

THE FIVE MINISTRIES

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

The Church of Jesus Christ

1 Tim 3:14-15 "I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon, that you may know... how one must conduct oneself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

When Jesus was on earth, He exercised all the functions of ministry, but when He returned to the Father, He gave these ministries to His disciples for the completion of the work He had begun. God's anointing and confirmation is evidence of a divine calling in the life of the believer chosen by God for ministry. The ministries are:

APOSTLES, PROPHETS, DOCTORS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS

Ministries are not titles of rank or position in the community, but they are different but complementary functions, roles, responsibilities, each function in the ministry has its own important part in building up the body of Christ. Ministries are constituted by the Lord and not by the choice of men, the contribution of each of these ministries is necessary in every community. In general, the function of the ministry of the apostle is to proclaim the gospel where it has never been proclaimed, he remains on the spot for a period, organizes a community and establishes it in sound doctrine; that of the prophet to reveal the Word of God given by the Holy Spirit to give new revelations to those responsible and saints; that of the teacher to instruct in depth, through revelations of the Holy Spirit, believers of all ages, children, adolescents, adults and the elderly, for the balance and stability of their faith and to defend them from false doctrines; that of the Evangelist to add new believers to the work of the apostles; that of the pastor to establish a relationship with the families of the community, visiting them in homes, to take care of them and strengthen them in faith; In any case, all these ministries, in addition to

their function, also preach the Word of God and teach in the churches as the elders do.

The ministries are elected by Jesus Christ who is the Head of the church and are entrusted to the local churches and each ministry has the same objective, to build up the body of Christ to bring it to the unity of faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God to reach the perfect stature of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:5,27-28 "There is diversity of ministries, but there is but one Lord. Now you are the body of Christ and members of it, each one in his own way. And God has placed in the Church in the first place apostles, in the second place prophets, in the third place doctors...

Eph 4:11-13 "It is he who has given some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry and the building up of the body of Christ, until we all come to the unity of the faith and the full knowledge of the Son of God, to the state of full-grown men, at the height of Christ's perfect stature.

The call to ministry is a call to be a servant of the body of Christ, it should never be considered as a superior position over others, this would lead to pride. As always, Jesus is our example, He said "you are all brothers", (Mt 23:8,11-12) we must not call our brother according to his function that is apostle, prophet, teacher or teacher, pastor etc. but simply brother precisely because we are servants of one another. (Ga 5:13) Even Jesus called his disciples "brothers" after his resurrection, when he told the women to go and announce that he had been resurrected. (Mt 28:10)

Jn 13:13-17 "You call me Master and Lord; and say well, because they are. If, therefore, I, who am Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, neither is the messenger greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Mt 20:25-28 "But Jesus called them to himself and said, 'You know that the princes of the nations lord it over them, and that the great ones subject them to their dominion. But it is not so among you: on the contrary,

whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant; and whoever among you wants to be first must be your servant; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom price for many".

APOSTLE

Our perfect model, Jesus is the great Apostle sent by the Father to establish His Church and to faithfully represent the Father's will.

Heb 3:1-2 "Therefore, holy brethren, who are partakers of the heavenly calling, consider **Jesus**, the **apostle** and high priest of the faith which we profess, who is faithful to him who appointed him, as Moses was in all the house of God.

Jn 6:38 "For I **came down from heaven**, **not to do my own will**, but **the will of him who sent me**."

Acts 10:38 that is to say, the story of Jesus of Nazareth; how God anointed him **with the Holy Spirit and power**; and how he went everywhere **doing good and healing all those who were under the power of the devil**, because God was with him.

The first twelve apostles were called and appointed by Jesus during his earthly ministry. In the book of Revelation, they are referred to as the "twelve apostles of the Lamb." (**Rev 21:14**) In addition to the twelve, other apostles had been appointed, including Barnabas, Andronicus, Junius, Epaphroditus, and the apostle Paul (the only one who exercised the five ministries).

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, not from men, nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead

Acts 26:16 "But arise (Saul), and stand up, for this is why **I appeared to you, to make you a minister** and a witness of the things you have seen, and of those for which I will appear to you again."

2 Tim 1:11 "For whose sake I (Paul) was **appointed herald, apostle, and teacher**.

Cl 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained faith as precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Acts 14:14 But the apostles Paul and Barnabas ...

Rom 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junius, my kinsmen and fellow prisoners, who were distinguished among the apostles, and were in Christ before me.

Acts 1:24-26 "Then they said in prayer, 'You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, tell us which of these two you have chosen to take in this apostolic ministry the place that Judas left to go to his place.' So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Matthias, who was included among the eleven apostles.

Phil 2:25 But I thought it necessary to send Epaphroditus my brother unto you, Companion in work and struggle, your apostle and minister of my needs.

2 Corinthians 8:23 "As for Titus, he is my fellow worker and fellow worker among you; as for the brethren, they are apostles of the churches, the glory of Christ.

The apostles formed, administered, and built communities, bringing needed discipline, accountability, stability, and protection. An apostle was sent from a community in obedience to the Holy Spirit as a missionary to preach the gospel and establish new communities and ministries where the gospel had never been preached.

Acts 13:2-3 "As they worshipped the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set aside Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, after fasting, praying, and laying hands on them, they let them go.

