

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY (1 Corinthians Chapter: 9:2)

"Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you!
For you are the seal of my **apostleship** in the LORD." - *NIV*

(SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Apostleship



Spiritual Gifts, this is the title of the new series which we begin today. Unlike the [Fruit of the Spirit](#) (*love, joy, peace...*) which transforms us to be more like Christ, the [Spiritual Gifts](#) empower us for doing ministry. The Fruit of the Spirit helps us to be (*loving, peaceful, joyful...*), but the Gifts of the Spirit help us to do (*prophecy, teaching, healing*). All believers have access to the [Fruit of the Spirit](#); however, the [Spiritual Gifts](#) are selected by God and assigned specifically to believers according to the work which God has for them. A Spiritual Gift should also be distinguished from a talent (*natural abilities and skills of excellence*). The critical difference between a Spiritual Gift and a talent, is the [anointing](#) of the Holy Spirit. An individual may have many talents and natural abilities, however when God's anointing is poured out on any of these areas, it becomes a Spiritual Gift. Moreover, Spiritual gifts are not limited to the 18 listed in the Bible. God's anointing can be poured out in many areas as a Spiritual Gift. Today we will explore the [Spiritual Gift of Apostleship](#).

Apostles are sent. A person with the gift of apostleship is called to be a missionary. The Greek word *Apostolos* and the Latin word mission, mean "*one who is sent*" or "*messenger*". The Spiritual Gift of apostleship is sometimes confused with the office of apostle. The office of apostle was held by a limited number of people chosen by Jesus, including the twelve disciples. The requirements for the office of apostle included being a faithful eyewitness of Jesus' ministry and His resurrection ([Acts 1:21-22](#); [1 Corinthians 9:1](#)) and being personally called by Jesus ([Galatians 1:1](#)). There are no more that hold the office of apostle today, but the gift of apostleship continues for the purpose of establishing the church (body of Christ). The mission for those with the gift of apostleship today is to plant new ministries and churches, reach across cultures to establish churches in challenging environments, and raise up and develop leaders in the church. Unlike the gift of *evangelism* which focuses more on the salvation of the lost, the mission of *apostleship* places more emphasis on growth and discipleship. Evangelist lead people into the work of justification (being saved), while apostles may also do that, they often add the component of sanctification (growth).

Apostleship in the Bible & Today. In the Bible, many individuals were given the gift of apostleship -- a primary example was the apostle Paul. Paul traveled to many places including Corinth, Rome, and Thessalonica. Additionally, after establishing churches in these areas, he also wrote many letters to believers these locations, such as Timothy and Titus -- to instruct them in the faith.

Although today's Christians with the gift of apostleship may be called to serve in a manner which may not seem as extravagant to some, it is indeed just as important. Such individuals may find themselves starting outreach programs associated with a church to reach the culture with the gospel. They may see themselves going to marginalized communities such as gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals who feel ostracized from the church. Apostles may be called to serve in another county, state, nation, or continent on missions project -- or they may be called to minister in communities where the gospel is not shared in a tangible and personal way. Apostles hear the call, and apostles are sent out on a mission. Find your spiritual gift, and you'll find the work that God has for you to do. Is the Spiritual Gift of apostleship your gift?

-Your brother in Christ, WNL

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Find your Spiritual Gift(s) and, find your purpose. (*Discover it , Develop it , Demonstrate it*)

Apostleship. Prophecy, Evangelism, Pastoring, Teaching, Encouragement, Knowledge, Wisdom, Assisting, Giving, Leadership, Compassion, Faith, Discernment, Miracles, Healing, Tongues, Interpretation.

Next week we examine the gift of prophecy

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, have you called me to be an apostle? Is the gift of apostleship one of the spiritual gifts which you have blessed me in for the purpose of ministry? Lord, I'm fully aware that similar to the parable of the talents, I will have to give account for my usage of the spiritual gift you have given me. Please help me, Lord, to **discover** my spiritual gift, instruct me on how to **develop** it, and empower me to **demonstrate** it for the purpose of ministry. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

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