

Ministry Gifts

The Gift of the Apostle

1 Corinthians 12:28 NKJV

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

The purpose Kenneth E. Hagin wrote, "He Gave Gifts to Men," was in response to erroneous teachings that arose in the late 1980s concerning the role of modern day apostles and prophets. Because he addresses much of his attention to these two offices in the book, we will touch briefly on these two while moving on to the other three offices.

The Ministry of the Apostle

- I. What is an _____?
 - A. In the simplest term, apostle means " _____ " or " _____ . "
 1. Remember being given the _____ to tell your siblings on the behalf of "Mom/Dad said?"
 2. We must be careful not to assume everyone in the _____ is an apostle.
 - B. The Greek word for apostle is " _____ "
 1. It appears 79 times in the New Testament.
 2. The root of this word is " _____ " which appears 131 times in the New Testament and more than 700 times in the Greek Septuagint.
 3. This being " _____ " does not carry a dishonorable connotation, but rather the opposite.
 4. It denoted the idea of being _____, commissioned and sent on the behalf of someone very powerful, or perhaps a government.
 5. The person was _____, _____ with authority and then dispatched to accomplish a special task.
 - C. Today (as well as then), there are _____ to defining an apostle.
 1. Divine _____.
 2. _____ and/or a _____.
 3. _____ ministry, not a novice.
 4. Sent out on a special _____ with a special _____.
 5. Miracles, signs and _____

II. The _____ of an apostle.

2 Corinthians 2:12 NKJV

Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

A. The problem of _____ was so rampant that Paul felt it necessary to validate his ministry pointing to the “signs” of an apostle.

1. The _____ of an apostle that Paul listed in this verse are not all-inclusive.
2. However, they serve as a good starting place in describing the signs that point to an apostolic _____.
3. He Paul begins by using the word _____ - of a certainty!
 - a) Paul is being _____ regarding these signs.
 - b) If a person is apostolic, it is _____ that they will have these particular signs in their life and ministry.

B. Paul first lists _____.

1. Most people overlook this _____, yet it is as supernatural as healing and miracles.
2. This indicates a person’s supernatural _____ to to hang in there and stay put no matter what forces try to stop them.
3. Typically, God sends an individual into an environment to do _____ work.
 - a) That community may tend to be _____ to the Gospel, like Corinth.
 - b) These people have to withstand the _____ of that city in order to establish the Gospel.
4. This patience is also evidenced in the fact that the apostle is uniquely graced to encompass all _____ ministerial offices.
 - a) In order to _____ and _____ a church, divine order and ministry gifts within believers, an apostle will function in each of the five offices of ministry at varying times.
 - b) So, there will be times when an apostle functions as a _____, but also the _____ and evangelist.
 - c) Their main function may be pastor and teacher, but they will minister with a higher _____ than a pastor or teacher who stand solely in one office.

C. Next, Paul lists *signs, wonder and mighty deeds*.

1. It is interesting to note the book of Acts does not record Paul performing signs, wonders or mighty deeds in _____.
2. However, because of this _____, it's safe to assume that miraculous things were wrought by Paul in Corinth much like other places.
3. Those mighty things wrought by Paul must be _____ to the signs, wonders and mighty deeds that were recorded in Acts, such as:
 - a) Restoring strength to limbs of the lame (Acts 14:9-10)
 - b) Casting out demons (Acts 16:16-18)
 - c) Transferring God's healing power through aprons and handkerchiefs (Acts 19:11,12)
 - d) Raising the dead (Acts 20:9-12)
 - e) Healing the sick (Acts 28:8,9)
4. "_____ " could be referring to the time a jail was rattled by an earthquake, but how strange there is no record of any damage to the building, it was the only building that felt the quake and resulting in all of the doors opening and the stocks being loosed from the prisoners.
5. Also, _____ could be connected to the time he was bit by a venomous snake but felt no harm.
6. But what about the list he writes in 2 Corinthians 11?
 - a) Shipwrecked _____ times
 - b) Severely beaten on _____ occasions
 - c) Traveling across dangerous roads, terrain and water to _____ the message.
 - d) The time he was beaten with rocks so badly, his abusers left him for _____.

All of Paul's experiences in ministry pointed to a bigger picture than mere survivability; it indicated God sustaining him in order to forge a path into new territories to get the message out. These were what he pointed to as the signs of a true apostle.