

God's Calling Requirements
Part 40
The Five Fold Ministry

“11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”
(Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV)

The gift of Jesus to His church when He ascended up, ***he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*** These five spiritual gifts had great impact on the life of the church. The following is brief description for each one of them:

- A- Apostles: Are the Apostles of Jesus who laid the foundation of the New Testament church. The current disciples, who are we, continue to lay the foundation of the church, are not apostles but are doing and continuing the apostles' ministry.
- B- Prophets: Who declare the whole will of God and what is going to happen to those who obey and to those who disobey.
- C- Evangelist: Who bring the message of salvation to those who did not yet hear the message about Jesus and exhort them to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, and His work on the cross as the only way to be saved.
- D- Pastors: Who lead the sheep, feeding the flock and make them to go through green pasture and guide them in their life and protect them and bring them away from dangers.
- E- Teachers: Who precisely gives the meaning and the application of God's Word in the Holy Bible.

Now we need to take these five gifts and make them fit and applicable in the life of the church. The church composed of members who interact with one another. And the smallest possible unit in the church who interact with one another is the family. And from this point of view the family would have these five spiritual gifts and implement them in their family life.

- A- Apostles: The family, in particular the parents with the help of the church that they are part of will implement the foundation of the apostles in their family
- B- Prophets: The parents will function as prophets to declare to their children the whole will of God. To their obedient children they will declare to them prosperity and good future, but to their disobedient children they will declare failure and deterioration unless they will repent.
- C- Evangelist: The parents will function as evangelists to declare the message of salvation to their children who did not yet hear the message about Jesus and exhort

them to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and His work on the cross as the only way for them to be saved.

- D- Pastors: The parents will lead their children into green pasture, feeding them daily with the Word of God through daily bible reading inside the family, and making them go through green pasture by guiding them in their life and protect them and bring them away from dangers.
- E- Teachers: Parents with the help of the church, should precisely gives to their children the meaning and the application of God's Word in the Holy Bible. They should be strict to their children and discipline them so that God's Word in full will be applied in their lives.

The family is the place that the spiritual gifts will operate to raise up Godly generation and make new disciples of the children, to be the future servant of God. Parents and grandparents, uncles and aunties should work together for one mission and in one direction to raise up Godly children, and the church should continually impact each and every family and remind them of the calling that God had placed in their lives to raise up Godly generation. The fruitful experience of each and every member of the family with God should be employed for that purpose.

From the book of Ruth we will look into some application of the message in order to make it easy for you to grasp, digest and apply.

The family of Elimelech with his wife Naomi left Bethlehem with his two sons and went to Moab because of famine in the land of Bethlehem. But we know that this was his own decision and not God's. However, Elimelech died, and there his two sons got married to two Moabites women, Mahlon to Ruth and Chilion to Orpah. After ten years in Moab Mahlon and Chilion died and without children. Naomi left with her two daughters in law Orpah and Ruth, as we can read in Ruth 1:1-5. ***“1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. 2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. 3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. 4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. 5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.”*** (Ruth 1:1-5 KJV)

Naomi decided to go to Bethlehem after she heard that God had come to give bread to His people. ***“6 Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread. 7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.”*** (Ruth 1:6-7 KJV)

At the Road toward Bethlehem Naomi preached this sermon to Orpah and Ruth, and in her sermon she declared to them the following:-

“8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. 9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. 10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. 11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; 13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. 14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. 15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. 16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. 18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.” (Ruth 1:8-18 KJV)

Naomi had already experienced the consequences of disobedience and learned her lesson of what are the bad effects of moving away from God, and the consequences of doing her own will. In her sermon she preached wisely, and she said that she had nothing to offer to her two daughters in law. Her purpose of that was to filter out their wrong motive of following her; that they should not go along with her expecting to get something. She was pushing them away from her to see who is among them is of God. The same of what Jesus did to His disciples to find out those who belong to Him, wHim and find it difficult to follow Him. Let us read in **John 6:66-69: “66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” (John 6:66-69 KJV)** Peter here spoke on behalf of himself and the rest of the apostles affirmed their commitment to Christ. But Christ also declared that there is one among them devil, as we can read: **“70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.” (John 6:70-71 KJV)**

Naomi after her sermon, Ruth remained with her and insisted of not to leave her unless death separate between them, **“16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.” (Ruth 1:16-17 KJV)** Ruth was not a believer but the law of God was written in her heart, **“14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another; 16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.” (Romans 2:14-16 KJV)** In addition to that,

on that meeting after the preaching of Naomi, Ruth she declared and said to Naomi, **“thy God my God.” (Ruth 1:16 KJV)** Ruth after that sermon she received God as the Lord over her life.

