



**The Five Ministry Gifts  
Lesson 2: The Pastor**

## **1. Introduction**

### **Ephesians 4:8-16**

In today's culture, the pastor is expected to be an all-round one-man ministry and relate to everyone on every level and every leader in every department of the church.

The result of this is that numerous pastors break down under pressure.

The denominational concept of a pastor is that he is responsible for the total flock under his care, and that the burden of the church is on his shoulders.

However, God's pattern is that the pastor is simply one of the five ministry gifts that work together to oversee the church.

There must be a distinct call to be a shepherd of God's people. Without a definite call of God, no person could handle pastoral ministry.

## **2. What is a pastor?**

A pastor is a shepherd. He exercises oversight of the flock of God. The concept of the Shepherd is one of the oldest in the Bible.

Jesus is the Great Shepherd. He every pastor's example.

Definition of SHEPHERD:

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- A person who cares for and protects the sheep
- A spiritual guide, friend, or companion.

### 3. The Bible tells us what a shepherd did.

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#### **Ezekiel 34:11**

A lot of people think a pastor should just be taking care of the people in his church. However, evangelism is a pastor's job!

#### **Ezekiel 34:12**

A pastor brings deliverance to sheep in captivity (through the Word and the anointing of the office)

#### **Ezekiel 34:13, 14**

A pastor gathers the dispersed sheep.

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#### **Ezekiel 34:15**

- The shepherd gives rest to the weary sheep.

#### **Ezekiel 34:16**

A pastor binds up the hurting sheep and brings strength to the weak sheep.

- The shepherd restores the soul of the tired sheep.

#### **Psalms 23:2, 3**

The local church is where your soul prospers.

#### **3 John 2**

A lot of Christians want to prosper, but they do not want the pastor to work on their soul.

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#### **Psalms 23:3**

Not only does a pastor feed his sheep. He leads them.

Most people come for feeding time (when the pastor preaches), but they do not want to be led by the pastor.

But the pastor plays a role in our lives between meals!

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A pastor has the responsibility to teach the sheep how to walk in righteousness, holiness, and godly character.

- A shepherd feeds the sheep and anoints the sheep

#### **Psalm 23:4, 5**

All these benefits come out of relationship. There is only one place this can happen – the local church.

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#### **4. The shepherd's equipment**

##### **Psalm 23:4**

- A rod or club

This was usually made of oak two to three feet long with a knob on one end about the size of an orange and a loop attached to the other end which enabled him to put it over his arm for carrying.

It was used on enemies and predators, but never on sheep.

It was a symbol of authority.

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The staff was about six feet long and generally made of peeled vine branch. It was used for climbing, walking, slashing twigs and leaves, rescuing sheep fallen into a pit, and for staffing lingering or fighting goats.

You must allow your Pastor to use his staff.

He does this with the Word of God and counsel.

- A bag

The shepherd's bag was made of leather, wool, rushes, hair, or sinews with a middle piece to hold the stone to be flung out.

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The sling was used by shepherds to keep wild beasts away from the flock and to keep sheep from straying.

Stones could be thrown that could pierce a helmet or shield. Men of Israel could fling stones at a hair breadth and not miss.

This includes rebuke and correction. (Can hurt a bit but won't kill you.)

### **5. A pastor (shepherd) has many roles.**

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A shepherd would watch over his flock by building an observation tower.

He searched for predators (i.e. wolves).

**Acts 20:28-31**

**1 Corinthians 16:13**

**1 Thessalonians 5:6**

**Hebrews 13:17**

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Sheep are one of the only animals that depend, almost entirely, on a human protector.

Not only do outside enemies come in, but sheep can also wander into trouble on their own.

A pastor is a protector and defender of the sheep in his care.

He has compassion for the sheep.

**Matthew 9:36**

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Sheep, in the natural, have no sense of direction.

A pastor guides his sheep.

**Psalms 23:2**

Sheep love to be led by their shepherd.

- A physician

A pastor brings healing physically, emotionally, mentally, and in every area by the Word of God and by the anointing.

- An equipper

### **Ephesians 4:11, 12**

If you are allowing the pastor to do his job – you will find yourself working somewhere in the ministry.

Your pastor's job is not to do all the ministry himself. He is to equip you to do the work of the ministry.

