



OFFICE OF THE
PROPHET
&
TEACHERS

IFE ADETONA

ABOUT THE BOOK

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

God in this end time is raising and calling many into the ministry. He is still in the business of calling men into various ministerial offices. There is however a need for us to understand what each ministerial office entail.

In this book, the author focuses on the office of the prophet and the office of the teacher. Using scriptural examples, he explains what it means to be prophetic and what it means to be a prophet. He also explains the differences that exist between preaching and teaching. The author painstakingly shows the way the offices functioned starting from the time of the Apostles to this present generation.

I am convinced that this book is an invaluable resource to every believer irrespective of denomination.



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.

The Office of The Prophet And Teacher

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

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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: **Acts18:5- 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 -Acts9:3-4. 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 A PROPHET

The office of a prophet is a very complex one. In the Koinonia Bible Institute, we have a whole school for it called: The School of the Prophetic. I trust God for light and understanding as we examine this office in subsequent pages.

We cannot but refer back to our anchor Scriptures:

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

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?

I have explained earlier that these passages are actually talking about the five-fold ministerial offices or gifts. 1 Corinthians explicitly states the gifts of diversity of tongues and interpretation of tongues. I pointed out earlier that those two gifts point back to the ministry of the prophet. Each of the ministerial offices makes use of tools which are called spiritual gifts. The Apostle for instance uses all the three power gifts: gifts of healings, working of miracles and power faith. Believers also have access to these gifts but when a person uses them as a ministerial gift;

they come in higher dimension. Diverse kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues are some of the gifts that are easily accessible to all believers but when it is used by a prophet, it comes with a special touch. Kenneth Hagin cited an example of a couple who were prophets. They minister basically with these two gifts, one would tell the situation surrounding a person in tongues while the other interprets in regular language. Like I said earlier, across these offices, there are depths and heights.

Foundational Prophet

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.

There are foundational apostles and there are foundational prophets. But while the foundational role of the apostles in terms of reviving Biblical doctrines (teachings) spans through the New Testament era to this modern era, the foundational roles of the prophets are not so. The reason I am taking my time to say this is because most prophets are preachers and not teachers. It is the teaching ministry of today's apostles that gave them the access to revive doctrines. When I say doctrine, I am not talking about traditions or practice unique to denominations. I am talking about Biblical revelations of the word.

Doctrines cannot be founded on spiritual visions or revelation which are common to the office of a prophet but on Biblical revelation of the word of God. The only class of prophet that can revive the foundational doctrine of the Bible are prophetic teachers or teaching prophet. I am

talking about those who effectively combine the office of a prophet and a teacher.

Many of the problems we have today in the body of Christ as to wrong doctrines can be associated to the heresies of some prophets. Many of these people demonstrated great signs and wonders but due to their ignorance of the word, they started receiving revelations from the devil which they couldn't discern or judge with the word thereby, polluting the body of Christ. The extreme doctrine of immortality for instance came from a prophet who misled the church. There are also many pseudo-Christian religions which were founded by prophets who claimed to have heard from God. I always emphasize that any prophet that is not called to teach should brush up their preaching skills and never try to teach because they often veer off the way.

I know of a popular prophet in my country that is like that. He is not a teacher but always tries to be one and I can't help but to shake my head whenever I hear him teach. Many prophets are sanguine in nature and good talkers or orators. When they speak on various matters outside the Bible, they speak very well but the truth is that they don't have the patience to rightly divide the word and lay it precept upon precept. Before you know it, they have veered off into other things such as illustrations which are not even consistent with the topic they are teaching. If you have ever listened to them, you will realize that once they make an illustration, they find it difficult to remember or connect back to what they were saying. In simple terms, they are exhortioners. I am not saying this to ridicule anyone but to tell you how it is. If anyone desires

to be a teacher, let him pray to God and if he is not given, let him take heed to what he has been given.

Am I a Prophet?

I have seen people who parade themselves as prophets but the irony of it is, they do so well in every other thing until it is time to prophesy (to see visions or to tell revelations to people). Normally, a prophet may find it difficult to do every other thing like teaching the word of God or even lead a song but when it comes to the act of seeing visions or telling revelations, they flow in it more conveniently.

