service.

- b. Part-time Ministry: this is a person that is called into the ministry but doing it partly. The person is doing another work entirely and still doing the ministerial work alongside. There are a number of reasons why those called by God into the ministry are found in the part-time ministry. Some of these reasons are good while some are bad and could have adverse effects:
 - i. Self-will or permissive will: these are categories of those who God actually called into the ministry but by their own will they have remained as part-time ministers. That is how far they can go for God or let me say, that is how much they can offer God.
 - ii. Stage: Life is in stages and men are in sizes. There can be a stage in a man's life when he is permitted to be in the ministry on a

part-time basis but anything after that stage can be a result of a permissive will.

iii. Temporary demand: Someone who is into the ministry on a fulltime basis can have a temporary demand to get himself involved in some jobs to support the ministerial work and himself. This is mostly the case for missionaries, evangelists and pastors posted to rural areas with little or no financial support. That was the case for Apostle Paul. Many people assumed that Paul was a part-timer but that's not the case. Let us examine Acts 18:1-5.

Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was. Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. And after Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time preaching the word. He testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah

Here, we saw that Paul engaged in a part-time ministry because of a temporary demand. He was waiting for Timothy and Silas to come and join him because he left them at a place where there was trouble. He had sent for them and while waiting, he ministered in the synagogue on Saturdays only while he did

business during the week but as soon as they arrived, the Bible says he spent all his time preaching the word. Another version says; he gave himself fully to the ministry.

iv. Lust of the eyes: For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world-1 John 2:16.

Bishop Dag Heward-Mills said he was surprised when he saw a fulltime pastor who left the ministry to go into some business. He said he was shocked at first until he realized that a lot of people were leaving the ministry for other jobs. There are ministers who were exposed to some businesses or jobs and because of profit, they ventured into it partly. And in some cases, they eventually left the ministry. We have also heard of pastors in the African continent who left their ministry to travel abroad in search of greener pastures. **For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica- 2 Timothy 4:10a.**

You will realize that from the reasons stated above, part-time should be a temporary thing for anyone who has the calling of God. Some may not even be permitted to pass through the part-time stage at all.

FORMS OF MINISTRY

Several decades ago, all that is known about ministry is mainly the denominational church organizations but things have changed, we now have other forms of the ministry where people are fulfilling their mandates as ministers of God;

- Denominational or Church Ministry
- Non-denominational ministry

1. Denominational or Church Ministry: we are familiar with what this means. They are the local church denominations which are self-dependent.

2. Non-denominational Ministry: this is a ministry which does not operate as a church and it is not an arm of any church. It is both non-denominational and inter-denominational. There are organizations that are inter-denominational but cannot be referred to as non-denominational because they are arms of established churches.

Aspects of Ministry

Before now, you might have ignorantly thought that all there is to ministry is to head a church but the ministry is a lot wider than that. Here, I will be stating different aspects of the ministry that God can specifically call a person into. I believe that it can be more than what we cover here. Ministry is like the medical profession where we have an endless list of aspects and specializations working in harmony on the body of man.

- Children Ministry: these are people who are called specially to reach out to children. We also have people who are specially called to minister to youths, adults, the aged and so on.
- Language Ministry: some people are called to minister to people of a particular language or tribe. Some of them can be involved in missions or just serve as interpreters. They have the advantage

because they understand the language or were led to learn the language.

- Missions: mission is a large concept on its own; within it are other several specializations like cross-cultural, rural based, city based, language based missions and so on.
- Bible Translation Ministry: we may not appreciate the specialization of some people because we do not hear their names but their impact across our Christian lives cannot be denied. Bible translating ministry enjoyed prominence and even dominance in the body of Christ from the days of the “copyists” to the days of William Tyndale and it further extends even into the future. It is reported that the printing technology came into being in an effort to get the Bible distributed on a larger scale. Before the printing technology, every copy of the Bible was handwritten. I can tell you that as at this moment, there are tribes all over the world and even in Nigeria that are yet to have a complete Bible written in their languages and a lot of people are working around the clock to get it done.
- Specialized Teaching: these are men inspired by God to teach a concept or topic of the Bible in depth. For instance, Smith Wigglesworth is known as the Apostle of Faith.

Like I said earlier, the list is endless. We have those called into Marriage, Drama, Music and Book ministries. The aspects we are called into may be a stage or phase and it may not be revealed to the individual at first but it will unfold as we obey God’s instructions, follow in His steps and

grow. Apostle Paul finished his ministry as a writer of the Scriptures. Bob Gass, the author of “A Word for Today” said God told him that he would retire as a writer. Many can also be allowed to combine several aspects of the ministry effectively.

GROUP OF MINISTERS

We have been talking about ministries but another concept we must examine is what I call group of ministers and we have two basic groupings: pioneers and under-shepherd.

- a. Pioneers are those who are specially anointed to start something either a non-denominational or church ministry.
- b. Under Shepherds are those who serve under someone or under an umbrella. We also have under shepherds who plants branches of a ministry.

I want you to understand that a thing like this is a matter of predestination. It is not what someone ventures into by wish or desire else such will be frustrated. **The purpose of every man determines his makings.** If you aren't made for it, you should not try it. There is a lot of difference in planting a branch of a ministry and starting a ministry. It may look alike but it is not the same. I do not take the grace of God upon me for granted to be a president or pioneer of a ministry but I actually wish I am under an established body. There came a point when I already decided to stay with the ministry I was serving with for life until God reminded me of my purpose.

A pioneer is not higher than an under-shepherd as far as God is concerned and I believe that in heaven it is not going to matter as well. All that would matter is if you fulfilled your mandate. **And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it. Colossians 4:17.** People like Yonggi Cho, the pastor of the largest church on earth and Apostle Ayo Babalola were under-shepherds. It will be terrible for any under-shepherd minister to think that he is only helping the pioneer. He is helping himself and not anybody. He is fulfilling his ministry and God is his President not any man.

The challenges for these two groupings are unique and I believe everyone is equipped emotionally and spiritually to handle them. That means it will be a big trouble for you to do what you are not sent to do. Let me add that, a person can transit from being an under-shepherd to becoming a pioneer. To be a pioneer requires being trained and successfully passing the test of followership. **And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? Luke 16:12.**

ACCEPTING THE CALL

The first question I asked was: are you called? After you have come to terms with that, the second question is have you accepted the call of God? You need to say yes to God with your mouth and heart right now even when you are not yet into it. **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation- Romans 10:10**

Another thing you must say Yes to is the fulltime ministry. You can do that right now. It doesn't mean that you are going into fulltime ministry immediately but you are entering an agreement, contract and dedicating yourself to Him. You can drop the book and say YES to His call right now.

