

*Your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent.* (Jeremiah 20:9)

*The testimony of JESUS is the spirit of the prophecy.* (Revelation 19:10c)

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### **“Five Ministry–Gift Anointings” (Commentary)**

And **He gave some** as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...** (Ephesians 4:11-12 NASB [bold added])

In the last posting, [Anointing](#), I mentioned the so-called *five-fold ministry* being referred to as the *five ministry–gift anointings*. This phrase appeared online in conjunction with a prophecy about a coming revival ignited by the outpouring of the holy spirit. There is nothing new in this regard, for many have been saying this for years. But what caught my attention is the claim there would also be a revival of the ministry of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher. Really there is nothing new about this either; in some circles, this has been prophesied for years, as well. This post went on to say that with an outpouring of the holy spirit, there would be “*the full expression of Christ’s five ministry–gift anointings: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher*”, with these anointed “*working together*” “*multiplying power and effectiveness*”, as the Lord “*intended for them*” to do.

[The *five-fold ministry* is an awkward expression to keep repeating, so I’ll refer to it as the *FMGA*. By the way; this is the first time I’ve seen this expression used in place of the five-fold ministry.]

Again, prophecies along this line are nothing new: for years, certain groups have been proclaiming that a restoration of the so-called *five-fold ministry* is coming and, when it does, revival will break out. In this light, the above quotes raise three red flags: adding “anointings” to FMG, as if anointing is a special gift; stressing that the FMGA will be “multiplying power and effectiveness” by working together, vesting the power of God in the group; and stating this is the way the Lord intended it to be, as if to make sure the program goes on without challenge. Generally, ones prophesying this see themselves already possessing one of the five giftings, especially the apostle and the prophet, as if their place on the stage is guaranteed; in time, they will be recognized as the anointed by many faithful followers. Whether they mean to or not, this implies that revival is dependent on them and this requires a special anointing.

As I see it, including “anointings” in the FMGA expression elevates the ones with the so-called *anointings* to an official, titled, authority position over the body of Christ. What comes to mind is the aura of “**touch not the anointed**”, as if the Lord’s people are to

embrace them as something special. This is reinforced by stating that what is coming is a multiplying of the FMGA’s *power and effectiveness*. It places the power of God in a select few, as they become the center and controlling power of all that is going on. They get the stage! I’ve personally witnessed this and have seen how easily people are persuaded by it, which makes me particularly sensitive to its danger. What I’ve observed is the flesh in operation. Who do you think gets the glory when the flesh is lifted up?

It’s not much different from what has transpired across the globe since 2020 as people have unquestioningly acquiesced to power and authority. Look at the mess this has brought upon the human race. How many Christians have followed the acquiescent crowd, being no different from the rest? This same acquiescent spirit of the world has infiltrated the [nominal church](#) and, if left to the flesh, the FMGA, as I’ve described, will take full advantage of it. However, to be clear, this is not to imply that all gifted this way are like this—this is simply highlighting the dangers that have manifested over the years.

It’s the same old elevation of a select few above the many in what could be called **platform ministry**. Like a stage (euphemistically so) coming up out of an orchestra pit, the platform rises up and up until it is elevated above the adoring audience that awaits with tickling ears to hear what great things will be imparted to them. The crowd is not disappointed, for they are worked up into an exuberant, emotional, soulful response as they feel the power exuding from the platform. They have been trained well; they look to the ones on the stage, for the performers are the anointed and they are not.

Obviously, this is an exaggeration to make a point: there is a danger of these giftings being elevated over the body of Christ, as if this is where the anointing must reside, which it doesn’t. Read 1 John 2:18-27 and, of course, my last posting.

May the Lord open the eyes of those who have fallen into this trap. To be clear, none of this is meant to impugn the character or intent of any spirit-led brethren with a true calling from the Lord as one of the five gifts.

The problem is that the Lord’s people, in general, have not been taught by the five-fold ministry types that the entire body of Christ has the anointing within them; no one is excluded and no one has sole title to it. **What has not been taught by the stage performers is that all the Lord’s people must grow in the spirit of the truth in such a way that the anointing becomes very much like breathing—all are to live by it, not just the few.**

Instead, people have been trained that the anointing is uniquely special, generally recognized by certain characteristics, such as powerful oration or other very public giftings, like healing or “thus says the Lord” prophecy; often mistaking empowerment (to do something that might be special) for anointing. Consequently, giftings become divided

along the lines of greater and lesser, with the greater ones reserved for the anointed and the lesser ones for the “laity” (think Nicolaitans). Knowing how pervasive the flesh can be, some of the five-fold ministry crowd want it this way, for it preserves their exalted position within the sphere of conferences, talk shows, and other venues, even revivals. It appeals to their flesh. Again, this is not about any one individual or ministry. It is about the danger to the body of Christ when men and women, particularly of ministry “platform” fame, take upon themselves the anointing to the exclusion of the rest of the body, thus elevating the anointing to a stage performance that may not be of the spirit. **The most serious danger comes when the anointing becomes about them.**

