

Fivefold Ministry Quick Test

Answer **Yes** or **No** to the following questions. *Try not to figure out which role the question is asking about – instead answer your gut impulse.*

1. I love to talk with people; I don't mind listening to their problems.
2. I find myself starting new things, sometimes without even meaning to.
3. When I learn something new, I can't help but to inform others with my new insight.
4. Doing the right thing seems more important to me than it does to many others.
5. I carry a sense of the calling on my life that drives me.
6. Everyone around me knows what I like or don't like.
7. The feeling of being part of a connected community is very life-giving to me.
8. Analogies are easy for me to create and understand.
9. I have a tendency to stand for causes, particularly when the cause affects others.
10. I find it energising to meet new people and find out about their lives.
11. If I haven't heard God's voice in a long time I tend to feel dry.
12. People tend to come to me for relational advice.
13. Explaining things excites and invigorates me.
14. I tend to gather people around me without really trying to.
15. Potential kingdom impact seems more real to me than to others.

Choose between the first and second option on the questions below:

16. I tend to be more interested in how the **plan will affect people** or how the **people enact the plan**.

17. Which do find life-giving? **Hearing God** or **learning about God**.

18. Would you rather invest in **recruiting to the community** or **developing the existing community**?

19. When it comes to the kingdom, I think more in terms of **movements of people** or **individual people**.

20. When talking with someone about a problem, do you find it more natural to **show them how to fix the problem** or **simply love them in the problem**?

21. Do you find it easier to **share with people about who God is** or **speak how you would see God speaking into their life**?

22. Do you find yourself driven more by **revelation** or **vision**?

23. When I have to speak the truth in love, which part do you identify with more: **loving the person** or **speaking the truth**?

24. I would rather help **believers** or **non-believers** learn about God.

25. When I share about biblical truth with other believers my primary goal is **building momentum in the spirit** or **sharing a complete picture of biblical understanding**.

To compute the score, circle how you answered the questions in the table below and total in the final column:

	Answered yes to question #	Selected 1 st Choice	Selected 2 nd Choice	Total
Apostle	2, 5, 15	19, 25	16, 22	
Prophet	4, 9, 11	17, 22	17, 22	
Evangelist	6, 10, 14	18, 21	19, 24	
Shepherd	1, 7, 12	16, 23	18, 20	
Teacher	3, 8, 13	20, 24	17, 25	



The Parish of Peasedown St John

Ephesians 4:11-16 - Fivefold Ministry

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

1. Talk Passage – Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

2. Talk Notes

2.1 Introduction

- Imagine for a moment that we have been split into five teams. Each team has been given 100 wooden building bricks and an exact plan on how to use their bricks to build a model tower. Each team is given ten minutes to build its tower and the team to complete its tower first is the winner. About half way through the task each team realises that it does not have all the relevant bricks to build its tower. What do we think happens in the final five minutes of the task?
- Paul explains to the Ephesian Church, and by inference us, that like the wooden building bricks, we have all been given spiritual gifts. Paul challenges the Ephesian Church, and us to:
 1. Discover which spiritual gifts (wooden building bricks) we have been given.
 2. Recognise that these spiritual gifts (wooden building bricks) have been given to build the Church (model tower).
 3. Realise that individually we do not possess all the spiritual gifts (wooden building bricks) to build the church (model tower) and that only by working together in unity will we achieve the task.

2.2 What gifts have we been given? 'It was he who gave some to be...' Ephesians 4:11

- 'It was he who gave some to be...' Ephesians 4:11. God has given each of us spiritual gifts. Do we know which gifts God has given us?
- Paul mentions five of these spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4:11: 'some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.' But this is certainly not the definitive list. The Bible mentions at least twenty more possibilities. See the list on page 3 for the details.

2.2.1 Apostles - Govern

- Apostles possess the supernatural ability to plant, develop, and lead a number of churches with extraordinary authority. This gift is to both take new areas for Christ and maintain and grow areas already taken.
- Apostles have a burden to ground their church in solid biblical teaching, an example of which we can see in Acts 11, when Paul and Barnabas spent two years at Antioch, teaching and equipping them. Apostles have the desire to train and raise up church leaders who will come into full maturity in the church, to release them, and then move

on to plant another church. Making themselves “redundant” is their greatest reward, as they father their spiritual children into adulthood.

2.2.2 Prophets - Guide

- Prophets possess the supernatural ability to reveal God's heart to His people, giving guidance to individuals and the body, giving revelation, as well as often interpretation, application and timing.