Implications of Accepting the Call

You may be wondering why you need to consciously say YES to Him even when you are not right into it or ready for it. There is a difference between asking my son to wash my clothes and asking my dry-cleaner to wash them. Although I asked them to do the same thing, however, they will receive different rewards and they will approach it with different perception and I will also handle them differently.

In the same vein, there is a difference between a person who is serving in the house of God as a believer who answered the call to service and a person who has the call of God upon His life. One would approach it consciously as a training ground for the ministry while, the other will approach it as a service unto God. While God rewards the former materially and spiritually, He would reward the latter with necessary gifts and grace for where he is taking him to. I wish I can say that enough. I want you to know that God pays wages. God pays wages! *The harvesters are paid good wages* -John 4:36 NLT

More so, if you don't serve in the consciousness of your calling, you won't learn the things God has prepared for you to learn or see those things He wants you to see. I started serving God with the call consciousness while I was thirteen years old. From that time, I didn't serve like others did. I

served consciously and went the extra mile for God. The same attitude will be in you if you face anything you do from now with that perspective.

FULLTIME MINISTRY

How do you know when it is time to go into the ministry fully? You might have been serving God as a regular believer who answered the call to service or as a lay or part-time minister but there comes a point when you need to fully be in the ministry. Many people believe that it is at a point when the ministry is large or when God appears to them in a vision but that may not always be the case.

The first thing and the most regular sign is a sense of dissatisfaction in your spirit. At that time, you will lose your peace, though all things may seem to be going well around you but you will have a sense of emptiness within. It may be so strong that you are forced to withdraw for a retreat. At this point, many might tell God to let them know if He wants them to resign from their job and go into the ministry. They will expect God to speak through dreams or visions or in some spectacular way but He has already spoken! He is only waiting for you to act! That was the same experience Apostle Paul had: **Acts 18:5- And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.**

The Greek word used here is “*eko*” which means to be pressed in an extraordinary way. This pressing may come at every other time where there is a need to move to another phase of your ministry.

If you are called into the ministry, you have a noble and honourable call. I am a happy minister of God. It will surprise you to know that the reason why I gave my life to Christ was that I was told that God wants to use me. I was just eleven years old at that time. The ministry unto souls is the most important occupation on earth and I believe ministers will have more eternal rewards. If God wants everyone to be involved in evangelism as the great commission then, those of us who are privileged to be called into that very commission are most fortunate. Take heed to your ministry.

CHAPTER TWO

THE FIVE FOLD OFFICES

To start with in this chapter, we shall do an overview of the five-fold offices and I want you to pay close attention to two main passages because we will refer to them as the Spirit leads.

...When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive

- Ephesians 4:8,11-14

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? -1 Corinthians 12:28-30

The first thing I must establish is that 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 is not talking about spiritual gifts but ministerial gifts. If you are using NLT or

any Bible that sub-divided the Bible chapters into themes or topics, you will realize that 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 is separated from other verses of that chapter. The first 11 verses talk about spiritual gifts and from verse 12, the Apostle started talking about unity in the body of Christ then switched to the ministerial offices or gifts which were set by God to function in the body of believers. When it says: are all Apostles, are all prophets, are all workers of miracles; do all speak in tongues and so on; it wasn't about spiritual gifts but ministerial gifts. May be I should also add that, the Scriptures were not originally divided into verses or chapters by the writers; it was scholars that arranged them into chapters and verses for ease of understanding.

Looking at 1 Corinthians 12:28 downwards we will realize that it says God set some in the church- first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers after that miracles then gifts of healings, helps, governments and diversities of tongues. We only have the offices of the apostles, prophets and teachers distinctively mentioned, while the office of the evangelist and pastors were not specifically mentioned but taking a second look, you will see "working of miracles" and "healings". Those two gifts particularly refer to the office of an evangelist while "government" as mentioned refers to the office of the Pastor. Diversities of tongues and interpretation of tongues point back to the office of the prophet.

Are all Believers Ministers?

1 Corinthians says God hath set some in the Church while Ephesians 4 from verse 8 says He ascended up on high; He led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men: some apostles, some prophets and so on. Take note of the word some, that means it is not everybody. These people are

special gifts in the body of Christ. It is an error to say there is no difference between believers and ministers. That doesn't mean that believers are in any way inferior to ministers or that they are higher in terms of salvation or stature in Christ but God set ministers into the body of Christ for a purpose and that purpose must be acknowledged, recognized and honoured.

You will agree that every part of your body is important but to assume that every part of your body is equal in importance would be wrong. For instance, a man can lose his fingers or toes in an accident and continue to live as a human being even though he is going to miss those parts but if he lost his head he won't continue to live. The rest of the body would become useless. Likewise, in the body of Christ, there exist hierarchy though not in the form of superiority or inferiority but God set some men in the church as gifts to His body for a peculiar purpose. He sets and graciously anoints them to stand in those offices.

It is God that calls and sets men; another man cannot set his fellow man. That is why a pastor cannot call his wife if God has not called her. She can only be where she can help in her capacity but she can't be anointed or call into the ministry by her husband who is a pastor. I know some are making this mistake, they believe all ministers' wives are equally ministers and must act like other ministers' wives. There are also people who will tell you that it was one prophet or apostle that told them that they have a calling which led them into the ministry.

Purpose of Ministers

When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

...For the perfecting of the saints. Ephesians 4:12

Ministers do not make people saints or die for the sins of men. It was Christ that died for our sins and made us saints but ministers serve the purpose of perfecting the saints! They are to make the saints grow and reach the perfect mark Christ has set for them. The Bible says as *we behold Him we are changed from glory to glory- 2 Corinthians 3:18*. So, it is the work of the New Testament ministers to make sure that saints look steadily on Christ and become perfected.

...For the work of the ministry

Another purpose for ministers is to prepare the saints for the work of the ministry. In the Old Testament, ministers stood between men and God. Men could not reach God and so the priests were to reach God on behalf of men but in the New Testament, ministers do not stand in that gap, they can only help believers to reach God, they don't reach God for believers.

