

Study on the Holy Spirit

Study 24

Pastor

This week we will study the gift of Pastor.

- **Eph 4:11-12** *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

In Eph it says pastors and teachers almost combining the two into one.

But can you be a teacher without being a pastor?

You say yes but what does the bible say?

- **1 Cor 12:28** *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.*
- **Romans 12:6-7** *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching.*

As we see in Rom. & I Cor. The word pastor is not there so we can use these for the basis reference that you do not have to be a pastor to be a teacher.

- Notice once again that the purpose of the gifts is, *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

Not for your own benefit, but for the benefit of others.

Let's first look at the qualification of being a pastor in two different places in the bible.

- **Titus 1:6-9** *if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*
- **1 Tim 3:1-7** *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall*

into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

The word bishop refers to elder and if this is the qualification of an elder who is below a pastor, then we must expect the same from the pastor.

We all know that we are forgiven of our sins, but we also have to remember that we sometimes have to pay the consequences of our sins.

That is what I have to do. Notice it says that he must be the husband of one wife. Not one wife at a time, but one wife.

If you have been divorced and remarried you cannot be a Pastor, Elder, or deacon.

Why, because you do not fit the qualifications in these verses.

God can do miracles, but He will not go against His own word. He will have you serve in some other capacity but not these.

Let's look at:

- ***Acts 6:1-4 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. 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. 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; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."***

Here we see that the pastor is not the one who always does the serving of tables, but is given to prayer and the ministry of the word. That is where the elders, deacons and we as a body should be serving.

But the pastor should also serve the people of God. Remember that Jesus washed the disciples feet and told them that they call Him Master, which is true, but they should do as the Master (Jesus) has done, not putting Himself above others, but being a servant to others.

- ***Mal 2:7 (KJV) For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.***

In Mal. It says that "***the priest's should seek the law at his mouth***" in other words they should study the word of God because "***he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts***" and if you are given the word of God you don't want to misinterpret God.

Remember that Moses did when he smote the rock and he was unable to enter the promise land.

- ***Eph 3:7-8 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,***

- **1 Tim 1:12-14** *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*
- **Heb 5:4** *And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.*

Notice Paul say's that the gift was given to him, not appointed upon himself.

A self-proclaimed minister is not a good sign. The church should proclaim him as a minister or pastor.

Also notice that it was the grace of Jesus that enabled him to be a part of the ministry.

- **Acts 20:28 (NLT)** *And now beware! Be sure that you feed and shepherd God's flock--his church, purchased with his blood--over whom the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.*
- **1 Peter 5:1-4 (NLT)** *And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share his glory and his honor when he returns. As a fellow elder, this is my appeal to you: Care for the flock of God entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly--not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your good example. And when the head Shepherd comes, your reward will be a never-ending share in his glory and honor.*
- **Jer 3:15** *And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

The term Pastor in the bible is referred to Shepherd

The following men of the bible were shepherds:

Abraham (**Gen 13:2**)

Jacob (**Gen 30:29**)

Joseph (**Gen 37:2**)

Moses (**Ex 3:1**)

King David (**1 Sam 16:11**)

Abel, Adam's son, was the first shepherd. He was also the first to be killed for his obedience to the Lord.

- **Gen 4:1-2** *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD. ' Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

Here are some interesting things about a shepherd, notice the relations between the shepherd and a pastor.

Food planned for the Flock.

One of the principal duties at all seasons of the year is for the shepherd to plan food for his flock. In the springtime there is an abundance of green pasture, and usually the sheep are allowed to graze near to the village where the shepherd's home is located. After the grain is reaped, and the poor have had an opportunity to glean what is left for them, then the shepherd brings in his flock, and the sheep feed on certain fresh growths, or dried blades, or an occasional ear of grain that the reapers may have left, or was overlooked by the gleaners. When this source of food is exhausted then the pasture is sought in other places. The wilderness of Judea which is located along the western side of the Jordan Valley is carpeted in the spring with a certain amount of grass and this turns into standing hay as the hot weather comes, and this becomes food for the sheep during part of the summer.

Scripture often refers to shepherds looking for pasture for their flocks. "And they went to the entrance of Gedor, even unto the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks" (**1Chron. 4:39**). The Psalmist thanks God for the pasturage which the Lord as Shepherd provides for His people: "So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever" (**Psa. 79:13**).