Rom 15:19-20 ... So from Jerusalem and its environs to Illyria I preached the gospel of Christ everywhere, having the ambition to preach the gospel where the name of Christ had not yet been brought, so as not to build on the foundation of others.

Ac 6:4 "As for us, we will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. (preaching to non-believers outside)

Everyone, apostles and disciples, spoke of themselves as servants.

Tt1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to promote the faith of the elect of God, and the knowledge of the truth that is in conformity with godliness.

Rev 1:1 Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his disciples, he served the things that are to come to pass, and which he made known by sending his angel to his servant John.

Joh 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ to the twelve tribes,

that are dispersed throughout the world: health.

Jude 1:1 Judas, a servant of Jesus Christ, and a brother of James, to the called,

they are loved in God the Father and guarded by Jesus Christ

Phil 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and with the deacons.

Cl 4:12 "Epaphras, who is one of you, and is a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you. He always fights for you in his prayers so that you stand firm, as men completely disposed to do God's will.

All apostles, like other ministries in the communities, must meet and maintain certain essential characteristics described in (1 Tim 3:1-7; 1:5-9). An Apostle should be willing to speak and write with authority when necessary to correct and bring discipline to the community.

Mt 9:35 Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every infirmity.

Ac 19:8 "Then (Paul) went into the synagogue, and there he spoke very boldly for three months, telling in persuasive speeches the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Acts 5:42 "And every day in the temple and in the houses they did not cease to teach and to bring the glad tidings that Jesus is the Christ.

Not all the apostles founded new communities, but they all helped those already formed to make them stable in the faith. The apostles ordained elders in each church through the election of all believers.

Acts 14:23 "And having elders chosen for each church, they prayed and fasted, and commended the brethren to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

They approved and ordained those who had been chosen by the believers in a community with the position of deacon.

Acts 6:2-6 The twelve called together the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not fitting for us to leave the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek to find among you seven men of whom there is a good testimony, full of the Spirit and wisdom, to whom We will entrust this commission. As for us, we will continue to dedicate ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word." This proposal pleased the whole multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmena and Nicholas, a proselyte of Antioch. They presented them to the apostles, who, after praying, laid their hands on them.

The ministry of the apostles will be recognized by the believers of the community, because God will confirm it through the ministry of the prophets and elders. God's Word warns against those who claim to be apostles but who teach false doctrine. An apostle is one who is sent with the authority to establish communities on a solid foundation of God's Word, strengthen existing communities in fundamental doctrines and practical teachings from the Word, serve boldly and authoritatively and with the revelation of the Holy Spirit, work with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, assisted by a deep personal relationship with God, he will have a special relationship with those to whom he ministers, who will show him respect, love them, nurture them, encourage him, instruct him and admonish them when necessary, guide them to live in the presence of God in a loving relationship as a father who cares deeply for every member of his family. By his honorable conduct in imitation of Christ's teaching, he will set an example for all ministers to be approved by the heavenly Father; Signs, wonders, and miracles of healing will continually be manifested in his ministry.

1 Tim 4:14 "Do not neglect the charism that is in you , which was given to you by the prophetic word together with the laying on of hands from the college of elders."

2 Corinthians 12:12 "Surely the signs of the apostle have been performed among you in patience to the test, in miracles, wonders, and mighty works.

His ministry will be recognized and received in the communion of the Holy Spirit with certain communities or other ministries; the apostle will work closely with the ministry of the prophet in approving the elders, with the confirmation of God; it will transmit and help believers to work in the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands; He will serve and speak with authority, but he will be a man under authority because he is responsible to the other apostles and elders by whom he is sent. An apostle must have the heart of a servant and be willing to suffer hardship and persecution just as Jesus did.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10 But in all things we recommend ourselves as servants of God, with great steadfastness in affliction, in wants, in distress, in blows, in captivity, in tumults, in labors, in vigils, in fasting; with purity, with knowledge, with patience, with goodness, with the Holy Spirit, with sincere love; with truthful speech, with the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness on the right hand and on the left; in glory and humiliation, in good and bad fame; considered as impostors, yet truthful; as unknown, yet well known; as dying, yet here we are alive; as punished, yet not put to death; as afflicted, yet always cheerful; as poor, yet enriching many; as having nothing, yet possessing everything!

2 Co 11:23-27 Are they servants of Christ? I (I speak as one out of himself), I am more than they; more than they are in their labours, more than they are in their prisons,

more than them for the beatings they suffered. I have often been in danger of death. From the Jews five times I have received forty blows minus one; three times I was beaten with rods; I was once stoned; three times I have been shipwrecked; I spent a day and a night in the depths of the sea. Often on the road, in danger on the rivers, in danger by brigands, in danger by my countrymen, in danger by foreigners, in danger in the cities, in danger in the deserts, in danger by the sea, in danger among false brothers; in toil and pain; often in vigils, in hunger and thirst, often in fasting, in cold and nakedness.

The ministry of the apostle will bring repentance and deliverance.

Acts 19:11-12,18-19 Meanwhile, God worked extraordinary miracles through Paul; so much so that handkerchiefs and aprons that had been on his body were put on the sick, and the diseases disappeared and the evil spirits came out. Many of those who had believed came to confess and declare the things they had done. Of those who had practiced the magical arts, many brought their books, and burned them in the presence of all.