In summary, **all believers in the New Testament are priests while those called into the five-fold offices are the priests' trainers.** They are to serve as football coaches; they are not to play the matches on behalf of the believers. I know that many ministers do not see themselves in this role. They want to act like the Old Testament priests who pray

everything for the people. It is true that we have different levels of Christians; some are babes while some are mature. There are people who are old in age and in the church but very young spiritually as well. The minister must be there to help but beyond that we must consciously train them to become priests, to do the work of the ministry.

The ministers are called to minister in word, prayer, fasting and watching for believers. While the believers go about their daily activities, the ministers sit to study the word of God as Apostle Peter says *we can't leave the word and be serving tables*. So they engaged people that helped them in serving of tables so that they could be devoted to ministering the word of God, searching the mind of Christ to bring out doctrines, principles, revelations and teach the believers so as to have a better relationship with God. Ministers are to help believers in their relationship with Christ as their Lord and personal Savior. **And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42**

...for the edifying of the body of Christ

The third function of ministers in that passage is the edification of the body of Christ. This makes us to understand that we don't need to have all the fivefold offices in a particular church or ministry. They are sent into the whole body of Christ all over the world, everywhere on earth. Some people believe that we must have apostles, teachers, pastors and the rest in each denomination but that's wrong. God does not see believers as different denominations but as one. **And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: John 17:22.**

...till we all come in the unity of the faith

The next line says “**till we all come in the unity of the faith**”. The offices of the ministers will remain till all come into the unity of the faith. And when will that be? When Christ comes. We will keep honouring and acknowledging their offices *till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

These ministerial gifts are sent to the body of Christ till we all come into the full stature of Christ, till every baby Christian matures in the faith and that will never happen until Christ return.

The Most Important Office

Have you wondered what the most important office is among the five fold offices? In our world today, they have become titles which are used to differentiate hierarchy in denominations but that was not what God had in mind. No office is superior or inferior to any other office. The office of a pastor is not inferior to the office of an apostle or is an apostle superior to a prophet. They only differ in functions and duties yet they are interwoven and interdependent.

Looking at Ephesians 4:11: **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.** It appears as though they were arranged in a hierarchal order: apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers but 1 Corinthians 12:28 puts

the apostles first, prophets second, teachers third, evangelist fourth and pastors as the fifth. With this differential arrangement, it shows that it was not based on superiority and inferiority.

I have said earlier that we will keep going back and forth on those two passages throughout this book. 1 Corinthians 12:28 talks about how God set them, that is, how God introduced them to the body of Christ. **And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**

The first to be introduced to the body were apostles. The works of the apostles are foundational. They were laid as stones in the foundation of the Church to teach doctrines and principles. Apostle Paul repeatedly emphasized the foundational roles of the Apostles. **Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. Ephesians 2:20 NLT.**

The apostles were also blessed with every other gift to function temporarily in all the offices as the need may arise. For instance, Paul had to function in the office of a pastor in the newly founded churches for some time even though he wasn't essentially a pastor. The Prophets were the second to be set in the body. It was a matter of need and necessity. **It was a matter of priority not superiority.** There was a need for a category of people that will interact with the spirit realm and bring forth directions and revelations thus, the need for prophets. Prophets were also foundational to the body of Christ. **Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.**

The third to be set were teachers. After which, the office of the evangelist was set. 1 Corinthians 12:28 mentioned “workers of miracles”. I have said earlier that these were evangelists! Aside the apostles, the second person that was referred to as a worker of miracle was Stephen and after him was Philip. **And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people- Acts 6: 8.** Stephen was a teaching evangelist, he carefully taught the Jews salvation from the beginning of creation till the death and the resurrection of Christ in a single speech.

The last but not the least that was set in the body of Christ was the office of a Pastor. You will observe that 1 Corinthians mentioned that the help ministry was even set before the pastoral office. It was until the local churches were fully formed that God set men into the office of pastor.

Let’s summarize it this way: apostles were needed to bring the gospel to new places with miraculous signs and wonders, prophets came up to give revelations and directions. The evangelists started working to increase the rate of church planting and reaching the interior areas that the apostles could not reach. Then teachers were present to make the people stand in the basic doctrines of Christ. Then pastors were needed to stay with the church so that the apostles and evangelists could go elsewhere.

At first, the apostles and evangelists employed helps such as the deacons and the elderly ones called “elders” to keep each congregation while they move on to other places but after some time, pastors or bishops were set to stay with the Church. I believe it’s now clear that these offices are strategic and not mere titles.

THE BASIC QUALIFICATION TO BE INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY

What makes someone a minister is not necessary the gifts they have, it is the ability to preach or teach the word. The first and primary mandate of any minister is to be a preacher or teacher no matter the office such is called into. In every profession for example, medicine, all the students are taught in general medicine before they specialize in specific fields. Our Lord Jesus Christ was primarily a preacher and teacher of the word. Apostle Peter said they needed to pay attention to the ministry of the word and prayer. He didn't say to do signs and wonders or see visions. So, the first mandate of a prophet is not to see visions but to teach or preach the word. There is a little difference between preaching and teaching even though the two can still be used interchangeably.

Another primary duty of a minister is to be evangelistic. We must proclaim the gospel of Christ. **The gift given to a minister is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end and that end is to showcase Christ and draw souls to Him.** If a minister is not evangelistic, he is not supposed to be in the ministry. *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5.*

The hallmark of our calling is the great commission, the work of an evangelist. A farmer is given a hoe not to brag about it or hang it in the house as a medal but to cultivate the soil with it. Simply put, we are all called to preach Christ.

GENERALITY

One of our courses in the Koinonia Bible Institute is the *School of Ministry*. When I was preparing the lecture on the five-fold offices, I thought it would take only an hour to prepare the outline and about one or two lectures to discuss everything but when I began to examine the topic, The Holy Spirit opened my eyes to many things that we need to set right. That led me to several days of study, research and meditation. With the help of the Holy Spirit, it took us five lectures altogether.

There are a number of foundational stones that we need to properly set in their places before we begin to talk about each of the offices. I have talked about some already and we need to cover more. One of those core foundational stones is what I call *generality*. Like I said earlier, in every profession, the students are first exposed to general concepts which equip them with the knowledge to function to some extent, in all areas aside their area of specializations. The same thing applies to the ministry. A minister is allowed to function at some degree in all the fivefold offices.