It is hard to imagine John, the apostle of love, taking the platform as an anointed one to the exclusion of others. If anything, more than likely, he would have sat among the brethren as one of them, not one elevated above them. Imagine John sitting among his beloved “little children”, encouraging them on in the faith of the Son of God’s love and entrusting them to the anointing that resided within them. Wonder how many times he told his children that God loves them and to abide in His love and anointing.

*As for working together in power and effectiveness, consider Paul, the striving apostle, and how powerful and effective he was (and still is to this day); yet, at the end of his journey, he was nearly alone, as most had abandoned him. This apostle, who died daily for the ekklesia, was not one to selfishly grandstand his calling (i.e., not a platform performer) and was willing to go it alone if the Lord led him to do so. **His sole mission was to lift up and reveal the resurrected Messiah and to lay down his life for the building up of the body of Christ in love.** Without doubt, Paul would also be in the crowd among the brethren, rejoicing with them over their growth in the Lord, being built up together.*

For who is our expectation, or joy, or wreath of glorying? Or is it not even you, in front of our Lord Jesus, in His presence? For you are our glory and joy. (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 CLV)

So that death is operating in us, yet life in you. Now having the same spirit of faith, in accord with what is written, “I believe, wherefore I speak also, we also are believing, wherefore we are speaking also, being aware that He Who rouses the Lord Jesus will be rousing us also, through Jesus, and will be presenting us together with you.” (2 Corinthians 4:12-14 CLV)

Paul’s heart was to die daily, so that the brethren would be alive in Christ and he would see the brethren standing in the presence of the Lord.

(It is true that, at times, Paul was forced to defend his apostleship before those standing against him, but he knew without a shadow of doubt that he was commissioned directly

by the Lord Himself to complete the word of God. Paul had to finish the race he was given, and he determined nothing would stop him from doing so. Paul never defended his right to a platform; **he defended the calling to proclaim the resurrected Messiah and the whole counsel of God, and in so doing, do his part to equip the body to build itself up in love.)**

The laid-down life of John, Paul, and others is the standard by which to discern whether a gifting is of the Lord and being led by His spirit. Of course, Jesus’ life is the ultimate standard. **Anything or anybody that exalts men over the Lord Jesus is to be rejected.**

As I have been told—I believe, by the Lord—the façade of religion is coming down and the Lord is not in these exalted platform ministries. Many have taken what is meant to be life and made it into form; men and women have been lifted up and exalted, not Christ; man-centered ministries have been driven by the soul, rather than Christ-centered and driven by the spirit of the Lord; what is hailed as the anointing is often no more than an emotionally-driven manifestation of the soul; the few that call themselves *faith leaders* (or: FMGA) exalt themselves as the anointed and suppress **the fact that the entire body of Christ is the anointed**; and these exalted ones take on an air of headship over the people, thus usurping the Headship of Christ.

Those gifted in one of these five ways are best not seen as some top tier of a hierarchical structure, especially if they claim to be the anointed faith leaders. There is only one Head of the ekklesia—King Jesus. There is only one faith and it comes from the Author and Perfecter of *the* faith. There is only one leader of *the* faith—the one whose faith we are given to believe in Him and *the* faith we are to live by. **If Jesus Christ is the Anointed One, and His body is [the Christ](#), then what does this say about His body? It is Anointed!** Not a select few but the entire body is of the same constitution as its Head. Each member of the body has an anointing and, collectively, **the body united with its Head is the Anointed One.**

The good news is that the Lord is stripping away all that is not of His life and bringing more and more of His people into [the Reality](#) of [who He is](#) and [who they are in Him](#). An anointed, united body is rising up, not from the platforms but from what has been the audience. This is the way it was always intended to be. See: [Open Heaven - The Anointing](#).

In a subsequent piece, I will take up Paul’s insight into the purpose for the five giftings given to some by the Lord. In this, we will see that those gifted in this way are simply tools of the Lord Jesus to achieve His Father’s ultimate purpose, meaning they are not the center of it; they are simply part of it so that in the end no one, no matter the gifting or perceived measure of anointing, will have a boast in themselves. We’re all in this together, and all the glory will go to God and His Son. This is where the true power and effectiveness reside.

As Paul says: **Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.**