Some people have asked me: how do I know if I am a prophet? My answer to them has been, the same way you knew that you were called by God. The truth is that a prophet will not ask if he is one. If you are confused on whether you are a prophet or not then, it is safe to believe that you are not. When you become one you will know. Many are just looking for the person that will tell them that they are prophets. I have seen a lot of scenarios like that. They come to me to say a prophet or pastor told them that they are prophets. **It is not bad that a person says that, if he is speaking from God but it is not enough to make you one.**

There are many pastors who feel intimidated and so they begin to act or call themselves prophets. Whatever makes you feel intimidated means you are not standing well in your office. I know of great men of God across the world today who cannot boast of one great revelation or vision or even a mighty healing, yet they enjoy a large followership and membership. They don't even have any charisma yet they have more members than many who parade themselves as sons or daughters of

prophets. They even attend schools of prophet with the aim of graduating as a prophet but that's all wrong. I am not saying that establishing or attending a school of prophet is wrong but feeling that you are graduating as a prophet is what makes is delusional. Elijah had many sons of prophets but it was only Elisha who came at a latter end that became a prophet. **The prophet's office is predestined and not a college course.** You are either called as a prophet before you were born or you are not.

Being Prophetic

This is where the mistake sets in. **Many people have confused being prophetic with being a prophet.** God wants all believers to become prophets or better to say it this way: God wants all of us to become prophetic. Moses prophetically said that all of us would be prophets. *I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them all!* -Numbers 11:29. Joel 2:28 further validates that.

All believers have a prophetic nature. So, we are not even trying to be prophets, we are, we just need to birth it forth. I believe the major role of prophets is to make believers realize their prophetic nature and not just to see visions for them. The Bible says that the five-fold offices are meant for our perfection and to prepare us for the work of the ministry. That is the vision behind establishing *the School of the Prophetic* in our Koinonia Bible Institute. Our lectures are designed with practicals in such a way that right from the first lecture, the students start to see visions and receive revelations.

Just like every other ministerial office, what they use as tools are the spiritual gifts. There are six major gifts that make a prophet a prophet. Those gifts are: diverse kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits. I talked about these gifts explicitly in the School of the Prophetic and in my books on *Spiritual Gifts*. Of all the nine spiritual gifts accessible to a believer, these gifts that are associated to the office of a prophet are the most accessible to all believers. Joel 2:28-29 highlights these gifts as believers' heritage:

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Apostle Paul also pointed out the gift of prophecy as a gift for all.

I would that ye all spake with tongues...but rather that ye prophesied- I Corinthians 14:5.

How it works

This is the way it works, once you are baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues according to Mark 16:17: *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they shall speak with new tongues*. Once you can speak in new tongues, you can easily have diverse kinds of tongues and you can interpret tongues which implies that you can give prophecy. **I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that**

prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. I Corinthians 14:5

And once you can see visions according to Joel 2:28, word of wisdom (knowing the future event supernaturally), word of knowledge (knowing the past and present supernaturally) and discerning of spirits (seeing or knowing the spirit behind a move supernaturally) can begin to manifest in your life. If any believer would grow in all these gifts, the person has automatically become prophetic. You can then imagine if that believer becomes a minister of God. In whatever office he occupies, he would become so prophetic that people might think that he is called as a prophet. Many of my children and leaders in the ministry operate in all these gifts effortlessly especially the gift of prophecy to the glory of God. The prophetic is an open portal, anyone can dive into it.

PROPHECY AND PROPHECYING

Another knotty discourse under the ministry of the prophet is that many don't know what prophecy or prophesying really is. There are programmes that are tagged *prophecy hour* or ministers would say "I prophesy into your life". It would have been very accurate to tag such programmes *prophetic hour* because what prophecy means in the Old Testament is different from what it means in the New Testament. There are few terms especially as touching spiritual gifts that we need to clarify under this discourse in order to properly get the picture as Bible students.

a. **Spiritual Gifts:**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 1 Corinthians 12:1,4,7-11.

We have nine spiritual gifts and as I have repeatedly said, all the five-fold offices depend on these gifts for operations. These gifts are meant for all believers who are baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues but ministers operate it in a higher realm.