The pastor for instance can function to some degree in all the ministerial offices. A pastor is expected to be a preacher or a teacher, he is expected to be evangelistic, he is expected to be prophetic and the fact that he is sent to a congregation of people makes him an apostle. An apostle simply means *the sent one*. That I said a pastor is expected to have some degrees of functionality in other offices doesn't mean that he has automatically become a prophet or an evangelist but he is allowed to stand in those offices as the need arises. I always love to refer to the medical profession. No matter how good a nurse may be, a nurse cannot

become a doctor but when a doctor is absent, a nurse can effectively play the role of a doctor.

We need to understand that, what make an individual to stand in an office are the spiritual gifts. And when we talk about spiritual gifts, you don't even have to be a minister to manifest all the nine gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. It is all about understanding and exercising in faith. You can read my book titled *Impartation for the Spiritual Gifts*.

A prophet for instance uses the gifts of word of wisdom, word of knowledge, diverse kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy and discerning of spirits. We call those six gifts inspirational and revelational gifts or prophetic gifts. I have disciples who operate in all these six gifts effectively and they are not necessarily ministers of God. You can then imagine if any of them is called into the office of a teacher for instance, he would still be able to stand in the office of a prophet as the Spirit wills.

The point here is that each minister regardless of their offices is expected to have some degree of functionality in other offices. We know that the apostle's office is all encompassing and at the same time, a minister may be called to minister in more than one office. For instance, we can have a Prophet who is also a teacher. In fact, almost every minister has up to two offices, some may be able to function effectively in three but they would still have a major office which is their primary position.

PHASES

Another core knowledge we must have about how these offices operate is that ministry is in phases. This means that many people will be required to function in an office at some point then move into another office as they grow into the next phase of their ministry. Someone who God has called to be a Pastor may be required to serve as an evangelist first before moving into another office. I am not talking about how these things are arranged in churches and denominations; I am talking about how it is divinely arranged by God. I know of a man who started as a pastor, built a big church with a large congregation but ended as an evangelist. He had to hand over the church and went into missions.

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

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. Acts 13:1-4

Here we see that those that gathered were prophets and teachers. There were no apostles among them. That means Paul and Barnabas were not yet apostles, Paul was a prophet while Barnabas was a teacher. Then both of them became apostles after that day. God said to separate them for the work whereunto “I have called them”. He didn’t say separate them

for the works that I am about to call them but the works which I have already called them before they were even formed in their mothers' womb. God was expecting their faithfulness from one point so He could move them to the next point. At the same time, I believe that Paul was first a teacher before he became a prophet. As soon as Christ encountered him, he started preaching and teaching the word then he was moved into the office of a prophet then into the office of an apostle. The same thing applied to Stephen and Philip. They started in the ministry of helps as deacons but were moved into the office of an evangelist.

I believe every minister will move in phases and depths. We must understand that each office has its own depth. The teaching ministry is very deep, the same with the prophetic and every other offices. As we grow and we are found faithful, God will move us from one phase to the other and from one depth to the other. **The deep calleth unto deep....**
Psalms 42:7.

NEED

If you have been following this concept carefully, you will realize that I have mentioned that a minister can function in different offices and I've told you the conditions that underline it. I have talked about the generality principle as well as the principle of phases. Another principle is the principle of need. As the need arises or a vacuum or a gap, a person can be anointed by the Holy Spirit to function temporarily until a rightful person is available to take up the role. Timothy as an example was known as a Bishop which simply means a pastor but he was allowed to function in the office of an apostle as he followed Paul from coast to

coast. There was a point when Paul had to leave him and Silas at a place to tidy up the work and join him in the next place. **And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still- Acts 17:14**

I have heard of ministers who had to stand in the office of a teacher because there was no one who could take up the duty. Many evangelists are also required to stand as pastors temporarily in a church they just planted.

THE DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH

This is one of the areas that gave me a long thoughtful session as I prepared for the lectures for our School of Ministry. I realized that the way the five-fold offices were used and how they functioned in the Apostles' era is a lot different from the way it is today. I am not saying that we are doing it wrongly today, not at all. **The operation of the Spirit is dynamic in ways yet it does not change in purpose.**

When we compare the operations of ministers in the Old Testament with the New Testament, we will see a notable difference. Even in the Old Testament, there were changes as time went by. Initially, those who had the Spirit of God were only the Levites who served as priests but after some time, leaders and kings were anointed by the Holy Spirit and later on, non-Levites who were not kings or leaders were also filled with the Spirit. That was when we had prophets such as Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nathan, Ezekiel and many others.

The way the prophets in the Old Testament functioned is also different from the way the prophets in the New Testament function. By and large as things change, God works in diverse ways. **The character of God is consistent in purpose and at the same time dynamic in operations.**

In the apostle's era, all the five-fold offices functioned together under a single church system. All the activities of the church were governed from the headquarters in Jerusalem but there came a time in history when one church system was leading into error under the Catholicism and that was where God allowed denominationalism to spring up (Church history).

Many of those who were at the forefront were sentenced to death by the church. Many of them were burnt on stakes and some were killed by wild animals. It wasn't just the government who ordered their deaths, it was the church! Men like William Tyndale who translated the Bible into English were also killed. It was as bad as that. God used denominationalism to liberate the body of believers. Many of those who were involved then are called the Reformists and Protestants. You can research about them. It was a picture of what happened in the tower of Babel. **When the people of the world had one tongue, they became anti-God so God scattered them. When the Church had one tongue, they became anti-Christ and Christ had to demolish that system.**

The point I want to bring out here is to examine how the five-fold offices functioned in those early days. At that time, an evangelist or apostle was only allowed to plant a church and stay there for some time. They would appoint an elder or deacon and after some time, they started having

pastors to stay with the sheep. Philip for instance went down to Samaria and shook the whole town but afterwards was found in the desert of Gaza ministering to one man, the Ethiopian Eunuch, who was said to have taken the gospel to Africa. From there he went to Azotus and was later found in Caesarea (Acts 8:5, 26, 40). History told us that Philip died in Turkey. That was what evangelists were known for.

