

# Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

## *Session 13: The Gift of Pastor*

**Definition:** The gift of pastor is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.

- The most used title of a Christian leader today but the least used in the New Testament
- Many large church “pastors” today may actually be apostles, or even evangelists  
Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. A shepherd was a 24/7 job in those days
- The most loved Davidic Psalm, 23 describes our Good Shepherd.
- The gift of Pastor is that of assuming the role of under-Shepherd, under Jesus, caring for a part of His flock
- Every local church desperately needs caring nurturing pastors.

### **Roles of a Pastor**

#### **1. Assumes Responsibility for long term care**

- The traveling apostles, prophets, and evangelists come and go but the pastor is always there from the cradle to the grave.
- He/she is there for you at birth, baptism, marriage, funeral and everything in between.
- When you are the one who didn't get healed, your prayer wasn't answered, or your marriage fell apart your pastor is still there for you

#### **2. Provides a Healthy Balanced Diet for All**

- “Makes me lie down in green pastures”
- Pop Christian teachings are not enough, Pastors know that the whole counsel of the word must be heard
- New Christians need milk, while others need meat.
- A “generic” teaching may not be enough for everyone. A pastor will find time for one on one instruction with certain sheep.

#### **3. Are Friends and Mentors**

- “The sheep follow him, for they know his voice” (Jn. 10:4)
- A relationship of trust is formed and the pastor doesn't mind being transparent so that others may emulate him/her
- Pastors know that some aspects of the Christian lifestyle are better caught than taught.
- Pastors probably can't mentor more than about 50 people. There just isn't enough time

#### **4. Provides Comfort and Emotional Healing**

- “He restores my soul...your rod and your staff, they comfort me”
- Pastors bring hope and healing to broken marriages, struggling dysfunctional families, those in financial ruin, etc.

- When the backslider comes back he knows the pastor will welcome him with open arms.

### **5. Provides Discipline and Accountability**

- Pastors watch over the souls of those put in their charge.
- They require baby Christians to grow up
- They will lovingly confront those who live in willful unrepentant sin.
- If needed, a pastor will expose and rebuke any who bring disruption or defilement within the flock

### **6. Will War Against Spiritual Threats to the Flock**

- “Your servant has killed both lion and bear” – David, protecting his father’s flock (1 Sam.17:36)
- New believers in particular are vulnerable to false teaching.
- The enemy will send divisive ones to bring disunity.
- Pastors will pray, war, confront, and provide truth and light to keep the flock safe.

### **7. Will Equip Faithful Others to Operate In the Pastoral Gift**

- “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12)
- Pastors who refuse to equip and release others will fail to grow their flock.

### **Some Characteristics of a Budding Gift of Pastor**

- You are a people person. You probably have the gift of hospitality and mercy
- You find great fulfillment in mentoring and/or coaching others
- In a social setting you reach out to the one nobody is talking to
- You love to create a safe place for Christians to fellowship and make new friends
- You enjoy teaching the word to encourage believers

### **Pastoral Pitfalls**

- Entertaining competitive attitudes toward other flocks
- Tolerating a controlling attitude driven by pride and fear. Allowing religiosity to creep in.
- Failing to align with the other fivefold gifts and callings
- Failure to equip and release all believers to operate in their spiritual gifts.