The nine spiritual gifts are further sub-divided into three: Revelational Gifts; which are word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discerning of spirits. They are so-called because they enable us to see or perceive things supernaturally.

The second group is the Inspirational or Utterance Gifts. This includes: diverse kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy. They are so called because they have to do with saying things supernaturally.

The third group is called the Power Gifts. These are: gift of faith, gifts of healing and working of miracles. They are so-called because they have to do with doing things supernaturally. Of all these nine gifts, the six gifts which are revelational and inspirational are what the office of the prophet works with.

b. Word of Knowledge

This is a spiritual gift that enables you to see or know the past up till the present in a supernatural way. There are various ways you can know the past or present of an event or person which may not necessarily be supernatural. You can detect it by mere guessing or by being psychological but when it comes in a supernatural way, this gift is in use.

Many have explained it to mean when a person is very knowledgeable but that is not correct. Anybody including unbelievers can be knowledgeable. Jesus knew all the past of the woman by the well up till her present situation by the Spirit with the enablement of this gift.

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. John 4:16-19

c. Word of Wisdom:

You will notice that both gifts carry “word”. That means all secrets belong to God but He only allows us to know a fragment as He wills. **The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are**

revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever.... Deuteronomy 29:29. This gift is simply knowing the future in a supernatural way. It is different from declaring into the future by faith. Anyone can decide to declare by faith and it will happen but when this gift is in operation, you know the future and you foretell or predict it or call it forth. An example was when Agabus predicted a famine in the book of Acts. **And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Acts 11:27-28.** These two gifts were not separated in the Old Testament, they were all referred to as prophecy but in the New Testament, there is a demarcation. Let me add that, once you have one, you will have the other but one can be more prominent than the other.

d. Prophecy:

This means speaking impulsively from the Spirit of the Lord. It could be in the process of speaking in tongues and interpreting the tongues or when the person is not interpreting a tongue but just speaking forth from the Spirit. Like I said earlier, the gift of prophecy is for all believers and it is not all that prophesy that all prophets but all prophets prophesy.

e. Simply Prophecy:

The scripture defines what a simply prophecy is. The basic work of prophecy is to exhort, comfort and charge. **But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 1 Corinthians 14:3.** Any prophecy that is anti-exhortational or brings discomfort or unedifying is not from God.

f. Revelational prophecy:

We have three gifts that are called revelational gifts among the nine spiritual gifts and they are: word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of the spirits. I have told you earlier that these gifts are primary to the office of a prophet. While simply prophecy does not carry revelation but simply exhorts, charges and comforts, a revelational prophecy can reveal things about the past, present and the future. Believers can also prophesy in this dimension but it is a lot deeper and regular with a prophet.

The clarification I am trying to make here is that, in the Old Testament, word of wisdom, word of knowledge and prophecy are referred to as prophecy or prophesying but in the New Testament; they are rightly divided and not lumped together.

Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom and Prophecy

Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? 1 Corinthians 14:6.

In this passage, the three gifts are distinctively separated. Knowledge here means something known or already in existence. That is, the past and the present of a person or an event that is revealed to a stranger in a supernatural way. That is the gift of the word of knowledge.

The word “*revelation*” in this context talks of a future event or situation that is yet to happen or unfold. The book of Revelation is so called because it centres mainly on things to come: *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John. Revelation 1:1*

Prophesying refers to the act of giving prophecy: speaking forth impulsively as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF A PROPHET:

1. He must be a teacher or preacher of the word.
2. A Prophet can also preach using the gift of prophecy. It is not all the time that this happen and I don't think many prophets know that they can speak in this dimension. To prophesy basically means to proclaim the word of God. That's why many have insisted that prophecy is the same as preaching but that's not absolutely correct. Prophets are moved in a way to speak the word of God without any prior preparation. They just speak as it comes by the spirit without necessarily speaking in tongues.

A good example is that of Smith Wigglesworth, even though he is generally known as an apostle, he also stood in the office of a prophet and teacher. He didn't really write any book. All the books in his name were transcription of his audio messages. If you have ever read his books, you will observe that some words were written in italics that seem like a part of his teaching but they were essentially word of prophecy that came impulsively while he was

preaching. They were not premeditated and until he said it, he never knew he was going to say it. He was just prompted to say it in between the lines. I have been moved that way at different times also. Kenneth Hagin had a lot of these manifestations and Kenneth Copeland also ministers this way. I believe prophets should learn how to yield to this dimension.