Prophets on the other hand traveled in groups from one place to the other bearing revelations and the counsel of God. We found prophet Agabus in different places bearing revelations which were fulfilled (Acts 11:27-28, 21:10). But in this age all the five-fold offices are pastors of churches. Apostle Paul never stayed in a church or place for more than three years but today, we have apostles and evangelists who have spent decades in a particular place or church. From the operations of the early church, the Prophets were not supposed to pastor any church but you know that it is a different situation today. Like I said earlier, I am not judging or condemning the system. I am only telling you what obtains in this present dispensation so that when we begin to explain each office, you won't be confused.

INTER-DENOMINATIONALISM

We read from the Scriptures that as the Israelites journeyed, the cloud would rest at some points and move again. When the cloud rests, the people were expected to erect tents and settle in but just as they were feeling at home and losing their guards, the cloud would move again. It was unpredictable. It could settle for a night, two days, a month or even a year (Numbers 9:17-23).

Another significant move of God in this age among His church is inter-denominationalism and non-denominationalism. The hallmark purpose of Christ is to bring His body into unity of faith and that was the reason of setting the offices in the first place. Inter-denomination bridges the gap of division and doctrinal walls among church denominations thus bringing men into the full knowledge of Christ. That doesn't mean that God has abandoned church denominations; interdenominational ministers are expected to be members of churches.

When this move of God started, what we had were only interdenominational teachers and teaching ministries but today, all the ministerial offices such as apostles and prophets are finding full expression in the non-denominational set-ups. Another expression I have seen in this age is that people start inter-denominational ministries with the aim of founding a church later on. I have nothing against that methodology but what I am talking about in this book is ministries who are essentially inter and non-denominational in purpose and mandate.

MODERNITY

I don't want to say that the modern age has caused havoc in defining the five-fold offices, but I can say that it has caused a lot of confusion so much that the ministerial offices have almost lost their true meanings. Here, we will examine some of those things that are particular about this age that is distracting us from the essential meanings of the five-fold offices. This section is not necessarily meant to judge the system; it is to explain things as they are for us to learn and adjust where necessary.

1. The word "Pastor" has been generalized: everyone in the ministry today is called a pastor including lay preachers. The word pastor is treated as a title or a general name for anyone in the ministry. Even an evangelist or teacher is called a pastor in this modern age. This has led to the delusion that anyone who has a call should start a church. Pastor is a distinguished office in the body of Christ and not a general office. It is a specialization. We must understand that it is not everyone that can pastor.
2. Titles are used for hierarchy: Today, the ministerial offices are used as titles of position to demarcate between the junior and the senior minister and not necessarily for the identification of their roles in the body of Christ.
3. Today, every office has a church. An evangelist has a church; a pastor has a church as well as a teacher and all the offices. That creates confusion in the minds of people; they do not know the difference.
4. Impatience: people have the attitude of picking up titles for themselves without growing into it even if that is where God has called them into. If God has called a man to be an apostle, such has been an apostle from his mother's womb but still have to grow into that office and take responsibility.
5. Choice: for reasons best known to individuals, they choose to be called pastor or evangelist even when they are called by God as apostles and prophets. They choose those titles because they are seen as humbling titles. Some people even choose not to be called any title. Someone like Joyce Meyer adds no title while some use

“Brother” or “Sister” as their titles. Someone like Ayodele Babalola was called an evangelist until his death. It was after his demise that he was called an apostle.

6. Pride of Life: While some are trying to be humble with the titles, some have picked up titles especially the big ones just to boast around and bully people.
7. Disobedience: God actually want some people to call themselves the title that represent their offices but have refused to do so because they want to stay humble while some aren't even called into some offices but have chosen titles for themselves. Disobedience, either for good or bad motives is a sin before God.
8. Appellation: there are people around us who are not yet into the ministry but we call them by various names such as evangelist or pastor or Bishop and so on. They are just appellations with no office attached. I know a young man who goes around with the title “apostle”. When I spoke with him, he said the title started as a nickname.

From these points, you will see that modernity has mixed up all the offices so much that we don't get to understand which office a minister belongs to or what the offices stand for. Above all, we must see these offices from the angle of responsibility and not from the angle of pride and positions.

WHAT TITLE DO I USE?

This is a question many young ministers are asking. Many times, it is out of sheer youthfulness but the question must be well answered so that they won't get their question answered in the wrong way. The first determinant is: are you already in the ministry? If no, continue to enjoy your days as a brother or sister. If you are in the ministry, then my question is: what is the system of your organization especially if you are under a body or ministry? You should submit yourself to the authority.

If you are not under any ministry and you are led to stand on your own then, I need to ask that what has God called you to be? I know there can be much confusion in this area. If you are confused, don't bother troubling yourself, it will become clear to you as you go on. You should also ask yourself: what is the most prominent spiritual gift in my life at the moment? There could be a clue there. Even if you know what God has called you to be, you may not be fully into it yet. You need to cultivate the attitude of humility and of course, the title you use will play a role in that.

Lastly, you may need to ask God what title you should use. I know a lot of people who only heard their flesh while they claimed to have heard from God and so, you must be patient while you pray.

If you can't find an answer in all the guidelines that I have mentioned, simply use the title of a pastor. In today's vocabulary, all other offices can hide under it and keep you steadied at the same time.

CHAPTER THREE

THE OFFICE OF AN APOSTLE

I believe you have been blessed and equally enlightened by the first two chapters of this book. It was necessary to lay the foundation as we have done in chapter two. That will save us a lot of repetitions and also make it easy for us to understand the different offices in the body of Christ. Again, I will ask you to pay attention to our two main passages because we still have a lot to explain from them. Ephesians 4:8, 11-14 and 1 Corinthians 12:28-30.

...When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:8,11-14

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of

**miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues?
do all interpret? 1 Corinthians 12:28-30**

Do we still have Apostles today?

This may not seem to be an issue to many of us today but it is a big issue in some circles. Many feel there is no need to have ministers at all while some feel there is no need for the office of the apostle anymore. From our passage, we read that these offices will continue to function *till we all become full mature in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God. Till we all become perfect.* And I said earlier that this will only be realized when Christ comes. So the office of the apostle and all other offices will be relevant till the end.

The Greek root word for apostle is *Apostolos*. It simply means a delegate or messenger; someone sent forth with orders. The word was essentially used by the Roman Government of those days to describe a messenger or delegate sent by the Roman Government to undertake a task. Jesus Christ is the first Person that occupied the office of an apostle. He was sent to us by God. Jesus Christ therefore sent others out with an order to the world.

