

## Converted Thinking IV

“From Titles to Function”

Every person is a Minister who says, “I must serve the world greater than myself”.

*KJV* ***Ephesians 4:11-13*** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the **equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

*“The Ascension gifts are to equip the Saints for the work of the ministry.”*

The ascension gifts are not titles.

They are functional nouns.

Functional nouns are words like plumber, electrician, accountant, police, or banker.

I

Jesus is our model for the Ascension gifts.

Jesus is the apostle. *Hebrews 3:1*

Jesus is the prophet. *John 4:19, Luke 4:24*

Jesus is the evangelist. *Luke 4:18*

Jesus is the pastor. *John 10*

Jesus is the teacher. *John 3:1*

*KJV Ephesians 4:8* Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

You cannot give what you do not have!

## II

The book of Acts and the epistles show us men and women **functioning** in the Ascension gifts.

The apostles were charged by Jesus in His post-Resurrection accounts.

*KJV Acts 1:1-2* The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto **the apostles whom he had chosen:**

Peter preached from the prophet Joel on the day of Pentecost.

*KJV Acts 2:16* But this is that which was spoken by **the prophet** Joel;

The household of God stands on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

**KJV Ephesians 2:19-20** Now, therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the **household of God**; <sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the **apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

Phillip is a functional Evangelist.

Phillip, the Evangelist, the story is told in **Acts 8** in Samaria and in the desert with an Ethiopian.

**KJV Acts 21:8-9** And the next day we that were of **Paul's company** departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of **Philip the evangelist**, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. <sup>9</sup> And the same man had **four daughters, virgins, which did prophecy**. <sup>10</sup> And as we tarried there many days, there came down from **Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus**.

Elders are told to **Shepherd**, feed, and Pastor the flock of God.

**KJV Acts 20:17** And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the **elders** of the church.

The word Elder is presbyteros.

**KJV Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to **feed** the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

The word overseer is episkopos.

The word to feed is poimainō.

There were prophets and teachers in the church in Antioch.

*KJV Acts 13:1* 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.

In the book of Acts, there is not only the activity of Jesus through the Holy Spirit, but there is the activity and function of Jesus through the ascension gifts that he gave to the church.

These were not titles, but activities, work, and functions being done by men and women who were called ascension gifts.

### III

These functions of Jesus Christ are still alive, well, and **functioning** in some places on the earth in the household of God and the body of Christ.

*KJV Ephesians 4:13* Till we all come in the **unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the **fulness of Christ**:

We have not yet come to the unity of the faith.

We have not come to the perfect man, fully mature people of God.

We have not yet come to the fullness of Christ, His life, His character and His nature fully revealed to us.

The work has not yet been completed!

We are under construction!

The work is being done continually!

***KJV Philippians 1:6*** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will **perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ.

***Amp Philippians 1:6*** I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it **until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Jesus is going to finish what He started in you!

Jesus is going to finish what He started in you all!

*"Please be patient with me, God is not through with me yet!"*

*Rhema Christian Center  
Bishop La Fayette Scales  
Saturday & Sunday, November 2 & 3, 2024  
9:30 a.m.*