3. They manifest two or three of the revelational gifts: I have said repeatedly that a believer can manifest these gifts effortlessly. What distinguishes a prophet from a believer who is operating these gifts is the frequency. These gifts are not self-controlled even though we are expected to yield and switch in the spirit but while a believer is trying to see or perceive five things in the spirit, a prophet might have seen or perceived ten things. Somehow, they are wired to be more sensitive and receive faster and clearer. God will always put a mark of distinction on anyone He calls. Many prophets have fallen into error because of the presence of these gifts. They want to paint the picture to people that they know or can see everything at all times but it is absolutely wrong. Some of them have the mindset of trying to “perform” or “impress” thereby, falling into deep errors. Revelational gifts are word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discerning of spirits.
4. They manifest all the utterance or inspirational gifts. The inspirational gifts are diverse kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy. Just as I explained earlier, a prophet is expected to manifest these gifts in a higher frequency and more often than an average believer.

5. The gifts of healing: one of the power gifts is the gifts of healing. It is also one of the gifts available for all believers and it is a primary tool for the office of a prophet. The ministry of a prophet is essentially characterized with healings. There is one unique way this gift operates; some ministers are used to heal some kind of diseases more while some can heal other kinds. It seems like a specialization.

6. A seer is a prophet. Not all prophets are seers but all seers are prophets. Only a limited number of people were called seers in the Old Testament. A passage in the Bible explains that the word prophet has become a general term used for both prophets and seers till date (1 Samuel 9:9). However, there is a distinction in the ministry of a seer. As the word implies, he sees more and while many prophets bring forth prophecy from what they heard in the spirit, seers usually bring forth prophecy from what they see.

I said earlier that a prophet may not necessarily manifest the three revelational gifts but a seer manifests in the three most especially the gifts of discerning of the spirits. A Seer is enabled to see the spiritual environment just as he sees his physical environment. That was the case of Elisha. When his servant came out, he saw the physical environment but when Elisha came out, he saw both the spiritual and the physical as plain as the back of his hand without necessarily closing his eyes. If he was just a prophet, he could have seen it as a vision and it will close again.

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

2 Kings 6:15-17

7. Prophets differ in operation. Actually, when you compare a prophet with another prophet, you may be seeing two distinctive ministries. A prophet may manifest some attributes of the prophetic in a larger depth and another would manifest another area at a deeper level. Teaching prophets also differ from preaching prophets. In most cases, when you see a teaching prophet, what you see first in him is a teacher but when you see a preaching prophet, what you see first see in him is a prophet.

Inspired Declaration or Predictions

Anyone can make a faith declaration based on the word and it will come to pass and at some times it may not come to pass. This is different from an inspired prediction or declaration. Anyone can be used for this as well but a prophet operates in this much more. That is why when they say and it doesn't come to pass, people label them as fakes. The Bible also says that a fake prophet can be identified if what he predicted never comes to pass (Deuteronomy 18:22).

However, there are conditional predictions just like that of Jonah to Nineveh which didn't come to pass at that time and moment but that of Noah had no conditions. One beautiful thing about declaring or predicting inspirationally is that it works with the gift of faith which means that anything declared in that influence will most likely come to pass. I must cite that, that a man says a thing and it comes to pass is not enough to affirm him as a prophet. The same book of Deuteronomy warned against those who say things and it comes to pass or who wrought signs and wonders but are from the devil (Deuteronomy 13:1-5).

Foretelling or Forth-telling

New Testament prophets are essentially forth-tellers. That is they speak out as they are prompted by the Lord. Such statement is often preceded by "thus saith the Lord". When I say New Testament prophets, I mean from the day of Pentecost till date. The Old Testament prophets on the other hand were essentially fore-tellers. They often predict the future.

Nevertheless, those in the prophet's office today are also being used to foretell the future but some of them try to portray themselves in the spirit of the Old Testament prophets by getting angry unnecessarily, cursing people and trying to predict the outcome of an election or soccer game. This is a misplacement of priority and a gross misconception. It was Jesus that went up on high and gave Himself back to man in the form of the five-fold offices. Any character that is not traceable to Jesus manifested by anyone is demonic and such is not of God.

