

## **MINISTRY OF HELPS By Pastor Lucinda Davidoff November 13, 2022**

**1 Corinthians 12:28** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, ministry of helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

### **1. The five fold ministry is submitted to the APOSTOLIC:**

We must suppose that Paul did not choose his words here carelessly. "The terms 'first' and 'second' are not used by him here at random," wrote John Chrysostom (349-407) 1. He clearly is enumerating the ministries in some rank and the Greek text clearly reflects this (*protos, deuterios, tritos, ...*).

"The order goes from higher to the lower, and quite deliberately," writes Chrysostom,

Ambrosiaster, a pseudonymous 4th century commentator on Paul's Epistles, explained the order as follows:

Paul has placed the apostles at the head of the church. They may be identified with bishops, as Peter said of Judas: *Let another take his bishopric*

### **What makes someone an apostle?**

An "apostle" is one who has a call to plant and oversee churches, has verifiable church plants and spiritual sons in the ministry, who is recognized by other apostles and meets the biblical qualifications of an elder.

### **What does Apostle mean?**

Apostle, (from Greek apostolos) "person sent"

### **Can a woman be an apostle?**

Junia is “a female apostle named in the New Testament”. Ian Elmer states that Junia and Andronicus are the only “apostles” associated with Rome that were greeted by Paul in his letter to the Romans.

There are two types of prophets, those who predict the future and those who interpret the Scriptures. The apostles are also prophets, because the top rank has all the others subordinated to it. .4 Teachers are those who instructed in the synagogue, a practice which has come down to us as well.5

So apostles are those sent to start and oversee churches and ministries and works for the kingdom

**Ephesians 2:19-20** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

That means we always submit to the leadership of the apostolic – God has placed them first. And there is order in God’s house.

## **2. Who falls into this category of the ministry of helps?**

The ministry of helps includes psalmists, intercessors, deacons, and elders among others. The ministry of helps—helps to get the job done. Some people are anointed psalmists, intercessors, administrators, deacons and elders, and they are such a blessing when they effectively lift up the hands of the minister and help him to function in his place of ministry.

We see this in the ministry of Jesus when He fed the five thousand. He instructed the twelve to seat everyone in groups. Then He broke the bread and the fish and gave it to the disciples. They, in turn, gave it to the multitudes. They helped Jesus do the job.

If you are faithful, and follow God's plan for your life, He will put a desire in your heart to help in the ministry. God is not looking for pew warmers, but for people who will be used by Him to touch the lives of others.

**Acts 6:1** Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. **2** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. **3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

**5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, **6** whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

**7** Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

The ministry of helps is anything that helps the five-fold ministry get the job done. Of those seven men who were chosen in Acts 6, we hear later only of Philip who became an evangelist. Stephen was a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost and did great wonders and signs among the people. He became the first martyr of the Church.

1. The capacity of the church increased when the men put up their hands to serve tables and take care of business
2. Those that were previously neglected were now taken care of.
3. Miracles sign and wonders were seen by Stephen after he said yes to serve the people

### **3. The ministry of God does not rest on status but on SERVICE**

**Jesus said to be great in the kingdom you have to be a servant of ALL**

**Matthew 20:25-29** But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.

**Having a servant’s attitude is a heart issue.**

### **4. True service is linked to relationship with others and connection**

- Is there true connection with others- people do not care about what you SAY unless they know that you care?
- Am I serving others or am I servicing MYSELF to feel good about what I am doing or to get a job done?
- Are you serving only those that you value or are you serving EVERYONE impartially?
- Do you welcome others to serve alongside you or are you serving for POSITION?
- Do you connect with others even if they are your peers or maybe your so-called competition?

### **5. No gift that serves others is little**

- God wants you to find your gift IN the body of Christ
- Nursery helpers is a gift- it's a gift to change little one's diapers
- Children's ministry is a gift
- Greeting and seeing others is a gift
- Ushering is a gift

## **6. When the GIFTS become a HINDRANCE:**

The moment the ministry of helps ceases to be a help anymore, is **the moment it becomes a hindrance instead**. It is a fact that deacon boards hinder many churches instead of helping, or there are **elders who don't support the vision of the pastor**. They are not a help at all. Deacons should hold up the pastor's hands as Moses' helpers supported his hands, but instead of lifting the hands of the pastor—they tie them! Financial boards or administrators, who control the finances as though they were their own, create the same problem. Instead of working to support and facilitate the vision of the church, they work to control and limit it.

Negative incidents have arisen because of psalmists who get lifted up in pride and who think that their music ministry is more important than the ministry of the Word. Instead of working together to compliment the pastor's ministry, they compete with it. They cause problems for the pastor and some even end up splitting the church.

Notice in Acts 6, that the prerequisite for being a deacon is to be a person full of faith and the Holy Spirit. I believe that this applies to everyone in the ministry of helps. There is nothing worse than having people alongside you in the ministry, whom you have to carry. They are a dead weight because they are full of doubt and unbelief. You have probably heard the saying, "It is hard to soar like an eagle when you are surrounded by turkeys!"

But, oh, what a dead weight they are, when they are blinded by a negative attitude and cannot see God's plan. Many that might even have been called to be

a godly check and balance to the minister, have ended up being a dead weight around the neck of the servant of God.

Many an anointed man has fallen, because he surrounded himself with people who were not led by the Spirit or don't honor the word. Some were just working in the ministry as a job and had no anointing to stand in that place of ministry. They were a hindrance and not a help. Some were "yes men" that agreed to everything that he said. Instead of giving him a godly warning, they watched as he was led astray, out of the plan and the purpose of God for his life and ministry.

### **7. Grace to do the work of the ministry- how you serve matters**

Ephesians 4:7 says, "But unto every one of us is **given grace according to the measure of the gift** of Christ." The word "grace" means enablement, ability, or anointing. The anointing is the supernatural equipment to get the job done, whether it is for the ministry of helps or the five-fold ministry.

God graces you to do the job He has called you to do. It is up to you to supply the **faithfulness** and the **good attitude**.

### **8. God remembers your work and labor of love**

**Hebrews 6:10** For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister

**Acts 6:9** Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. **10** And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. **11** Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." **12** And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and

brought him to the council. **13** They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; **14** for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." **15** And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

**Acts 9:36-42 KJV** Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

**Acts 10:1** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, **2** a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. **3** About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

**4** And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"

So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.