Generally speaking, from that definition we can say every minister of God is an apostle. We can even say every believer who fulfills the great commission is an apostle for the Bible says *how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:15.* Anyone that is sent is an apostle. We can even refer to missionaries as apostles in the general sense because they are specifically sent to reach out to a certain category of people. To those

people, they are their apostles. But when we look at the office in specific terms, everyone doesn't fit into it.

CLASSIFICATION OF APOSTLES

Talking about the classifications of apostles, I learnt some things on it from Kenneth Hagin which he said Jesus Christ told him in an encounter.

1. The Apostles of the Lamb:

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:14

Jesus told Kenneth Hagin that the first set of apostles are the Apostles of the Lamb and these are essentially the 12 disciples excluding Judas Iscariot. The Apostles of the Lamb are a complete and limited set. They are just twelve in number and Apostle Paul is not one of them. At the point of selecting a replacement for Judas Iscariot, the criteria for selection was outlined:

Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that He was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection....

And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship

...and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles. Acts 1:21-26

First, the person must have been with Jesus right from the time He was baptized by John and must have followed Jesus consistently without withdrawing at any point till His death and resurrection. Only two people qualified for that out of which Matthias was picked. I want to believe that it was not only these two people that followed Jesus from the beginning but as soon as Jesus selected His 12 disciples and they were excluded, they probably withdrew. Some might even follow up to some point but drew back.

These Apostles of the Lamb had a major role to play in the body of Christ and that was to bear witness that indeed Jesus came in the flesh, died on the cross and resurrected. I am convinced that one of their roles was to work with those who put the four gospels together: Mathew, Mark, Luke and John for us to read the full account of the works of Jesus, the Son of God. They are so important to God so much that they held almost the same position as the 12 patriarchs of Israel. **And (the city) had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:12&14.**

Many people also hold the belief that the 24 elders of heaven consist of the 12 patriarchs and the 12 apostles. Even though, John, one of the twelve was not yet dead when he received the vision, it is still believable.

2. Foundational Apostles:

The next set that Jesus mentioned to Kenneth Hagin is the Foundational Apostles. This includes the twelve Apostles of the Lamb and the other apostles of the New Testament of which Apostle Paul is one. These are the ones that laid the foundation of the New Testament, they laid the foundation of the church, they set the doctrines and the patterns that the Church follows till date. They also wrote the epistles which we still read. **Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. Ephesians 2:20 NLT.**

This passage reveals to us that we also have foundational prophets. There are a number of apostles mentioned in the Bible. I wouldn't say if all of them can be called foundational apostles or not. I want to believe that being mentioned in the New Testament may not be all it takes to be called a foundational apostle by God.

a. Apostle Paul:

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 1 Corinthians 3:10.

If you read the Bible, you will discover that there was a lot of dispute about the apostleship status of Paul. And he did a good job to defend his position. He went as far as telling them that he also saw the Lord Jesus and most of what he taught were delivered to him by Jesus and confirmed by Peter and James (Galatians 1:18-19). You will also discover

that in the writings of other apostles, no one was essentially referred to as an apostle except the twelve; it was Paul who pointed several others as apostles.

b. Barnabas:

Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out. Acts 14:14

Barnabas and Paul were indisputably foundational apostles. He also had the signs of the apostolic office. Even though they parted ways, Barnabas continued the good work and history has it that he was martyred.

c. James the Lord's brother:

But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. Galatians 1:19.

There is a lot of scholastic dispute as to which James, Paul was referring to here. Some felt it is the apostle James known as James the less. The first James who was the brother of John had been killed much earlier, some felt it was James, the sibling of Jesus Christ and others said it could be an entirely different James. I believe it was the brother of Jesus Christ. *Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? Mathew 13:55.*

I believe that Apostle Paul specifically called him the Lord's brother to differentiate him from the other renowned James (the less) who chaired the meeting at the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:3).

d. Andronicus and Junia

Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. Romans 16:7.

Scholars believe that this passage could mean two things. It could be that they were known by the apostles or that they were apostles themselves. I believe Paul was referring to the latter.

e. Silvanus and Timotheus

This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace. As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you....1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2:7NLT.

f. Apollos

I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow- 1 Corinthians 3:6 NLT.

Apollos was not specifically called an apostle but with the way he was almost equated with Paul in terms of influence and impact especially the things Paul said about him, he could be called an apostle.

Dear brothers and sisters, I have used Apollos and myself to illustrate what I've been saying. If you pay attention to what I have quoted from the Scriptures, you won't be proud of one of your leaders at the expense of another - 1 Corinthians 4:6 NLT.

3. Modern Day Apostles:

This consists of other apostles since the age of the church till this moment. We have always had apostles in the body of Christ and we will always have them.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF AN APOSTLE:

- i. He must be a teacher or preacher of the word.
- ii. He must be evangelistic: all ministers are expected to do the work of an evangelist but more than any other person; an apostle is called to fulfill the great commission in winning souls to Christ and nurturing them into maturity. That's what distinguishes an apostle from an evangelist. An evangelist win souls and leaves them for the pastors to raise into maturity but **an apostle acts as both the mid-wife and the mother. He wins souls and disciple souls.** There were some like the Hebrews who were not won by Paul but he wrote letters to them and thereby raised them in Christ.

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 1Corinthians 4:15.

Apollos was addressed essentially as a discipler because he watered what was already planted.

- iii. He must have had deep encounters with the Person of Jesus Christ our Lord. Apostle Paul wanted to prove his apostleship and these were the things he said: *Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? (1 Corinthians 9:1).* Paul clearly said he had personal encounters with the Person of Jesus Christ. He spoke with

Jesus and that was after his death and resurrection. He said the things he taught including the doctrine of the Holy Communion were not passed on to him by any of the 12 apostles but Jesus Himself told him. **For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord him-self. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread. 1 Corinthians 11:23.** Paul had another encounter which he mentioned briefly in 2 Corinthians 12:2: *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

Paul secluded himself to a place called Arabia where he received several instructions from the Trinity. We don't know how many years he spent there but scholars said it was a very long time (Galatians 1:15-20). Three years after that encounter, he went to meet Apostle Peter, whom Jesus called the rock of the Church to compare notes with him for fifteen days. **Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother- Galatians 1:18-19.**

When I talk about having an encounter with Jesus, it may not necessarily mean seeing Jesus the same way Paul must have seen Him or how any other person must have seen Him but there must be a great encounter which surpasses just having dreams and it usually comes with a conversation with the Person of Jesus Christ.