New Testament prophets are forth-tellers and not necessarily foretellers. Though, God uses them to foretell the future but it shouldn't be seen as

their main duty or even put themselves under duress to perform and foretell or see visions.

Purpose of the Prophet's Office

1. The primary purpose of the prophet's office in the body of believers is to preach or teach the word and not see visions or prophesy.

2. To establish brethren in Christ and not to attach the believers to themselves.

3. To deliver the oppressed through visions and revelations. Some people are putting the oppressed into more oppression with their "bondage prophecies" and trying to rob them by always asking them to sow seeds. If you are a client to prophets, you will realize that it is either they see a danger today or death tomorrow and they will always ask or expect you to sow your money or belongings to attract any blessing of God. That is bondage and not liberation. **For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father- Romans 8:15.**

As I started praying with a young man after a programme, the Lord showed me that he has gotten involved in some kind of practices. I questioned and he tried to deny it at first but when I pressed further, he explained that a so-called prophet met him just as he was leaving the bank on a particular day and told him the exact amount of money that was on him. The man gave him some dangerous prophecies and went away with his money. They exchanged numbers and he found himself in

his house. He gave him some materials which I saw in the vision and said he must always pay a percentage of his salary to him henceforth. I prayed with him and told him to forget about the fake prophet and should not pay any money to him again. When the fake prophet didn't hear from him, he started sending threats in form of revelations to him about death and sicknesses. I told him to ignore all.

The prophet in that story is clearly a fake and he is into occultism but there are real prophets who yield to familiar spirits regularly without knowing. The Bible says that by their fruits, we shall know them.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE OFFICE OF A TEACHER

If you are not sure of every other thing, you should have observed that I am an anointed teacher to the glory of God. I am telling you this because among all ministerial offices, the teaching ministry is the most contagious. If you desire an impartation in this, receive it in Jesus Name. From today, you have become a new man. I also want you to take note of changes that will follow in your life and ministry after reading this book.

Let's start by referring back to our dear passages.

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.

...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.

Apostle Paul, in the book of Ephesians put the teaching office as the last while he put it as the third in the book of 1 Corinthians. I have explained earlier that after setting the apostolic and prophetic ministries, the teaching ministry was the third that was set in the body of Christ. The apostles and prophets draw men to God by signs and wonders but those they drew could not grow by signs and wonders, they needed the word. So, as a matter of necessity, God anointed people to particularly teach the word. Teachers are like the cements that joins blocks together in Christ.

Differences between Preaching and Teaching

I know this has been a question on your heart. Firstly, these words can be used interchangeably and at the same time, they can be defined distinctively. A teacher may be able to preach but preachers may not be able to teach. That is why I have always cautioned that anyone who is not anointed to teach should be cautious. **And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities. Mathew 11:1.**

The Greek word used for “preach” here is “*kerusso*”. It means to proclaim openly or to publish or to speak about something. The Greek word used for “teach” here is “*didasko*” which simply means to impart instruction, to instill doctrine, to explain, to expand. You will observe that the teaching ministry *explains* while the preaching ministry *informs*. If we look at the English synonyms of the word “preach” and “teach” it will help us to further understand the differences.

Preach	Teach
proclaim	Explain
Inform	Expand
Tell	Instruct
Advise earnestly (exhort)	explain intently

If you compare Pastor E.A Adeboye and Bishop Oyedepo, you will realize that the former is more preaching-inclined while the other is more teaching-inclined. The teaching ministry is usually accompanied by other ministerial offices. Likewise, it also stands as a distinguished ministry.

Somebody like Josiah Spiers, the founder of Scripture Union was essentially a teacher. Many people in the Scripture Union ministry today are teachers as well. Somebody like Bro. Gbile Akanni and Bro. Segun Ariyo of Nigeria are teachers. Teaching of the word is done supernaturally not naturally. To be a professional teacher or lecturer does not make a spiritual teacher; a person has to be anointed by God.