Part of a pastor's gift is helping to get you into your place in the Body of Christ so you can work for Jesus!

The word EQUIPPING is taken from a root word which means:

- To complete thoroughly

Your pastor is anointed by God to complete you.

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Whatever you do for God should be connected to the Body of Christ.

God wants to fit you and join you together with others so that you can be effective for him. Your pastor is a part of that process.

- To mend and restore

Do you need healing and restoration? – There is no better place to receive that than in a local church with a pastor who you allow God to use in your life.

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If we are going to do something for God, we must be prepared. Your pastor has a gift that prepares you for God's plan for your life.

It is one thing to be called and anointed, It is another thing to be prepared. That only comes through discipleship.

- A wool cutter

If the wool on a sheep goes uncut it will:

- Grow long and blind the sheep.
- He will run into predators, thickets, and pits.
- Uncut wool becomes heavy and slows him down to become easy prey.

This kind of Christian is someone who wants to keep all their blessings for their own enjoyment – money, time, talents, etc.

This kind of Christian does not want to be pruned.

### **John 15:2**

God intends for His sheep to be blessed and grow fruit! You must allow yourself to be pruned.

Definition of PRUNE: \_\_\_\_\_

You are pruned so that you will bear more fruit!

Allow yourself to go through the pruning process. More fruit is in your future!

If your pastor is a part of that process, that means the way your are living is your pastor's business.

Sin in your life is your pastor's business.

He is anointed to help you get cleansed.

### **5. John chapter ten**

John chapter ten describes the ministry of the pastor in a parable told by Jesus.

This chapter describes the pastor's heart, which must be the heart of a shepherd.

### **John 10:1, 2**

- Jesus is the door of the sheepfold.

He is the only entrance into the body of Christ

Just like Noah's Ark had one door and here was the door of the Passover lamb, there is also the door of the sheepfold.

One door, one way, one Savior.

- A pastor recognizes that he is an under shepherd. He is responsible and accountable to the chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
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This quality enables the pastor to have a closer relationship to the sheep than the other four ministry gifts.

### **Ezekiel 3:15**

A pastor will be sensitive to the sheep. He sits where they sit and identifies with them.

### **John 10:3**

- The doorkeeper would open the door for true shepherds to allow them to get to their flocks. This is a type of the Holy Spirit.
- A pastor will be one whose voice the sheep recognize. There will be an inner sense that he has the voice of the spirit in him.
- A pastor will call his sheep by name. Personal contact is his delight.
- A pastor will lead the sheep into fresh pastures of the Word of God, giving them fresh revelation.

### **John 10:4**

- A pastor will go before the sheep as a leader, and the sheep are happy to follow him, knowing that he will not lead them astray.

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### **1 Peter 5:3**

### **John 10:5-9**

- Again, we see that Jesus is the door – the only way into the sheepfold.

### **John 10:10**

- Although we use this verse to describe the difference between the devil and Jesus, the thief refers to a hireling or false shepherd.

### **John 10:11**

**John 10:14-16**

- Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd.
- A pastor will be willing to lay down his life for the protection of the sheep.
- The “other sheep” is speaking about those who are not born again. It remains the pastor’s responsibility to bring them into the sheepfold.

Definition of SHEEPFOLD: In the Greek this means one flock. This refers to the Body of Christ. We are one Body and one church.

**John 10:12, 13**

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A hireling is one who is paid to do a job. He has no real heart or call for the sheep. It is just a job for him that he gets paid for. He will flee when the wolf comes. He will desert the sheep.

**1 Peter 5:2**

This was mentioned in Paul’s list of qualifications for elders.

**1 Timothy 3:3****John 10:17, 18**

- God the Father is the owner of the sheep. He gave his sheep to his Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

**John 10:29****6. Recognizing your gift****Ephesians 4:11, 12**

Although all five ministry gifts are given by God to equip the believer for ministry, because of the nature of the pastor’s gift, the sheep are more known to him.

The pastor is called by God to identify the gifts in believers and help them to mature in those gifts so that they are ready to be launched into ministry.

Not only are the gifts within a believer recognized, the believer’s character, maturity, and willingness to serve are noticed by the pastor more than the other ministry gifts.