Those who serve in the apostolic group or who minister outside the community as prophets, evangelists, or teachers should be supported by the communities where they are sent. When financial needs arise in the community, the apostle should make those needs known to the other communities where the ministers will provide the necessary assistance.

2 Corinthians 11:9 "During my stay among you, when I was in need, I was no burden to anyone, because the brethren who came from Macedonia provided for my need.

Phil 4:15-16,18 "You also know, Philippians, that when I began to preach the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared anything with me as far as give and take was concerned, except yourselves alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent me, first and then a second time, what I needed. Now I have received everything and I am in abundance. I am full of good things, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent me, and which is a sweet-smelling perfume, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

Beware of false apostles

2 Corinthians 11:3-4,13-15 ... I fear that, as the serpent seduced Eve with his cunning, so that your minds are corrupted and led astray by simplicity and from purity with regard to Christ. For if anyone comes to preach to you another Jesus, different from the one we have preached, or if it is a question of receiving a spirit different from the one you have received, or a gospel different from the one you have accepted, you willingly bear it. Those are false apostles, fraudulent workers, who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, because even satan disguises himself as an angel of light. It is not exceptional, therefore, if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; their end will be according to their works.

PROPHET

Jesus is the prophet par excellence sent by the Father to lead His Church.

For Acts 3:22 Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up for you from among your brethren a prophet like me; listen to him in all the things he will tell you.

A prophet is one who represents the voice of God and speaks from God, the revealed Word will be in total harmony with Scripture and will give: Direction, confirmation, guidance and vision, facts about people's lives, rebukes, judgment, correction, warnings, revelation about future events. A prophet will minister on a higher level with greater accuracy and detail than one who is merely operating in the spiritual gift of prophecy can. The ministry of the prophet brings vision, purpose, and a sense of direction to God's people, will give warnings that can provide protection, and will reveal facts and information about people's lives, including their sins and problems so as to lead them to victory. The prophet's prophetic word contains revelations that go beyond the edification, exhortation, and comfort that can come as the prophecy of any believer. (1 Co 14:3)

Pr 29:18 "If the people have no revelation, they are without restraint."

Ac 21:10-11 "We had been there many days when a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He came to us and took Paul's girdle, bound his feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says, 'In Jerusalem the Jews will bind the man to whom this girdle belongs, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Ac 11:27-30 "In those days, some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a great famine throughout the earth, for it occurred during the reign of Claudius. The disciples then decided to send a grant, each according to his or her possibilities, to the brothers who lived in Judea. And so they did, sending it to the elders, through Barnabas and Saul.

Ac 13:1-3 "In the church that was in Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaem, a childhood friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they worshipped the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, "Set aside Barnabas and Saul for

the work to which I have called them." Then, after fasting, praying, and laying hands on them, they let them go.

Acts 15:22 "Then it seemed good to the apostles and elders with the whole church to choose from among them some men to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, Judas called Barsabbas and Silas, men of authority among the brethren.

Ac 15:32 Judas and Silas, who were also prophets, exhorted and strengthened them with many words.

Rev 2:7,11,17,29 "He who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Prophecy can come as an audible inner or outer voice, a vision, a dream, or as a sudden impression. These revelations often come when we have worshipped God and are totally immersed in His Spirit. (Prophet Samuel 1 Sa 3:4; Agabus Acts 2:10-11 and John caught up in a vision Rev 3:6,13,22) Evangelists, pastors, and teachers will serve alongside the apostles and prophets on a solid spiritual foundation, and the entire body of Christ will enter a new level of maturity. Just as the prophet John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' ministry at his first coming on this earth, prophets today are preparing the way for his second coming. In preparation for his return, Christ is bringing his Church back to its original purpose set by God, revealing its plans, purposes, and works through the ministry of the prophets.

Rev 10:7 "But in the days when the voice of the seventh angel was heard, when he sounded, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, as he announced to his servants the prophets.

Rev 11:5 "Then the seventh angel sounded the trumpet, and mighty voices were raised in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has passed to our Lord and to his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.'

As with any important event, God will reveal to the prophets the events of the so that his bride can be ready.

Am 3:7 "For the Lord God does nothing but reveal his secret to his servants the prophets."

Beware of false prophets

Mt 24:11 "Many false prophets will arise and deceive many.

Mr 13:22 ... false Christs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

We must not accept a ministry even if great signs and wonders are manifesting, without first asking the Holy Spirit for the confirmation of who is working. We must always be careful to discern spirits both in ministry and in person for our own good. We should never ignore the testimony of the Holy Ghost, even if the elder or deacon has been confirmed by respected authorities.

1 Jn 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to know whether they are of God; for many false prophets have risen in the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which publicly acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God; and any spirit that does not publicly acknowledge Jesus is not of God, but is the spirit of the antichrist. You have heard that it must come; and now it is already in the world.

God warns the prophets themselves to exercise discernment of spirits and self-control, as is the case with the gifts of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:32,29 "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. Let the prophets also speak in two or three, and let the others judge.

The prophecies of a true prophet are always fulfilled.

Grub 28:9 "As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when his word is fulfilled, he will be recognized as one who is truly sent by the Lord."

Eze 33:33 "But when the thing comes to pass, and behold, it is about to happen, they will know that there was a prophet among them.

