

## UNLEASHING THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD

READING: Eph. 4:1-16

Ephesians 4:11-12 AMP God's intention for the fivefold ministry gifts was "the perfecting and full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people) [**that they should do**] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church)."

Main Thought: It's time to unleash the mighty power of God through all of God's people, the body of Christ.

Tommy Hicks' vision.

If I were the devil (and thank God I'm not), but if I were the devil and I was facing the prospect of millions of born again, spirit filled, on-fire believers, armed and dangerous and equipped to do damage to me and my kingdom of darkness, I would do everything I could to convince them that only specially qualified, specially educated, or specially anointed people can do the works of Jesus. I would set up a profession class of "priests" and let them e worn out trying to meet the needs of the world. I woule convince the rest that their job is to sit in a pew and be quiet until they fall asleep with boredom. That's what I'd do...and that's what he's done.

Mark 16:15-20 them that believe, Jn 14:12 He that believeth. Jn 7:38 out of his belly

You've been given the ministry of reconciliation. . .

"Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, KJV.

### YOUR PART IN GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)" Ephesians 4:1-10, KJV.

"But *as truly as* I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD." Numbers 14:21, KJV.

Carriers of the glory. Wherever I go, God goes. Peter's shadow

### THE ROLE OF 5-FOLD MINISTRY

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" Ephesians 4:11, 12, KJV.

-Working with the 5-fold, not against. Not an employee. Boards s/support, advise and help, not rule and control the pastor, and s/welcome the 5-fold ministry gifts to come.

-No special priest class, to do all the work—equippers.

## UNLEASHING THE POWER

“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: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:13-16, KJV.

Five Keys to effectual working:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10, KJV.

### 1. Christ in you

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” 2 Corinthians 6:16, KJV.

### 2. Power of the Holy Spirit

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8, KJV.

### 3. Recognizing Your Authority

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20, KJV.

### 4. Unity of the Body

We’re coming into this together. Unity of the Spirit and bond of Peace, but we’re coming into the unity of the faith.

“Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.” Isaiah 52:8, KJV.

### 5. Finding Your Place

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” Ephesians 4:7, KJV.