

2 Minute Intro

The 5 gifts of Jesus are given for 4 reasons: 1) Equip saints for works of ministry (v12). 2) Build the body of Christ (v12). 3) Mature believers in unity of faith, knowing Jesus, and spiritual growth (13-15). 4) The Body to grow itself as each member develops a proper understanding of their gifts and serves in their role

Apostles – “Sent One” / “One who is sent with a message”

- There are more than 12 apostles – Luke 9:1, “He called ... He sent ...” – Luke 9:10 appointed 70 others
- You can be sent with a message to Education, Medicine, Law, Justice, Biz, Athletics, Research, your passion

Main Characteristics of Apostles

1. **What they do:** extend the Gospel, plant churches, ensure the faith is transmitted from one context to another and from one generation to the next. They are always pushing into new territory, thinking about the future, breaking barriers, establishing the church in new contexts, developing leaders, networking, coming up with new and innovative ways to do Kingdom work. They have the capacity to connect and influence different locations and people at the same time.
2. **Keywords:** Visionary, new initiatives, pioneering, expansion, future, development, networking, innovation
3. **Main interests:** dreaming, new and challenging tasks, starting new things, expanding (the Kingdom)
4. **Bible examples:** Peter, John, Paul, Priscilla & Aquilla
5. **World examples:** entrepreneurs, explorers, church planters, business starters/expansionists
6. **Core question:** What are the opportunities to take the Gospel into unreached areas
7. **Shadows of Immature Apostles:** Bulldozer: can leave people and places wounded by only focusing on establishing and expanding. Risk-taker: welcome change and risk more than most. Runner: can run too fast or too far ahead, leaving the flock behind or a mess that needs to be cleaned up. Trouble discerning which ideas are from God and which ones are more personal. A constant flow of ideas can cause them to try new things too often, never developing plans and jumping from one thing to another. People can have a hard time following because it's difficult to stay focused on the task at hand, or they simply won't give their time and energy to something they know can change any moment.
8. **What they need from the other gifts:** pastors and teachers can ensure people are cared for and disciplined rather than used or drug along behind the boat. Prophets are needed to ensure the apostle and the church is hearing from God and we're not acting in our own strength. Evangelists are needed to remind that expanding into new territory begins with sharing the Gospel with individuals and inviting them to respond. An apostle can be so focused on the big picture that he forgets about individual souls.

Your Message is for the People God Sends You to

The best person to help a human trafficking victim is a human trafficking survivor – your life is your message
Some of you have been through terrible pain & personal struggles – God may send you to someone and use it