What the Teaching Ministry is all about

1. Teachers are to instill the doctrine of Christ comparing scriptures with scriptures. The beauty of the teaching ministry is the ability to infer from one point in the Scriptures to the other and that was exactly what Stephen did in Acts 7. You need to read those 60 verses which make chapter 7 the largest in the book of Acts to appreciate the teaching gift. In the Old Testament, teachers were called teachers of the law or Scribes because they were able to explain the laws of God to the people but the New Testament teachers are expected to compare scriptures with scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, from the Old to the New and from the Gospels to the Epistles. Teachers are meant to open our eyes to the doctrine of Christ and to instill them into us. Doctrine simply means teachings. **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Act2:42.** NLT uses the word “teaching” in place of doctrine.
2. Teachers are very relevant across all ages and dispensations. The teaching ministry was relevant both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. The period of 400 years that was between the

Old Testament and the New Testament which is usually called “The silent age” was a period when there was no prophet or vision, yet there were teachers. Another name for teachers in the Old Testament is “Scribes”. When Jesus came on the scene, Scribes were present among the people. The biggest disaster that can befall any generation is not the lack of prophets but the lack of teachers. **And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: Isaiah 30:20.** God assured them that their last straw of hope will not be taken away because where there is a teacher, there is hope.

Prior to any revival or move of God in the body of Christ, there is usually a reawakening of the word of God. **It is the teaching of the word that births the spirit of prayer which births revival.** And when the revival or move is over, there are enormous gifts of teachers provided by God to sustain the people. **Revivals or moves are like waves, they don't die, they only settle and it takes the teaching ministry to make it our regular experience.**

The 1930 revival was predated by men who read the book of Acts and saw what God did using men, it led to an uproar of prayers which moved the hand of God to send a man called Ayodele Babalola. He was a casual Christian, a man who had no special knowledge of God but he started performing miracles the very first day God called him till he died.

With good teachings, the body of Christ can have all things. We can have miracles, signs and wonders, healing, prosperity and anything we so desire as a usual experience. When the Bible says *though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.* It means when your teacher is still with you, all hopes are not lost; you can have everything you lack. **With teachers, you lack nothing but without teachers, you lack everything.** The Azusa street revival was all about the Holy Ghost baptism but that wave has settled on us today. With the good teaching of the word, it has become our usual experience. There was also the healing wave in America which birthed the Voice of Healing and today, the waves have settled on us.

3. Nothing builds like a teaching ministry. Nothing builds up believers like the teaching ministry. The Great Commission is in two parts: win souls and disciple those souls. The word “teach” and “disciple” were used interchangeably in Mathew 28:19&20.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. KJV

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. NLT

How to Detect False Teacher and False Doctrine

The Scriptures, most especially the New Testament talks a lot about false apostles, fake prophets, wolves that appear as shepherds but the most disastrous of all are fake teachers or false teachings.

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. 2Peter 2:1

1. False doctrines or heresies are not preached outside the content of the Bible rather, they take a word or part of the scriptures and misinterpret it. At times, they blow that part of the scriptures out of proportion. For a lie to be acceptable, it must have some percentage of truths else no one will accept it. Beware and AVOID such.

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, AVOIDING profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen. 1Timothy 6:20-21

But foolish and unlearned questions AVOID, knowing that they do gender strifes. 2Timothy 2:23

But AVOID foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A MAN THAT IS AN HERETICK AFTER THE FIRST AND SECOND ADMONITION REJECT. Titus 3:9-10

2. Any teaching that strips Jesus Christ of His Lorship and Sonship is false and fake. **Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians12:3.**

3. Any teacher that condemns the basic doctrines of Christ is false.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. Hebrews 6:1-2

The basic doctrine of Christ listed above are:

- a. Foundation of Repentance from dead work i.e salvation and repentance.
- b. The doctrine of baptisms: take note that it is plural not singular. It means water baptism and Holy Ghost baptism.
- c. Laying on of hands
- d. Resurrection of the dead

e. Eternal Judgment: beware of those who preach unconditional eternal salvation.