Please note that encounters are progressive and continuous in the life of the person called to be an apostle as well as other ministers.

- iv. Deep Encounters with the word: I don't want to say that all apostles are teachers but most apostles are teachers because their roles are doctrinal. Doctrine simply means teachings. We can't say that they are to introduce new revelations to the body of Christ today because there is nothing new, the foundational apostles have set all the Biblical stones but what they usually do is to revive those revelations and found it on the word.

People like Smith Wigglesworth and Kenneth Hagin revived certain revelations in their generations. It is believed that most people (not all) who operate in the office of a prophet and teacher are being trained for the apostolic office. Meanwhile, we know that Barnabas did not seem like a prophet, he was a teacher and evangelist who eventually became an apostle.

- v. The signs of the apostles: the first thing people look out for before classifying anyone as an apostle or before looking out for other features is the manifestation of what is called the signs of the apostles. **Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds. 2 Corinthians 12:12.** It involves the manifestations of the three power gifts listed among the spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11: the gifts of healing, working of miracles and gift of faith. An evangelist can also manifest these gifts as we see in the life of Philip but it comes with consistent greater dimension in the ministry of an apostle. People wouldn't take the words of a man who calls himself an apostle until they see the signs. Raising the dead is

actually a major yardstick agreed upon by scholars to define a person who has the signs of an apostle.

- vi. Maturity and patience: *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience....* The apostle's office is such that one must grow into it. It doesn't come at the base of one's ministry and it's not just a new title that is added after some time. It is a predestined call by God. And while it is predestined, the person must patiently grow into it as God takes him through the processes, makings and dealings. Furthermore, patience and meekness are major character attributes of an apostle because it is required of him to lead a massive flock of people without taking the glory of God to himself. He must know when to wield the rod and when to spare the child.
- vii. Apostles have a roving ministry. That is, they are not situated in a place, they move from one place to another place. It could be from town to town or city to city or nation to nation or continent to continent.
- viii. Apostles are pioneers. I have said it repeatedly that the work of the apostle is foundational. All the foundations that needed to be set have been set already by the New Testament apostles but the modern day apostles revive those foundations across times and generations. It could be a case of reviving the teaching of grace or faith or prosperity or Holy Ghost Baptism and so on. We also find them at the base of a move of God or a revival in the body of Christ.

There were apostles at the base of the Charismatic and Pentecostal movements. These people may not be called apostle but their works showcased it. Smith Wigglesworth for instance is known as the apostle of faith after his death.

Apostles could also be sent to reach out to some people, tribes or language where the gospel of Christ has not been preached and they may be sent to reach out to places where the gospel have been preached but their works will have a whole lot of difference. We can refer to Evangelist Rehinard Bonke as an apostle to Africa. There are many people that are called apostles today who are not known as one in heaven and there are many that didn't bear the title but God will give them the reward of their apostleship in heaven before our very eyes and many will be shocked.

In general terms, anyone can be referred to as an apostle but in specific terms, it takes a combination of all the distinguishing features listed here to identify an apostle. Some of the attributes can be manifested by other ministerial offices but it doesn't make them an apostle. For instance, an evangelist can do mighty signs and wonders and pioneer new evangelistic move and yet, he's not an apostle. Also, we may not be able to call some people apostles until they die and we take a second look at their works. That doesn't mean that there are no people alive with apostolic titles who are real apostles today.

Apostles are not sent to a particular church denomination; their works impacts a particular land or a people (tribe) or a generation. They open doors in the spiritual realm where others go into.

In our School of Ministry, we carefully examine the life and ministry of some people who are acknowledged as modern day apostles. Space will not allow me to do that here but you can make a personal research on them.

Smith Wigglesworth was an American; he is acknowledged to pioneer the modern faith movement and raised up to 23 dead. Apostle Ayodele Babalola took the gospel to several new places across the Yoruba land and other places in Nigeria and border nations. He stopped idolatry and in many cases won a whole town for Christ. He also raised dead people but they are not properly accounted for due to the lack of proper record keeping in the African continent as at that time. He can be said to be the father of Pentecostalism in Nigeria and Western Africa. I have studied a lot of people who have lived on earth across different movements in various countries and continents; I can tell you that in ranks of the anointing and in the demonstration of the signs of an apostle, Apostle Babalola is next to Apostle Paul. He was specially made to fulfill an unparalleled mandate.

Arch-Bishop Benson Idahosa is also an apostle even though he is not widely acknowledged as one. He is also a Nigerian who raised several dead and did several other signs and wonders. In fact, the first of the sign and wonder God used him for as a young man was to raise a dead. He is the father of the Charismatic movement in Nigeria and Africa as a whole. Many topmost great ministers of God today in Nigeria, Africa and America including Benny Hinn and Rehinard Bonke were his prodigies.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE OFFICE OF AN EVANGELIST

We have to read from our passages again. The more we read from them, the deeper our understanding.

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

...When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

I have said earlier that the workings of miracles and healings typify the office of the evangelist in 1 Corinthians. I also mentioned that these offices were not arranged in hierarchal order else teachers will not come third in 1 Corinthians and come last in Ephesians.

Our basic example of an evangelist in the Bible was Philip. We saw how God used him mightily in Samaria. **Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did -Acts 8:5-6.** With the great wonders God used him for, we can almost classify him as an apostle if not that

the Bible specifically called him an evangelist. **And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. Acts 21:8**

Today, we have re-assigned the word “evangelist” as the least office and apostle as the greatest but in the real sense, the closest to the ministry of an apostle should be the evangelist. The Strong’s Greek dictionary defines evangelists as the name given to the New Testament heralds of salvation through Christ who are not apostles. That is why a missionary is usually referred to as an apostle or an evangelist.

Many people have lost their calling because they want to be called by the big names. **Like Samson, they have lost their sights in the pursuit of lust.** Rehinard Bonnke was known as an evangelist throughout his lifetime but his works had a great impact on earth. Billy Graham was also an evangelist and when he died, his name trended all over the world’s social media space. Many nations who haven’t heard about Jesus knew that an ambassador of Christ died. What is most important is not the title but the ministry. If any evangelist is dedicated to his ministry, God will work special signs and wonders through him.

