

Unstoppable Force

Week 2 | Pastors Shouldn't Lead Churches

BOTTOM LINE

The church isn't "reaching" as it should, it's not "going" like it should. What's holding it back? If we ARE the body, and each of us has a different function and role to play, then what role is not being played out? What's held the church growth movement back for the past several decades?

GOAL OF THE GROUP

We will be looking at how some of the Spiritual gifts are defined, what they mean, and what it takes to lead a church.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** Have you ever given someone a gift that they didn't seem to appreciate, use, or acknowledge? If you can think of a specific example, share with the group.
2. **Read Ephesians 4:7, 11-16** and discuss the following questions:
 - a. There are several scriptures that name specific spiritual gifts. For the purpose of this discussion, we will focus on those listed in Ephesians 4:11, which are specifically designated to roles/ministries within the church. Before reading further below can you name and describe them?
 - b. The 5 spiritual gifts noted in verse 11 are described below. Read them together and share your thoughts.

Apostle: One who is sent. This person has a "Take that hill" gift. Mission. Go. Start up a new movement of God.

Prophet: One who knows. If the Apostle says "Let's go take this city for Christ", the Prophet would be the one to say "It's this coffee house, not that one, we need to start in." Discerns spiritual realities in a given situation for the furthering of the mission.

Evangelist: One who recruits. This person has the natural gift to lead people who don't know Christ into a relationship with him for the first time. Communicates the gospel in such a way that people respond with faith.

Pastor: One who cares. This person has a shepherding gift. Nurturing, caring for, and protecting the people.

Teacher: One who explains. This person explains the Word of God and teaches it in such a way for better understanding.
3. Considering these brief descriptions, do you think your campus pastor's gift is primarily "pastor", or might it be something else?
4. Jesus commissioned the church to "GO" and to "Make Disciples". The GO-Pulse can be seen as the outward focus and the making of disciples as an inward focus. Which of these 5 gifts align with an outward focus and which align with an inward focus?
5. Around 300 A.D. Roman Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity and the church was no longer under persecution. Not only was it no longer dangerous, but he made it a prerequisite for his entire army to become Christian and be baptized! No longer did you really have to believe Jesus as Lord in this movement. You could say it, and not live it out. When Jesus was diluted, the church lost its urgency. Talk about how different it would be for your group if it was illegal to meet as a group of Christians and you were risking imprisonment or death if you were caught. Would you still meet?
6. Each individual who is part of the movement that Jesus named "the church" has been given supernatural gifts. If you consider yourself to be part of the church, do you feel you have acknowledged, appreciate and are using the spiritual gifts that have been offered to you? Why or why not?

**"It's not so much that the church has a mission,
it's that the mission of God has a church".**
– Alan Hirsch



TRY THIS

Discover your spiritual gifts. Explore your strength in the 5 ministry spiritual gifts (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher) by taking the assessment at www.fivefoldministry.com. Take a deeper dive into more spiritual gifts by reading Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, and 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 and then taking the assessment at <http://buildingchurch.net/g2s-i.htm>.