Exposing a False Prophet

1) Check whether the fruit is good or bad, especially on the teaching of salvation. If he does not state exactly how salvation takes place according to sound doctrine by following the four steps of faith: repentance, faith in Jesus Christ, baptism in water by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ and baptism of the Holy Spirit, it is false, because for him believers are

saved by declaring a simple prayer, called "prayer of salvation or of the sinner" and for him this is the faith necessary to be saved.

Heb 6:1-2 "Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about Christ, we tend to the higher one, and we do not lay again the foundation of repentance from dead works and faith in God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of the laying on of hands, of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Mt 7:15-16 "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.

2) To verify if he works for personal profit by violating the Word of God and creating scandals.

Rom 16:17-18 "Now I exhort you, brethren, to keep an eye on those who provoke the divisions and scandals in contrast with the teaching you have received. Get away from them. For they do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and with sweet and flattering speech they seduce the hearts of the simple.

Phil 3:18-19 "For many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ (I have often told you this, and I say it to you even now weeping), the end of which is perdition; Their God is the belly, and their glory is in that which is to their shame; people who have their minds in the things of the earth.

3) Check to see if it adds, removes, changes, distorts, or falsifies the contents of Scripture and if it practices false doctrines.

Rev 22:18-9 "I declare it to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds anything to it, God will add to his evils the plagues described in this book; if anyone takes anything away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away from him his share of the tree of life and of the holy city which are described in this book.

1 Corinthians 4:6 "Now, brethren, I have applied these things to myself and to Apollos for your sake, that through us you may learn to practice what is written no further, and not be puffed up with pride, exalting one to the detriment of the other."

4) Check if the teaching is "another gospel" dangerous for salvation.

Gal 1:8 ... Even if we or an angel from heaven preach to you a gospel other than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Judging prophecies, examining them in the light of the Scriptures, asking ourselves these questions:

Is the prophecy in harmony with God's Word?

God will never give a message that conflicts with His written Word.

Ac 17:11 "And these were of a nobler mind than those of Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if this was so.

Is prophecy given by a good spirit that condemns?

God does not condemn, Satan does, it is God's desire to lead us to repentance, not to put us under condemnation.

Rom 8:34 Who will condemn them? Christ Jesus is the one who died and, even more, rose again, is at the right hand of God and also intercedes for us.

Rev 12:10 "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now is come salvation and power, the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ, because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, he who accused them day and night before our God.

Are his prophecies fulfilled?

Deut 18:22 "When the prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, and it does not happen or come true, that will be a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it out of presumption; do not fear him.

Do you live a devout, Christ-centered life?

Lk 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; ... for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Does the Holy Ghost bear witness to your spirit about this prophecy?

1 Jn 2:20-21 As for you, you have received the anointing from the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I have written to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know the truth, and because everything that is a lie has nothing to do with the truth.

Is the prophecy confirmed by two or three witnesses?

2 Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time that I have come to you. Every word will be confirmed by the mouths of two or three witnesses.

TEACHER

Our Master is our model teacher, the only one who taught with authority, in fact in Jesus' time there were many teachers, but there was something about his teaching that made people notice, a power that had never been seen in anyone else.

Mt 7:28-29 "When Jesus had finished these words, the crowd was amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who has authority and not as their scribes.

Mt 13:53-54 "When Jesus had finished these parables, he departed from there.

When he went to his homeland, he taught in their synagogue, so that they were amazed and they said, "Where does so much wisdom and powerful works come from?

Ac 1:1-3 In my first book, O Theophilus, I spoke of all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day he was lifted up into heaven, after he had given instructions by the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To whom also, after he had suffered, he presented himself alive with many proofs, appearing to them for forty days, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Mt 21:23 And when he came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching, and said to him, "By what authority do you do these things? And who gave you this authority?»

Mr 10:1 And Jesus departed from there, and went into the lands of Judea, and beyond the Jordan. Again crowds gathered near him; and again he taught them as he was wont to do.

The success of Jesus' teaching was not in his techniques or presentations (as unfortunately happens today with theatrical skits to draw attention to

himself), it was not in his appearance or way of dressing, but it was in his authority. The ministry of doctor (teacher) is also very important to the community, and Jesus gave it this same anointing and authority. Both the apostle Paul and Barnabas were teachers

Acts 11:25-26 "Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to seek Saul, and when he found him, he led him to Antioch. They attended church meetings for a whole year, and instructed a large number of people; in Antioch, for the first time, the disciples were called Christians.

Ac 13:1-2 "In the church that was in Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaem, a childhood friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they worshipped the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Set aside Barnabas and Saul for me for the work to which I have called them."

Ac 19:8-10 "Then he (Paul) went into the synagogue, and there he spoke very boldly for three months, telling in persuasive speeches the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. But as some were obstinate and refused to believe by speaking ill of the new Way before the crowd, he withdrew from them, separated his disciples, and taught daily in the school of Tyranni. This lasted two years. Thus all who dwelt in Asia, Jews and Greeks, heard the Word of the Lord.

Ac 28:30-31 "And Paul stayed two whole years in a house which he rented, and he received all those who came to see him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things pertaining to the Lord Jesus Christ, with all boldness and without hindrance.

Apollo was also a teacher.

