

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Eph. 4:7-16) NKJV

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Ability Given by God” – Part #4

~ INTRO ~

WELL...

- As we continue thru the book of Acts...
 - Our micro-study on spiritual gifts is coming to a conclusion.

OVER THE PAST 3-WEEKS...

- We've gained a basic understanding...
 - About the different spiritual gifts.
 - In (Rom 12) / (1 Cor 12) / & (1 Cor 14).

AND TODAY...

- We wrap-it-up... in (Eph. 4)...
 - By cover the gifts that equip the church.

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS TODAY:

- (Eph. 4:1-3 & 7 & 11-16) NKJV

HERE'S WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT?

BECAUSE...

- In order for the CHURCH to function as God created it...
 - Each Christian must assume their God given **role**...
 - AND use their spiritual **gifting**...
 - *“for the profit of all”* (1 Cor. 12:7) NKJV

WE'RE TO HAVE...

- Large group involvement WITH small group accountability.
 - It's both service & discipleship.

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~STUDY~

OK...

IDEA # 1 – WHAT ARE THE FOUNDATIONAL GIFTS:

LET’S START WITH WORKING DEFINITIONS...

- As we focus on the roles & functions behind these labels.

NOW... I HOLD THE VIEW...

- That all the gifts are valid & operational today.
 - Although, they may look a little different...
 - Then they did 2,000 years ago.

LISTEN... THE CHURCH IS STILL HERE...

- But... we look different then 2,000 years ago.
 - Yet, our essence is still the same!

- I. Apostles = A **governing gift** and describes those sent out...
 - To establish new works of ministry.

IN THE (GOSPELS)...

- The Father sent His son.
 - Jesus then sent His disciples.

IN (ACTS)...

- The Holy Spirit sent the 12 apostles.

TODAY... THE HOLY SPIRIT...

- Raises up & sends people to declare the works of God...
 - By establishing new ministries & churches.
 - They’re NOT establishing doctrine... just ministries!
- II. Prophets = This is a **guiding gift** where the word of God...
 - Is spoken by the Spirit thru an individual.
 - **It’s man with a message for the moment!**
- One that declares... who *“builds up, stirs up, & cheers up.”*
- III. Evangelists = This is a **gathering gift** (Greg Laurie / Billy Graham).

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

- Think about how God has used this gift at crusades...
 - For a mass gathering of people to get saved.

OK...

- We need to observe these next **two gifts**...
 - From a scholarly view for a moment.
 - So we don't get confused.

Pastor & teacher is one gift in the Greek.

- The sentence is structured with one article (**the**) before pastor.
 - “*The pastor(s) and teacher(s).*”
- Meaning it's an amplification of the same gift.
 - The **pastor / teacher** is to comfort & guide...
 - While instructing the church in God's ways.

DEFINITIONS:

IV. **Pastor** = A **guarding gift** that protects the flock...

- From evil intruders (wolves).
 - (Acts 20:28-31(a) NLT

V. **Teacher** = A **teaching gift**, which primarily grounds people...

- In the truths of scripture...
 - The teacher handles **abiding truths**...
 - Rather than a **specific message** like the prophet.

Jesus told Peter...

- “*Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, & feed my sheep*” (John 21).

Feed = (*boss-co*) = promoting the spiritual welfare of members in the church.

Tend = (*poy-mine-o*) = The idea is governing OR watching over.

Richard C. Trench (phi-lol-o-gy) language expert.

in the spiritual care of God's children, the "feeding" of the flock from the Word of God is the constant and regular necessity; it is to have the foremost place. The tending consists of other acts, of discipline, authority, restoration,

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

*material assistance..., but they are incidental in comparison with the "feeding."*¹

FLIP TO... (Luke 24:32) NKJV.

IDEA # 2 – APPLICATION IN MOTION:

(Eph. 4:12) NKJV

GIVES US THE WHO, WHAT, & WHY.

- The purpose of these gifts is to:
 - 1) Equipping of the saints = **the who**.
 - 2) For the work of ministry = **the what**.
 - 3) And for the edifying of the body of Christ = **the why**.

CHURCHES...

- Are primarily places... to build up the saints!
 - Who in-turn... do the work of ministry...
 - As we lead people to faith & meet needs.

AS THE CHURCH...

- We're dispatched weekly into the world...
 - To live out the weekly message we've been taught.

READ... (Eph. 4:14-15) NLT

- Personal growth happens as we apply the truths we've been given.

Example:

- Operation Andrew is an opportunity to apply what you've learned.

(v.16) NLT

"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE...

¹ Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words – Strong's Number G4165. Source link: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/Dictionary/viewTopic.cfm?topic=VT0001017>

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

- But it's also a practical reminder.

BECAUSE...

- Stunted growth happens when we forget we're...
 - We're one member in a larger body.

LISTEN... GOD GIVES THESE GIFTS TO THE BODY...

- To teach & instruct us...
 - AND then... we're to apply what we've been taught.

BUT...

- If we get out of balance...
 - It affects us individually & the body around us.

~ IN CLOSING ~

TAKE NOTE OF PRACTICALLY HINDERANCES:

SOME churches stay small because the pastor does the bulk of the work...

- AND the body never assume their position.

THEN...

- People get comfortable with someone else doing the work...
 - And they never take ownership.

ON THE OTHER HAND... some ministries have *large paid staff*...

- Because people prefer to **hire out** Gods work.
 - Rather than assume their rightful calling by serving.

SO... (Eph. 4:8) NLT

- The takeaway is... every member in the church...
 - Is to play a part by using their gift.
 - (ARE YOU?)

~ LET'S PRAY ~