The word “evangelist” is derived from the word “*evangel*” which simply means good news or good tidings. All Christians are expected to be involved in evangelism which is the Great Commission. I believe that was why Jesus gave the gifts of healings and working of miracles to all believers. **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They**

shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Mark 16:17-18

FEATURES OF AN EVANGELIST

1. An evangelist is a person called into the ministry as an evangelist and not a mere hierarchal title.
2. An evangelist is a preacher or a teacher of the word. Many evangelists are exhorters or preachers but there are also teaching evangelists like Stephen.
3. An evangelist always has salvation as the goal of all his messages and everything God uses him for, be it healings or miracles. Whatever he does, he directs people back to the cross. A Pastor is not like that and that's the mistake people make. They think that once you don't preach salvation, you are not a good man of God. Salvation is like giving birth. A child is only given birth to once after which he has to grow into a man.

A pastor cannot be preaching salvation all the time except all his members backslides every week. Meanwhile, altar calls should be made always particularly for the sake of new members. An evangelist should also learn how to preach or teach other areas of the gospel because he may need to follow up his new converts and for the reason of the complexity of ministry in our time which I have explained repeatedly in this book.

4. An evangelist has a roving ministry. The work and nature of an evangelist does not require him to stay at a place. Philip started a revival in Samaria and had a large church but he was soon moved to the desert of Gaza then to Azotus then to Caesarea. History says he died in Turkey.

5. An evangelist keeps his message simple. An evangelist is not such that wants to throw around rhema and revelations or some big grammars. He wants to make sure he is communicating with spiritual babes that are listening to him. An evangelist was preaching in an African nation and he wanted to quote the Bible passage that says even if your sin is as red as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. But his African listeners had never seen snow so, he told them that the Bible says even if their sin is as black as a charcoal, it shall be as white as a white cloth. An evangelist should always simplify his messages.

THE DON'TS OF AN EVANGELIST

1. An evangelist should be cautious in teaching concepts especially if you are not called as a teacher. Philip wrought special signs and wonders in Samaria but he never tried to teach about the Holy Spirit. The apostles had to come over to handle that.

2. Don't try to teach denominational doctrines. An evangelist should be focused on the gospel of cross and not on traditions.

3. An evangelist must not be shallow on salvation. An evangelist should be dynamic, creative and prophetic. In those days, evangelists used hell fire to win souls but it does not work like that in this age. Some

evangelists use message about heaven but that does not always work too. Some people want to see that heaven here on earth. So, they must not think that preaching salvation means they are to be limited in their approaches. Jesus who was a Jew and Galilean wouldn't have been able to penetrate Samaria if he didn't approach the Samaritan woman the way he did. He led her from the known to the unknown and also talked to her prophetically.

4. An evangelist should not be shallow on other Biblical teachings as well most especially healings and deliverance because it will be needed on the field.

END NOTE

You have come this far! I am happy that you made it to this page. It is my belief that you have learnt valuable lessons from this book and you are more knowledgeable about the office of the prophet and the teacher.

There are other books in this series: *the office of the prophet and the teacher, the office of the apostle and the evangelist*. Or you get the complete book: “*The Call and the Five Fold Offices*”. These materials will enable you to get a better understanding of all ministerial offices.

INDEX

Receiving Salvation

You were born a sinner condemned to hell but Jesus Christ died for your sins, gave you power to sin no more and to enjoy life here on earth and hereafter. All you need to do is to believe and accept His works by declaring Him as your LORD and Saviour. Do you believe this? Say: Lord Jesus Christ, I accept that you died and resurrected for the remission of my sins, I declare you as my LORD and Saviour. Amen.

Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

1. You are not to ask or beg God for it, just expect it.
2. Believe He has given you and you will manifest it.
3. Don't hate tongues. That some people misuse it doesn't mean it has lost its power.
4. Don't pretend not to need it. Holy Ghost baptism is not just about tongues, it is about empowerment but tongues is the initial sign that you are baptized.
5. Clear your minds of doubts. God will give you but if you think that any sin can hinder you, ask for forgiveness now and now. (Isa 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*). And forgive everyone in your heart.
6. As I pray for you, you will be baptized and you will speak in new tongues.

7. As I pray for you, the Holy Spirit will give you utterances and you will speak it out. Note that utterance means any sound produced with the mouth. That means the utterance could be one syllable or two. It could be one word or more. Understand that you are the one that will pronounce the utterance in anyway it comes to your mind as the Holy Spirit gives you utterance.
8. When I pray for you, the utterance would come. Don't think you are the one thinking it, it is not you. Don't think you will be unconscious or lost, it is not so. Don't be bothered if you don't know the meaning just speak it. And keep repeating whatever comes to your mind.
9. Daddy thank you because you are a faithful God, you always hear me and you are eager to give us more than we are eager to ask. I pray for you: receive the Holy Spirit right now in Jesus Name.
10. Open your mouth and began to speak those tongues.

Steps to Receive Healing

1. **1Peter 2:24 says:** *He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed.***
2. You have been healed. You have been healed even before you had that illness, what I'm about to do by praying with you is to proclaim your healing.
3. As I do that, the pains and symptoms will be no more.
4. After I pray for you move that part of your body just as though it was healed already because it is an instant healing.

5. I proclaim you healed and whole right now in Jesus Name. The last time you had that illness is the last you will ever have in Jesus Name.
6. Check it out and share your testimonies.

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40. Healing for Depression

CONCEPTS

41. The Office of the Prophet and The Teacher
42. The Office of the Apostle and The Evangelist
43. The Office of the Pastor and The Help Ministry
44. The Revelational Gifts

45. The Utterance Gift
46. The Power Gifts
47. Discerning of Spirits
48. The System of Prayer
49. New Testament Review On Prayer
50. Getting All Your Prayers Answered
51. Anger Self Control
52. Coping with Stress: *Physical, Psychological and Emotional Stress*
53. Curing A Depressed Mind
54. Dealing with Mental Health Spiritually
55. Developing Self Esteem
56. Faith Boosters
57. Faith Killers: *Worry, Anxiety, Doubt*
58. Overcoming Anxiety and Worry
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