

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF “TEACHER”

There are two questions that I am often asked about the spiritual gift of teacher.

- “Do you think there could be a spiritual gift of teacher that is different than the gift of pastor-teacher?”
- “Do you think women can have the spiritual gift of teacher?”

Both of these questions will be addressed in this lesson.

Don't be distracted by thinking there is a difference in the spiritual gift of teacher because it is mentioned in three different passages (Rom.12:7; 1 Cor.12:28-29; and Eph.4:11).

This lesson will study six aspects of the Spiritual Gift of Teacher.

1. In Eph.4:11; the Spiritual Gift of teacher is listed with other spiritual “communication” gifts.

We have learned from previous lessons that the spiritual gift of prophet and apostle were “done away with” by the Canonization of the Scriptures (1 Cor.12:6-11; 13:8-12).

When you study the list of spiritual gifts in (Rom.12; 1 Cor.12-14; and Eph.4), you will not find the spiritual gift of pastor (poimen) except in (Eph.4:11). In (Eph.4:11), it is listed in technical Greek grammar.

Peter reminds us to put our thinking cap on when we study Paul's writings. (2 Pet.3:16)

2. In (Eph.4:11), Paul used the uniqueness of the Greek grammar to list 4 of 5 spiritual gifts.

He used the definite article (**tous**) with the (**men-de**) sequence to list four categories of spiritual communication gifts (plural).

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| • Tous men | apostles | (the apostolos/ vocab.) |
| • Tous de | prophets | (the prophetes) |
| • Tous de | evangelists | (the euangelistes) |
| • Tous de | pastors and teachers | (the poimen kai didaskalos) |

NOTE: This is one way you know that four gifts are listed not five.

3. A second feature of the Greek grammar in (Eph.4:11) is Paul's use of the definite article with pastor-teacher.

The Greek definite article was derived from the demonstrative pronoun (hos, ho, he). Tous is the accusative plural of the second declension masculine nouns (Summer Grammar, pg.19/ hoi).

The Greek definite article is used to draw attention to its object. It is designed to mark specific attention to the identity of its object. In (Eph.4:11), it draws attention to the four categories of spiritual “communication” gifts).

This is specifically important to the spiritual gift listed as the pastors and teachers (**tous de poimenas kai didaskalous/ aplm**).

4. The third unique use of the Greek grammar in (Eph.4:11) is the use of the definite article (tous) with the first noun (poimen) plus (kai) without the article with the second noun (didaskalos).

“The following rule by Granville Sharp of a century back still proves to be true: ‘When the copulative kai connects two nouns of the same case, if the article (ho) or any of its cases precedes the first of the said nouns or participles, and is not repeated before the second noun or participle, the latter always relates to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun or participle; i.e., it denotes a farther description of the first-named person.’” (Dana Grammar, pg.147)

To emphasize this grammatical rule, Granville sharp used the hyphen (pastor-teacher).

The definite article is used to give identity to the pastor with the gift of teacher. The spiritual gift of teacher often functions before one assumes the ‘office’ of a pastor of a local congregation.

5. A pastor-teacher is a shepherd (poimen) who attends the flock by teaching milk and meat doctrines for spiritual growth maturity and ministry (Heb.5:13-14; John 21:15-17).

- Jesus is the chief shepherd of the church (1 Pet.5:4).
- Jesus is the shepherd - overseer of the believer’s soul (1 Pet.2:25) [ton poimena kai episkopon/ **asm**] (Note the grammatical rule of point 4).
- Jesus is over the pastor (under shepherd) – teacher of the local church body (1 Pet.5:1-2).

The spiritual gift of pastor-teacher is separate from his theological training.

6. The spiritual gifted “teacher” is required to be examined and ordained before becoming the pastor of a local church (1 Tim.3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

This ordination is for men who, as a result of this examination, qualify. (1 Tim.3:2; Titus 1:6; Acts 14:23).

Therefore the pastor of a local church should have the spiritual gift of teacher as well as training in I.C.E (Isagogic, category, exegesis) teaching of the word of God

However, believers who are spiritually mature in the word of God, having other spiritual gifts, are instructed to also be teachers of the truth of the word of God as well. (Heb.5:12, 14).