4. Any teaching that condemns the use of the blood of Jesus is false. Those of us who are exposed to deliverance ministry know that there is nothing Satan fears like the blood of Jesus Christ. No wonder that he sponsors teachings to discourage people from pleading the blood. Whether pleading the blood is necessary or not, we can determine it by its effect. When you plead the blood, it brings a memory of the cross and that memory haunts the devil. It is like poisonous to him. **And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13**

5. Beware of any teacher that condemns every other ministers or ministry except his own ministry.

6. It is possible for a real teacher to miss some points in his teachings or misrepresent some scriptures. Such is pardonable. It is also possible for a good teacher of the word to preach heresies without knowing. If such person does not change over a limited period of time, he can be labeled as a fake teacher because **you either go deeper in error or you get better in the truth. The two cannot mix.**

7. In the same light, a fake teacher will not be wrong in everything. He will be right in some things too. It is better to be safe than sorry, better to be hungry than to eat poison. When you identify such, do not entertain them.

8. A teacher that lacks credible association. There are some ministers in my country and I believe they are everywhere; they have various signs and wonders but lack credible association with other ministers that we know as real men of God. I mean they don't associate at any level with those we know as correct men of God and they have malicious rumour all around them. I don't bother try to move close to such, I maintain a safe distance from them.

You may be wondering that what if they are real men of God but people just hate them? My own criterion is not based on what the people say but whether they are vetted by those we know as tested and trusted or not. I don't judge them as fake or real but I don't have a thing to do around them. God says a Bishop must have a good reputation within and without. There was a popular pastor in Nigeria that was shaded by a scandal at a time. One of the things he did to restore his reputation was to pay a visit to the number one man of God in Nigeria- Pastor E.A Adeboye. He took a picture with him and posted it on the internet.

Do's of Teachers

1. A teacher must be highly studious. A teacher must be able to teach every biblical concept and so must study to show himself approved unto God, a workman that must not be put to shame. 2 Timothy 2:15.
2. Teachers have specialties. All anointed teachers have concepts and specialized areas they are better at teaching. That doesn't mean

they can't teach other things but those concepts are their strong and anointed areas.

3. Teachers are disciplers. Teachers often have disciples across several denominations and professions. That is why many teachers run discipleship ministries.
4. Teachers must rightly divide the word of truth, laying it precept upon precept. As a teacher, I always ask myself one question: "if I am a student, how best would I like this concept to be presented to me". I also ask "how best will my audience love to hear this?" The Scripture explains how Jesus, our Master Teacher delivered His teachings to people: **Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. Mark. 4:33 NLT**
5. Teachers must be patient with the revelation they receive from the word. They must not be in a hurry to teach a concept or revelation. They must learn to compare notes with others by listening to their messages or reading their books just like Paul did with Peter and James. **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.** Teachers must be patient to compare Scriptures and versions of the Bible. I have sat under good people who taught the word with all sincerity but they had a lot of hiccups and mixed ups. If only they were patient, those things would not come up.

6. A teacher must also submit to another teacher in discipleship. That will save them from a lot of errors. I was at a programme organized by a discipleship ministry. A brother in the Lord was teaching with all his strength but most of all he was saying were misrepresentation of the scriptures. He had a good intention and a valid point but he got the explanation of the passage all wrong. When the discipler and convener of the ministry came up the following day, he had to correct those exaggerations and mistakes. Such a brother would be better off because his father could redirect him.

7. Teachers must be doer of whatever they teach. They must also learn to test the word in their personal lives and see it work before teaching it. In the process of testing they will make a lot of discoveries and adjustments. You don't just listen to a message or do a study on prayer and go to teach it immediately without putting the principles you have learnt into use first.

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

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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35. Selling Fast with Pricing Techniques
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37. Biblical Route to Mental Health
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CONCEPTS

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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
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49. New Testament Review On Prayer
50. Getting All Your Prayers Answered
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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
59. Overcoming Fear and Guilt
60. What Faith Is What Faith Is Not

Books by Elizabeth Ife-Adetona

61. You Can't Pay the Price of Missing God's Will
62. Breaking the Yoke of Wrong Relationship
63. Dream Spouse at your Doorstep
64. Proper Relationship Approach
65. Finding God's Will
66. The Opposite Sex and I

Books by Abegunde Damola Samson

- 67. Fortified Health
- 68. My Bible, My Friend
- 69. Prayer Energia
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Fountain Series (Mini Books)

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