Acts 18:24-25,28 "Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, an eloquent man and versed in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent of spirit, he preached and taught accurately the things pertaining to Jesus, although he had knowledge only of the baptism of John. ... because with great vigor he publicly refuted the Jews, proving by the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

A teacher will devote himself to the study of the Word of God and with the anointing of the Holy Spirit will instruct believers with patience and

love, bringing them to maturity and unity of faith, teaching them to fear God. A teacher to be such must demonstrate in his practical life.

2 Tim 3:10-11 But you have followed my teaching, my teaching My conduct, my resolutions, my faith, my patience, my love, my constancy, my persecutions, my sufferings, what happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. You know what persecutions I have endured; and the Lord has delivered me from them all.

Deut 11:18-19 "Therefore you shall put these words of mine in your hearts and souls; you will tie them to your hand like a sign and you will put them on your forehead between your eyes; You will teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit in your house, when you travel, when you go to bed, and when you get up.

When Jesus gave the great commission, he not only said to preach the gospel, but also said to make disciples of all nations; this had to be done by teaching them not only in theory as it happens today but above all in practice. The Pharisees and teachers of the law knew Jesus as a teacher and sought to use His gift of teaching as a snare to involve Him in political and religious controversies. It is important that teaching be based on revelations from God's Word to understand how those truths are to be applied so as to remain rooted in God's Word. Teachers are a very important ministry in the body of Christ, their ministry may be limited to a particular community, or they may be sent to teach in other communities. The teacher should be supported by all who receive the teaching.

Gal 6:6 "He who is instructed in the word should share all his goods to him who instructs him."

Beware of fake doctors (teachers)

If a man teaches anything that is contrary to God's Word, it is false doctrine and must be absolutely rejected.

1 Tim 6:3-5 "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not hold fast to the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the doctrine that is in accordance with godliness, he is proud and knows nothing; but he fixates on questions and disputes of words, from which arise envy, strife, backbiting, bad suspicions, bitter arguments of people who are corrupt in mind and devoid of the truth, who consider piety as a source of gain.

1:9 clung to the sure word, as it was taught, that he might be able to exhort according to sound doctrine and to convince those who contradict. In fact, there are many rebels, chatterers, and deceivers of minds.

If a person teaches heresies or traditions of men that are contrary to the revealed Word of God, he must be disciplined, corrected, or removed.

2 Pt 2:1 "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce heresies of perdition, and denying the Lord who ransomed them, they will bring immediate ruin upon themselves.

1 Tim 1:3-7 "I repeat to you the exhortation I gave you on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus, and to command some not to teach different doctrines, and not to be occupied with fables and endless genealogies, which stir up arguments instead of promoting the work of God, which is founded on faith. The purpose of this assignment is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some have deviated from these things and indulged in meaningless talk. They want to be doctors of the law but in reality they know neither what they say nor what they say with certainty.

EVANGELIST

Even as an evangelist Jesus has primacy.

Lk 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he sent me to preach liberty to the captives, and to the blind the recovery of sight; to set at liberty the oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

The call of evangelist will be confirmed by the Holy Spirit by the prophetic ministry of the prophets, apostles, and elders, and can be imparted through the laying on of hands by the elders. This ministry will be recognized by the body of Christ, but even if there is such a ministry, each believer has a mandate to evangelize (not as an office) and testify to what God has done in his life. Contrary to the traditional patterns of many, the evangelist is not subject to conducting evangelistic meetings in the community, but works out in the cities on the streets, in markets, in villages or places where people need to hear the gospel, where they live and work and

will expect God to confirm His Word with signs, miracles and wonders wherever the gospel is shared; preach the gospel boldly in homes or places of prayer. The evangelist, however, does not only have the task of going out (or giving large conferences as is the case today), the emphasis has always been on his itinerant ministry, however, he also has the function of transmitting this gift to others.

2 Tim 2:1-2 "You, therefore, my son (Timothy), fortify yourself in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and the things you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men, who are able to teach them also to others.

The evangelist must work closely with the elders of his community and with the other ministries, he cannot operate in his own way, independently of the other ministries. An evangelist should have a thorough knowledge of God's Word. Philip had such a knowledge of God's Word that he could start where the Ethiopian eunuch was reading and preached the gospel to him.

Acts 8:29-31,35 "The Spirit said to Philip, 'Come near, and go to that chariot.' Philip ran to him, heard that the man was reading the prophet Isaiah, and said to him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He answered, "And how can I do it if no one guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit next to him. Then Philip began to speak, and beginning with this passage of Scripture (Isaiah 53:7), he communicated to him the glad tidings of Jesus.

Paul was an evangelist

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel.

Timothy and Philip were evangelists.

2 Tim 4:5 "But you (Timothy) be vigilant in all things, endure sufferings carry out the task of evangelist, faithfully carry out your service.

Acts 21:8 And we went on to Caesarea the next day, and when we went into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.

Philip, before becoming an evangelist in Caesarea, was a deacon in the community in Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-6), he had shown himself to be a man of good

character and integrity, full of the Holy Spirit, of proven wisdom, with a servant's heart that met the needs of those in need. He was a humble man, willing to always serve others and had the spiritual support of the elders in his community. He preached the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the kingdom of God, through repentance of sins, water baptism, testimony of faith in Jesus Christ, and baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Ac 8:12-13 "But when they believed Philip, who brought them the glad tidings of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, men and women. Simon believed too; and, after being baptized, he was always with Philip; and he was amazed, seeing the miracles and powerful works that were being done.