In the late autumn or winter months, there are times when the shepherd can find no pasturage that is available for his flock, and then he must become responsible for feeding the animals himself. If the flock is small there may be times when it is stabled within the peasant house, and the family lives on a sort of mezzanine floor above it. At such seasons of the year the shepherd must provide the food. This is what Isaiah meant when he said: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd" (**Isa. 40:11**). In some sections of Syria, flocks are taken at this season to places in the mountain country, where the shepherd busies himself with the bushy trees, cutting down branches that have green leaves or tender twigs, that the sheep and goats can eat. Micah was probably speaking of this custom of providing food for the sheep, when he said: "Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage" (**Micah 7:14**).

Pastors are responsible for feeding the church (spiritually) or guiding them to where the food is (the Bible) and encouraging them to eat (study the Bible).

The Shepherds Scrip.

This is a bag made of dried skin. When he leaves home to go and tend the sheep, his mother will put into it some bread, cheese, dried fruit, and probably some olives. It was into this bag that David placed the five smooth stones when he went to battle with the giant Goliath (**1Sam. 17:40**).

Notice the same bag that David ate from was also his weapon bag.

- **Heb 4:12** *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

So it is with us, the same word we feed off of is also our sword for battle.

- **Eph 6:17** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

Guidance for the Sheep.

The Eastern shepherd never drives his sheep as does the Western shepherd. He always leads them, often going before them. "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them" (**John 10:4**). This does not mean that the shepherd is *always* in front of his sheep. Although he may be usually in that position when traveling, he often walks by their side, and sometimes follows behind, especially if the flock is headed for the fold in the evening. From the rear he can gather any stragglers, and protect such from a sly attack from a wild animal. If the flock is a large one, the shepherd will be in front, and a helper will follow behind. Isaiah speaks of the omnipresent Lord in a double relationship to His people: "For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward [rear guard]" (**Isa. 52:12**).

The skill of the shepherd, and personal relationship to them is clearly seen when he guides his sheep along narrow paths. The Shepherd Psalm says: "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness" (**Psa. 23:3**). The grain fields are seldom fenced or hedged in Bible lands, and sometimes only a narrow path runs between the pasture and these fields. The sheep are forbidden to eat in the fields where crops are growing. Thus in guiding the sheep along such a path, the shepherd must not allow any of the animals to get into the forbidden area, because if he does, he must pay damages to the owner of the grain. One Syrian shepherd has been known to guide a flock of one hundred fifty sheep without any help, along such a narrow path for quite a distance, without letting a single sheep go where he was not allowed to go.

Straying Sheep Restored.

It is very important that sheep should not be allowed to stray away from the flock, because when by themselves they are utterly helpless. In such a condition, they become bewildered, for they have no sense at all of locality. And if they do stray away, they must be brought back. The Psalmist prayed the prayer: "I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant" (**Psa. 119:176**). The prophet Isaiah compared man's waywardness to that of sheep: "All we like sheep have gone astray" (**Isa. 53:6**). David sang of his divine Shepherd: "He restoreth my soul" (**Psa. 23:3**).

If you are not in or have left a church, I would encourage you to get plugged into a one. As we see with sheep straying away from the fold and we outside of a church family are helpless. There is no one to encourage you, or to stand by you during times of struggle. We need each other, and remember that others need you too!

Intimate Knowledge of the Sheep.

The shepherd is deeply interested in every single one of his flock. Some of them may be given pet names because of incidents connected with them. They are usually counted each evening as they enter the fold, but sometimes the shepherd dispenses with the counting, for he is able to *feel* the absence of any one of his sheep. With one sheep gone, something is felt to be missing from the appearance of the entire flock. One shepherd in the Lebanon district was asked if he always counted his sheep each evening. He replied in the negative, and then was asked how then he knew if all his sheep were present. This was his reply: "Master, if you were to put a cloth over my eyes, and bring me any sheep and only let me put hands on its face, I could tell in a moment if it was mine or not."

- **John 10:25-27** *Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."*

Care Of Sick or Wounded Sheep.

The shepherd is always on the lookout for members of his flock that need personal attention. Sometimes a lamb suffers from the rays of the sun, or its body may have been badly scratched by some thornbush. The most common remedy he uses with these sheep is olive oil, a supply of which he carries in a ram's horn. Perhaps David was thinking of such an experience when he wrote of the Lord, "Thou anointest my head with oil" (**Psa. 23:5**).

If you desire the gift of Pastor, remember this next scripture, because you are accountable for the way you lead the sheep.

- **Jer 23:1-4** *"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD. "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD.*

Maybe you're not a pastor or even have the gift of pastor. But you may have a sheepfold you are given to shepherd. Are you married? Do you have children? God has given you this family to oversee and take care of, even though you are not a pastor, you are still responsible for the raising of your family and wife.

Think back on the things we saw as we related the shepherd to a pastor. Now use the same relationship of you as the shepherd to your family.