The law of God that was in the heart of Ruth compelled her not to leave her mother in law was **“3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.” (1 Timothy 5:3-4 KJV)** Ruth she knew by God that she cannot leave her mother in law because she is old widow and without children, therefore she need to stay beside her and even to provide for her, **“If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.” (1 Timothy 5:16 KJV)**

The meaning of Ruth is friendship. Friend in need is a friend indeed. Truly when they reached Bethlehem Ruth found a work in the field of Boaz to provide for her and for her mother in law, **“22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field. 23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.” (Ruth 2:22-23 KJV)**

The meaning of Naomi is delight, and she finally learned how to delight herself in the Lord who will give her her heart desire. When Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem God gave her Ruth who was better than seven sons **“15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.” (Ruth 4:15 KJV)** The meaning of Bethlehem is the house of bread, and when we decide to go back to God and to His church and to delight ourselves in His Word and in His will, the Lord shall give us our heart desire, **“Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” (Psalm 37:4 KJV)**

Naomi who received care from Ruth, in return she cared for her daughter in law whom she was also a widow, as well as Naomi in obedience to the law of God and the will of God to restore the family line she moved to find a home and to build a family for Ruth: **“1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? 2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. 3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. 4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. 5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. 6 And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. 8 And it came to pass at midnight*, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. 9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.” (Ruth 3:1-9 KJV)** Through the obedience of the two women, Naomi and Ruth, the Lord hastened the restoration of the family line of Elimelech. The meaning of Elimelech is “My God is king.” God truly is King over the life of

His people and He knows how to deal with them when they do their own. But he restores them when they repent and come back to Him.

In this restoration process, the Lord used another Godly man. He used Boaz the owner of the field that Ruth was working. The meaning of Boaz is “fleetness,” and other meaning of it is rapidity, quickness, or fastness. He was a diligent man who obeyed God steadfastly.

Ruth was faithful to her mother in law and was keen not to leave Naomi but to care for her. Therefore God was rapid to reward her. **When we are faithful God shall reward us. But when we are smart to escape our responsibilities and not to do our part, God’s blessings will be far away from us.**

Boaz when Ruth approached him with the matter he promised her good and sent her to Naomi with blessings. Ruth went to her mother in law and reported to her what had happened. In return of what she heard, this what Naomi said, “18 *Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.*” (Ruth 3:18 KJV) Boaz did exactly what God wanted him to do; he bought the land and marries Ruth, the widow of Mahlon.

The meaning of Mahlon is sick. Sickness will come to us when we move away from God. But when we repent no sickness shall hinder the plan of God. The meaning Chilion is “longing” or “yearning”. When we move away from God our longing will not fulfilled until we come back to Him. God truly satisfied the longing of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz, to have and to be in a Godly family. “13 *So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.* 14 *And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.* 15 **And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.** 16 *And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.* 17 *And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; **and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.***” (Ruth 4:13-17 KJV)

Obed should be raised in the fear of God and to serve the Lord. The meaning of Obed is “Serving.” As we start to serve the Lord our life shall be restored to the original and the great plan that God had for us.

Therefore, all our children should be serving the Lord and taking part to the plan of God that He has for them.

Now, Going back to the five spiritual gifts that we discussed previously earlier, those who will be responsible to prepare and train Obed, “*for the work of the ministry,*” (Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV) are Boaz, Ruth, Naomi. Three of them had great experience that would be imparted to Obed and would mold him to be God’s servant.

1. His mother, Ruth, can be the first one to tell him about God, evangelizing him with God’s Word and commands.

2. His father, Boaz, is the pastor of the child, leading him, feeding him daily with God’s Word, providing his needs and guiding him. Boaz is also the teacher who is firm and stern with him to correct him and discipline him.
3. His grandmother, Naomi, with her painful experience of going away from the will of God and the suffering she exposed to can be a prophet to the child, foretelling him the future that God had a good plan for him, and he need to obey God so that God’s plan with come true. Naomi can forth-tell to Obed and speak forth the words of God and warn him for his benefit when he disobey to put him back into the will of God.
4. His church, that his family is part of will back them and help them to lay the foundation of the apostles inside the family.

My dear and beloved: Let us be more serious in caring for ourselves and for our families and the children that God had entrusted to us to raise them up in the fear of the Lord, and to be His servant in the future. Let us be humble down before God and use the spiritual gifts that He gave us to care for our families and our children in the proper way, “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” (Ephesians 4:13 KJV) We ought to watch over our families and children and to protect them from the hands of the enemies who are trying to pull them out of the way, “*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*” (Ephesians 4:14 KJV) We, as a Church of God, should care and look after each and every family in our congregations, and to be sure that the apostle foundation are applied in each family, “15 *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:* 16 *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*” (Ephesians 4:15-16 KJV) Therefore let us commit ourselves to the principles of this message as we pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that showed me clearly of how to use the spiritual gifts that you had given me and to your church to apply in my life and in the life of my family. Lord I commit myself to apply the principles that I learned in this message in my ministry to serve you in a better and more effective way. Lord protects me and provides for me, so I can continue to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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