Through Philip's experience in Samaria, we learn that believers not only need to be baptized immediately in water, but they also need to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17 "Then the apostles who were in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, and sent Peter and John to them. They went and prayed for them to receive the Holy Ghost; for he had not yet descended upon any of them, but had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Jesus began evangelization with the twelve apostles, then he sent the seventy disciples, on the day of Pentecost there were one hundred and twenty, after another five thousand people were added with the preaching of the apostle Peter. The crowds of Samaria heard and believed the gospel of Jesus when they saw Philip's miracles. The evangelizing work of the Apostle Paul continued to grow the Church, and today the world has reached the message of the gospel. The Church of Jesus Christ continues to grow and multiply, advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

SHEPHERD

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the high priest who loves his own and keeps them, Jesus' ministry as Shepherd is the model of ministry for each one who is called as a pastor.

Jn 10:11,14 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." I am the good shepherd, and I know mine, and mine know me.

Ezek 34:11,15-16 "For thus says God the Lord: Behold, I am! I myself will take care of my sheep and go in search of them. I myself will feed my sheep, I myself will give them rest, says God, the Lord. I will seek the lost, I will bring back the lost, I will bind up the wound, I will strengthen the sick, but I will destroy the fat and the strong: I will feed them with justice.

Jn 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

The figure or function of the shepherd has not been well understood in Scripture there are no explicit references of disciples with this function but only the example of Christ the Good Shepherd, the One whom everyone must imitate, but today this function has been established by men believing that their task is only to preach behind a pulpit and teach Sunday school, but this is not the case. In fact, Jesus never gave this example, he was never always in the temple to preach or always in a synagogue of his preference to preach or teach, indeed if we verify very few times he preached in a synagogue but his ministry was mainly outdoors so much so that he said he had nowhere to lay his head. (Mt 8:20) The true function is precisely the one indicated in Scripture in Ezek 34:11,15-16 where the shepherd knows his sheep, takes care of them by visiting them regularly, seeks the lost, brings back the lost, heals the wounded and the sick, and this care is not done behind a pulpit but by living and establishing a personal relationship with families, to pray for them and with them, helping them to face the problems, circumstances and difficulties of life by showing in practice or recounting their own experiences already won and overcome with God's help. In fact, the Lord rebuked those pastors in the Old Testament who did not fulfill their function:

Eze 34:4-6 "You have not strengthened the weak sheep, you have not healed the sheep." Sick, you did not bind up the one who was wounded, you did not bring back the lost, you did not seek the lost, but you ruled over them with violence and harshness. For lack of a shepherd, they have dispersed, they have become the food of all the beasts of the field, and they have been scattered. My sheep are lost on all the mountains and on every

high hill; My sheep are scattered over the whole expanse of the land, and there is no one to take care of them, no one to look for them!

There is actually an example of the function of a pastor among the disciples, but I don't think anyone has ever noticed it, and we can see it in the service of the apostle Peter and Paul who continually visited believers to confirm them in the faith and see how they were spiritually, psychologically and physically.

Ac 9:32 "It came to pass that while Peter was going to visit everyone, he also went to the saints who were living in Lydda.

Acts 15:36 After several days, Paul said to Barnabas, Let us now return to visit the brethren in all the cities where we have preached the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing.

Rom 1:9-13 "God, whom I serve in my spirit, preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness that I am constantly mentioning you, always asking in my prayers that somehow at last, by God's will, I may be able to come to you." In fact, I sincerely desire to see you to communicate to you some charism so that you may be strengthened; or rather, because when I am among you we will comfort each other through the faith that you and I have in common. I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that I have often resolved to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order to have some fruit among yourselves as well as among other nations.

1 Thess 2:17-18 "As for us, brethren, who were deprived of you for a short time, in person but not in heart, we have sought all the more with great desire to see your face. That is why we have often wished, at least I, Paul, to come to you; but Satan has prevented us from doing so.

1 Thess 3:5-13 "Therefore I also, not being able to resist any longer, sent to inquire of your faith, fearing that the tempter had tempted you, and our labor had been in vain. But now Timothy has returned and brought us good news of your faith and your love, and he has told us that you always keep a good memory of us and want to see us, as we also wish to see you. For this reason, brethren, we have been comforted in your regard, because of your faith, even in the midst of all our distress and affliction; because now, if you stand firm in the Lord, we feel revived. For how can we express our gratitude to God for you, for the joy you give us before our God, while

night and day we pray earnestly to be able to see your face and to fill the gaps in your faith? Now may God himself, our Father, and our Lord Jesus make the way for us to come to you; and as for you, may the Lord make you grow and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we also abound for you, to make your hearts firm, blameless in holiness before God our Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

2 Corinthians 11:28 "In addition to all the rest, (labors, dangers, blows, imprisonments, afflictions) I am daily beset by the cares that come to me from all the churches.

The pastor today is the most established and the most visible function of the ministries in the communities, however, during the period of the primitive community this was not the case. An impossible burden has been placed on the pastor because of our lack of understanding of this ministry; In many places and congregations, the pastor is responsible for everything, including the function of teacher and evangelist, while at the same time taking care of the finances that is usually assigned to deacons. When a man is alone in this position, he becomes very vulnerable, and so many pastors have fallen into complete exhaustion, emotionally, mentally, morally, and spiritually. Many have fallen prey to the pride of life with the many flatteries by rising up, others have succumbed to the deception of wealth and financial mismanagement, and others in female seduction because there has been no God in their work.

