

1. What Are the Gifts [i.e. talents] that Jesus Christ Gave to Men When He Ascended on High?

(A) Please read **Ephesians 4:7-16**, and then write your answer below (specifically use vs. 11).

2. Christ Placed Himself & Two of These Gifts in the Foundation

(A) Read **Ephesians 2:19-22**, and then fill in the blanks below (specifically use vs. 20).

"built on **the foundation** of the _____ and _____, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone"

3. He Gave These Gifts to Some, Not All

(A) "When He ascended on high... He gave gifts to men... He **gave some** as... and **some** as... and **some** as... and **some** as..." (Eph 4:8, 11). "All are **not** apostles, are they? All are **not** prophets, are they? All are **not** teachers, are they?" (1 Cor 12:29)

So, if Jesus only gave "**some**" Christians these gifts; if all Christians are "**not**" apostles, prophets, or teachers, then...

1. Who can or cannot be an apostle or prophet?

2. Who can or cannot be an evangelist, pastor, or teacher?

ANSWER

BEFORE you read the answer below, first write your answers to the questions to the left.

Clearly, & without a doubt, when Jesus Christ ascended, He gave some the gift of apostleship, some the gift of prophecy, some the gift of evangelism, some the gift of pastoring, & some the gift of teaching (Eph 4:11). But obviously, He did not give these talents to all men, especially the gift of apostleship or prophecy, for He already placed these two gifts along with Himself into the foundation on which all others are to be built (READ Eph 2:20). Jesus already set & sealed that foundation. So, you & I cannot be foundation stones. No one is to be built upon you or I. As the Bible says, we can only be built upon these foundation stones (Eph 2:20), the apostles & prophets, Christ Jesus being the corner stone. Paul said, he, as an apostle of course, was called to lay a foundation that no one else could lay, & that foundation was Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:10, 11). He said that this was the grace of God that was given to him, meaning the gift of apostleship, a foundation stone. The obvious conclusion is this: We cannot be apostles & prophets today.

[Now even though Jesus did not place evangelists, pastors, & teachers into the foundation of the kingdom of God, they are gifts used by God today for teaching what the apostles & prophets said about Jesus Christ.]

What talents did Jesus give to you?

In two separate passages, both Paul & Peter, two foundation stones, addressed & instructed certain (a) elders, meaning older men, to (b) pastor, meaning shepherd, the flock of God, calling them (c) overseers, meaning bishops (READ Ac 20:17-28 & 1 Pe 5:1-5 & notice that the three words-- elder, shepherd, overseer --are used by both apostles to describe the same gift, not three different gifts or callings). There are mandatory eligibility requirements for this gift (READ 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-16). "An overseer [a.k.a. elder & pastor], then, **must** be..." (1 Tim 3:2). These "**must be**"s obviously exclude young men, single men, & men who do not have a family with which to first prove themselves worthy to be appointed a pastor, however some young men or single men might be called to teach or evangelize, like Timothy.

[Contrary to what many teach, Timothy was not a pastor, for he evidently did not meet the requirements for it, but instead Paul specifically told Timothy to "do the work of an evangelist" (2 Tim 4:5). Evangelism is different than pastoring.]

These "**must be**"s also exclude women. Christ does not permit them to oversee (a.k.a. pastor & elder) or teach men in God's house (READ 1 Tim 2:12), but some might be eligible to teach other Christian women (READ Titus 2:3-5). The measure of Christ's gift of salvation by faith is equally given to all (Gal 3:28). But the measure of Christ's gifts [talents] are distributed differently. Were you ever taught the true meaning of Christ's gifts & how they properly fit into the kingdom of God? When you thoroughly understand the measure of Christ's gifts, then you will understand what talents you have been given or not been given by Him, then you can be assured of what work you are to do or not to do, in church & in life. Don't wait to learn more about the gifts that Christ gave when He ascended on high (Ro 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12, 14; 1 Tim 3:8-10). Complete the Advanced Course on Christian Ministry from **FreeBibleSchool.org** - or - **FreeBibleStudy.org** **Come, Learn, & Grow!** Patrick D. Yanello, cause the growth (Eph 4:16).

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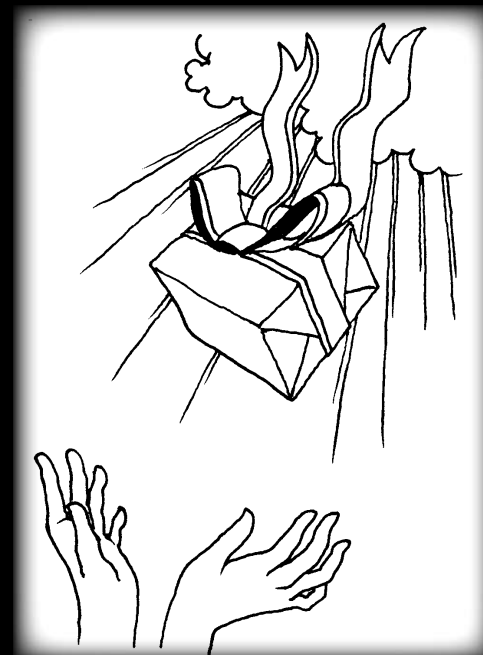
Cover Drawing: The wicked, lazy servant who buried his talent instead of using it to cause the growth of his master's kingdom. He was rejected on Judgment Day for this; he lost his salvation (Mt 25:18, 24-29).

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"When He ascended on High... He gave gifts to men" Eph 4:8

Each one of us receives a measure of Christ's gracious gifts (READ Ephesians 4:7, 8).

from the Advanced Course on Christian Ministry
by Patrick David Yanello

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