2.2.3 Evangelists - Gather

- Evangelists possess the supernatural ability to draw numbers of people to Jesus and to train local church members to effectively reach the people around them for Jesus. This gifting builds the outreach arm of local churches and is focused on taking people from an unsaved state to being active disciples in a local church.
- The prime example of an evangelist in the New Testament is Philip. He was one of the men chosen to serve the widows in Acts 6, and he is the only one specifically called an evangelist (Acts 21:8). In Acts 8 he obeys the Holy Spirit and brings the Ethiopian eunuch to a believing knowledge of Christ.

2.2.4 Pastors - Guard

- Pastors possess the supernatural ability to disciple and shepherd the people of God. This gifting builds, maintains, and develops the local church. People with this gifting are held responsible by God for a group of His people. Their role is to bring the people of God to maturity and to protect the church.

2.2.5 Teachers - Ground

- Teachers possess the supernatural ability to make the profound truths of God's Word simple and easy to apply. They are able to identify the areas in which a particular group of people need to be trained. It is their role to teach and build up the people of God enabling them to respond to the call of God on their life and fulfil their destiny.

2.2.6 Five useful steps for discovering your Spiritual Gifts

From 'Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow' by C. Peter Wagner

1. Explore the possibilities (read, study, and investigate gifts)
2. Experiment with as many gifts as you can (you will find what you are not gifted at, as well as what you are)
3. Examine your feelings (you will enjoy exercising your gift)
4. Evaluate your effectiveness (you will be successful in the use of your gifts).
5. Expect confirmation from the Body (other Christians will note and affirm your gift)

2.3 Why have we been given these gifts? - 'to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up' Ephesians 4:12

- Once we have discovered what our spiritual gifts are, we need to remember why we have been given them. Our spiritual gifts have been given: *'to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up'* Ephesians 4:12
- Do we use our spiritual gifts to serve others and by doing so encourage them into works of service?
- Paul wants the members of the Ephesian church to mature in their spiritual growth. He no longer wants them to *'be infants'* (Ephesians 4:14).
- Immature Christians can:

EITHER - Exercise their spiritual gifts for all the wrong motives: recognition, validation, power etc.

OR - Fail to recognise their spiritual gifts and thereby not use them for the benefit of the whole church.

2.4 How do we build the church? 'as each part does its work', 'we all reach unity in the faith and become mature' Ephesians 4:13.16

- As a church family do we look around and value each others spiritual gifts - recognising

and remembering that the church will only grow when every member is utilising their spiritual gifts to the best of their ability in unity.

- Paul in his letter to the Corinthians imagines church like a human body: *'Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it'* states Paul. *'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.'* (1 Corinthians 12:12)
- The problem in Ephesus as it was in Corinth, Colosse, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Lystra, Derbe and Iconium was that at small group within each part of these churches was dissatisfied with the believes and behaviour of the other members. A small group of immature Christians in each church was focussing on what divided them, rather than on what united them, which was their baptism: *'For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free.'* (1 Corinthians 12:13)

2.5 Conclusion

- Paul knows that the Kingdom of God will only grow when every church member knows what their spiritual gifts are and are using them in the service of other members.

3. Questions to consider at home

- 1) How do we find out what spiritual gifts God has given us?
- 2) How does *baptism* provide a basis for our unity?
- 3) Why does Paul share the picture of a *'body'* with the Corinthian Church?
- 4) What are the two dangers we can face with regards spiritual gifts as a part of a church body?
- 5) A close friend tells you that her Vicar encourages every member of their congregation to exercise the spiritual gifts God has given them. This has resulted in a number of church members doing things that previously only the Vicar did? Do you agree with this?
- 6) A close friend tells you that he will be unable to help you set up the Church on Sunday because he is serving the church family by focussing exclusively on exercising his God given spiritual gift of teaching. How would you respond?

Matthew Street 27th October 2019

List of Spiritual Gifts mentioned in the Bible

Romans 12	1 Corinthians 12	Ephesians 4	Elsewhere
Exhortation	Administration	<i>Apostle</i>	Celibacy
Giving	<i>Apostle</i>	Evangelism	Hospitality
Leadership	Discernment	Pastor	Martyrdom
Mercy	Faith	<i>Prophecy</i>	Missionary
<i>Prophecy</i>	Healing	<i>Teaching</i>	Voluntary Poverty
Service	Helps		
<i>Teaching</i>	Knowledge		
	Miracles		
	<i>Prophecy</i>		
	<i>Teaching</i>		
	Tongues		
	Interpretation of Tongues		
	Wisdom		

The gifts in italics are repeated in one of the other passages