Ex 18:17-18 But Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you do is not good. You will certainly exhaust yourself and you will also tire out this people who are with you; because this task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.

The pastor is a leader who walks in the ways of God and has knowledge of the truths of God's Word, who has experienced those truths in his own life by putting them into practice. So from those experiences and fellowship with God, he is able to set a good example by nurturing, watching, seeking out those who have strayed, and protecting believers from impostors of false doctrines with the help of other ministries, knowing that he will have to give an account to God of his deeds, so he will put the welfare of believers above his own life and ministry.

Is 40:11,29 "Like a shepherd, he will feed his flock, and he will gather the lambs in his arms, and he will carry them on his breast, and he will lead the suckling sheep. He gives strength to the weary and increases the strength of the weary.

A community must have a sufficient number of pastors working with a part of their elders, so that each believer can establish a personal relationship with each of them. Instead of keeping their distance from believers, pastors should be more approachable, taking time to get to know them and relate to them personally. Their main occupation therefore is to get to know families well, to take care of them by visiting them in their homes and they must help them understand how the teaching of the word of God applies to their lives, as a secondary function instead they can preach the Word of God in homes or places of worship such as the elderly. Another important thing that pastors should teach is that the father in every family is in a sense the pastor of his family, and the first church is his own family in his house and then comes the assembly gathered in the place of worship, but unfortunately today this is never taught and many families live together with their children in a disorderly way, then bringing this disorder to the local churches.

The characteristics that a pastor must have are similar to those of the elder

1 Tim 2:7 "And of whom I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I speak the truth, I am not lying), to instruct foreigners in the faith and in the truth.

Ac 20:28 "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, from among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you bishops (overseers - elders), to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.

Heb 13:7 "Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you; and considering what the end of their lives was, imitate their faith."

1 Pet 5:1-5 "Therefore I exhort the elders who are among you, I who am an elder with them and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and who will also be a partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, watching over it, not out of obligation, but willingly according to God's will; not for base gain, but of good cheer; not as

rulers of those entrusted to you, but as examples to the flock. And when the supreme shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not wither. So also you, young people, be subject to the elderly.

Pastors should work freely in all the gifts of the Spirit

Holy, however, the gifts of revelation are especially important to the ministry of the pastor; with the gift of the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom, the pastor will know when there is a need in a believer's life, in God's perfect timing, call the believer or go to his or her home at just the right time; God will warn the shepherd with the gift of discernment of spirits, who is in danger. There is better protection for the community and greater effectiveness in the ministry of the pastor when he is continually guided by the gifts of revelation of the Holy Spirit; the pastor will always be alert to danger, he will know those who do evil or those who have fallen, he will be on the alert if someone tries to enter with false doctrines or tries to provoke divisions or conflicts; it will always help the discouraged, it will support the weak, the poor, widows, orphans; he will visit and minister healing to the sick; it will give comfort to those who have lost love or a loved one; He will correct and discipline those who have sinned and will be patient with all. There are many today who claim to be pastors, who lead a church, but no one knows for sure whether they have really been called of God or not, because the ministries are not present or also because there is no discernment of spirits in the assembly, and these men are only trying to make more proselytes for greedy gain by using the Word of God and the name of Jesus Christ. And as Scripture says:

Mt 15:13-14 He answered them, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them go; they are blind, guides of the blind; Now if one blind man leads another blind man, both will fall into a ditch.

Beware of false shepherds

Ac 20:17,29-30 (The apostle Paul) From Miletus he sent to Ephesus to call the elders of the church. I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock; and even among yourselves there will arise men who will teach perverse things to drag the disciples after them.

Phil 3:17-19 "Be imitators of me, brethren, and look upon those who walk after the example you have in us. Because many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ (I have often told you this and I tell you it even now weeping), whose end is perdition; Their God is the belly, and their glory is in that which is to their shame; people who have their minds in the things of the earth.

There are, however, two other positions that have been established by God in the community, the elder and the deacon.

ELDERLY

The position of an elder, also called a bishop or leader, is to strengthen and watch over the community by preaching the Word of God and teaching in collaboration with the five ministries and deacons; elders are required by the apostles, elected by all believers, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit.

1:5-9 "For this reason I have left you in Crete, that you may put in order the things that remain to be done, and appoint elders in every city, according to my instructions, when there is anyone who is blameless, the husband of one wife, who has faithful children, who are not accused of debauchery or insubordinate. For the bishop must be blameless as a steward of God, not arrogant, not wrathful, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, sensible, just, holy, temperate, attached to the sure word, as it has been taught, in order to be able to exhort according to sound doctrine and to convince those who contradict.

Acts 14:23 "And having elders chosen for each church, they prayed and fasted, and commended the brethren to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.

1 Tim 3:1-7,10 "Certain is this statement: If anyone aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a praiseworthy activity. It is therefore necessary that the bishop be blameless, the husband of one wife, sober, prudent, dignified, hospitable, able to teach, not given to wine or violent, but be

meek, not quarrelsome, not attached to money, who governs his family well and keeps his children submissive and fully respectful (for if one does not know how to govern his family, how can he care for the church of God?), that he is not recently converted, that he may not become presumptuous and fall into the condemnation inflicted on the devil. He must also have a good testimony from those on the outside, so that he does not fall into disrepute and into the snare of the devil. Let these also be tried first; then let them do their service if they are blameless.

1 Pt 5:1-3 "I exhort the elders who are among you, I who am an elder with them and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and who will also be a partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: feed the flock of God that is among you, watching over it, not out of obligation, but willingly according to God's will; not for base gain, but of good cheer; not as rulers of those entrusted to you, but as examples of the flock.

Jom 5:14-15 Is there anyone who is sick? Let him call the elders of the church, and let them pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will restore him; if he has committed of his sins, will be forgiven.

1 Tim 5:17 "Let the elders who hold the presidency well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

DEACON

The position of a deacon is that of a servant, assisting elders during worship service, but also engaging in philanthropic works, exhorting, encouraging new brethren in the faith, and serving in the community as needed. It is not a function of government (although it is required to know how to govern the family, but only to show that one must be an exemplary model for others) and they are not required to preach, we can see this in the characteristics of the elder that for the deacon are not reported (1 Tim 3:5 because if one does not know how to govern his own family, how can he care for God's church?) and it is not required to teach because even in this same chapter it is not reported as for the elders (1 Tim 3:2 capable of teaching) because their functions are only of a practical order; Deacons

are requested by the apostles, chosen by believers and confirmed by the apostles.

Acts 6:2-6 The twelve called together the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not fitting for us to leave the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek to find among you seven men of whom there is a good testimony, full of the Spirit and wisdom, to whom We will entrust this commission. As for us, we will continue to dedicate ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word." This proposal pleased the whole multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmena and Nicholas, a proselyte of Antioch. They presented them to the apostles, who, after praying, laid hands on them.

1 Tim 3:8-10 In the same way, deacons are to be dignified, not double in speaking, not inclined to too much wine, not greedy for illicit gains; Men that they preserve the mystery of faith in a pure conscience. Let these also be tested first; then let them perform their service if they are blameless.

The Church of Jesus Christ does not have a pyramidal hierarchy, but is established in equality among brethren with different roles in ministries and authority for the sole purpose of maintaining order, growth in sound doctrine, and perfecting the saints. The communities formed by the apostle Paul had their elders as administrators, and each community was separate and autonomous from each other as far as organization was concerned. If each of the ministries is not regularly active in a community, it is impossible for that body of believers to attain a full and balanced maturity in their Christian life. Today communities must not be led by one pastor alone, but like the primitive community, each community must operate with all five ministries, have multiple elders and deacons working together at the same time to bring the unification of Christ's church to his perfect image.

Rom 12:4-8 "For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another." Therefore, having different charisms according to the grace that has been granted to us, if we have the charism of prophecy, we prophesy in accordance with faith;

if of the ministry, we attend to the ministry; if of teaching, to teach; if of exhortation, to exhort; he who gives, give with simplicity; he who presides, let him do so diligently; he who does works of mercy, let him do them with joy.

From these scriptures we can see that in each church a college of elders was formed to collaborate with the five ministries and deacons, making all believers sharers in the freedom of the Holy Spirit. Ministries must be respected by all believers:

1 Thess 5:11-13 "Therefore, comfort one another and build one another up, as you are already doing. Brethren, we pray that you will have regard for those who labor among you, who are in charge of you in the Lord and who instruct you, and that you will hold them in high esteem and love them because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

To summarize in general, the apostles found new churches, within the churches are administered by elders elected by believers at the request of the apostles and confirmed by God, in the same way the deacons chosen by the believers, approved by the apostles and elders and confirmed by God, then God himself will choose within the church the ministries missing the prophet, the teacher, the evangelist and the pastor.

FALSE MINISTRIES

Beware of all false ministers of justice who are servants of satan:

False apostles, false prophets, false teachers (teachers), false evangelists, and false shepherds, manipulate, distort and falsify the Scriptures with false doctrines of men and demons and work in practice things contrary to the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 "These are false apostles, fraudulent workers, who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, because even satan disguises himself as an angel of light. It is not exceptional, therefore, if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; their end will be according to their works.

2 Corinthians 2:17 "For we are not like those many who falsify the word of God, but we speak sincerely from God in the presence of God in Christ.

2 Peter 3:15-18 ... our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given him; and this he does in all his letters, in which he treats of these subjects. In them there are some things that are difficult to understand, which **ignorant and unstable men twist to their perdition** as well as **the other Scriptures**. You, beloved, knowing these things already, be on your guard lest you be led away by the error of the wicked, and thus fall from your steadfastness; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

1 Tim 1:6-7 "**Some have turned away** from these things and have indulged in meaningless talk. **They want to be doctors of the law but in reality they know neither what they say nor what they say with certainty.**

Mr 7:7 "In vain do they worship me, **teaching doctrines** which are the precepts **of men.**" Having neglected God's commandment, you hold fast to the **tradition of men**".

1 Tim 4:1-2 But the Spirit says plainly that in future times some they will depart from the faith, listening to seductive spirits and doctrines of **demons**, led astray by the hypocrisy of lying men, marked by a mark in their conscience.

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.