

YOU ARE CALLED

by Andre Vorster

Shalom, today I want to delve into the subject that says, "You Are Called", called to what well into the five-fold ministry just as Jesus was. Jesus never attended a Bible School, seminary, although scripture confirms that He spent much time debating and speaking to the elders in the synagogues. Well you may and truly say that Jesus was called by the Father as scripture will confirm:

> *"…how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him."* **Eph 10: 38 BSB**

Jesus, himself confirmed this when he stood up and read from the scroll from Isaiah:

> *"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* **Luke 4: 18-19 BSB**

Yes there are certain people who have been called by God into one or two of the offices that God has ordained, I said one or two, because often the pastor and teacher are combined, and many would say they are the same, but that can't be because distinct reference is made to them and they form part of the five-fold ministry, if they were combined it would be a four-fold ministry.

So then what is the five-fold ministry, let us look at Ephesians 4 verses 11 to 13 and I'm reading from the Amplified Bible:

> *"And [His gifts to the church were varied and] He Himself appointed some as apostles [special messengers, representatives], some as prophets [who speak a new message from God to the people], some as evangelists [who spread the good news of salvation], and some as pastors and teachers [to shepherd and guide and instruct], [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God's people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church]; until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, [growing spiritually] to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ [manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity]."* **Eph 4: 11-13 AMP**

This passage not only defines the calling of each of the ministries, but also clearly states that it for the equipping of the believers until we mature and become one with God's purpose. To get a clearer understanding of each office I will discuss the role from a Hebrew perspective and show how Jesus fulfilled each one of them.

The first office mentioned is that of an apostle, the Hebrew word for ‘apostle’ is shaliach (שָׁלִיחַ), which translates to "messenger," "envoy," or "authorized representative". Rooted in Jewish law, a shaliach acts with the full authority of the person who sent them, embodying the principle that "the one whom a man sends is the equivalent of himself".

We have already confirmed this with calling on the life of Jesus with Ephesians 10 verse 13, but Jesus himself confirms this when he said:

> *“So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing on My own, but speak exactly what the Father has taught Me. He who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, because I always do what pleases Him.”* **John 8: 28-29**
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> *“I and the Father are one.”* **John 10: 30**

Just from these two scriptures Jesus fulfils the role of an apostle in that He has been sent by the Father and that He is one with the Father. There many more scriptures that confirm this read for example when Jesus prayed for His disciples **John 17: 21-23**

The next office of the five-fold ministry is that of the prophet. In Hebrew word for prophet is navi (נָבִיא), commonly meaning "spokesperson," "speaker," or "proclaimer", it implies "to call" or "to announce" messages from God. A navi is understood to be the "mouth" of God, bubbling forth divine words, rather than just one who predicts the future.

Did Jesus fulfil this, without a doubt he did in all aspects of the above definition of a prophet:

John 14: 9-11

> *“Jesus replied, “Philip, I have been with you all this time, and still you do not know Me? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? / Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?* ***The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own. Instead, it is the Father dwelling in Me, performing His works.*** */ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me—or at least believe on account of the works themselves.”*

You just need to read the Book of Revelations to further confirm this where Jesus speaks many encouraging words as well as predicting the future.

Jesus brought the good news and this relates to the third office as an evangelist in Hebrew an evangelist is referred to as mevaser (מְבַשֵּׂר), meaning "a bringer of good news" or "herald", 52:7), it refers to a messenger who proclaims joyful news, typically regarding salvation, peace, or victory.

> *And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”* **Romans 10: 15**
>
> *“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed,”* **Luke 4:18**
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> *“He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.”* **Eph 2: 17**

Jesus surely fulfilled this office by being a bearer of good news.

Now we come to the pastor and in Hebrew, the word for pastor is ra'ah (רעה), which literally means "shepherd" or "one who tends a flock". The term reflects a pastoral role of guidance and nurturing, with the spiritual implication of feeding the congregation (the flock) with the Word of God.

There can be no doubt that Jesus fulfilled this office as He is the great and chief shepherd:

> *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."* **John 10: 11**
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> *"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,"* **Heb 13: 20**
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> *"For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."* **1 Pet 2: 25**

Finally, we come to the office of a teacher, there are two different words used for teacher in hebrew the first and most common one being moreh, which means to instruct or shoot/aim, implying a teacher "aims" knowledge or points the way for the student.

The other word is "Rabbi" and literally means "my master" or "my teacher". It is derived from the Hebrew word rav (רב), meaning "great," "master," or "teacher," it is a title of respect used for scholars who teach Torah and Jewish law.

Now we know Jesus was addressed as both 'master' and 'rabbi' and that he pointed the way for the disciples, spending time with them after ministering to the crowds expanding on the word.

> *"One day an expert in the law stood up to test Him. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* **Luke 10: 25**
>
> *"He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs You are doing if God were not with him."* **John 3: 2**

Depending on which translation you are using the word 'teacher' in Luke 10: 25 can be translated as 'master'. There are numerous scriptures where Jesus is addressed as master or teacher, I'm listing but two of them.

Now that we have finished a lesson in Hebrew you may well ask how does this fit in with you are called?

I believe that every believer is called into the five-fold ministry, not into the office of an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher, but none the less into the five-fold ministry so again let us look at scripture in this regard and I will start off by looking at the great commission where Jesus commanded us as believers or disciples to:

> *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be made well."* **Mark 16: 15-18**

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **Matt 28: 18-20**

As a disciple, which every believer should be for a disciple that is an "apprentice" or "learner" but is not just that, he or she is fully committed to Jesus and follows Him closely to learn, mimic His actions, and strives to become like Him. So when Jesus say; "GO" it is a command and means that we are sent under His name and with His authority.

This means that you as a believer being sent takes on the role of an apostle. You are one who has been sent.

"Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so also I am sending you." **John 20:21**

> *"All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God...."* **1 Cor 5: 18-20**

As ambassadors for Christ here on earth, we as believers are to fulfil the calling and be representatives of Christ in a fallen world, that means we should also function in the role of the five-fold ministry. Jesus said in Matthew 28 *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go..."* We do not go under our own power but under His authority and name because he has committed us to the message of reconciliation.

Here is how you as a believer have been called to fulfil your role in the five-fold ministry.

1. An apostle we saw earlier is defined as: *special messengers, representatives and as an ambassador,* that is exactly what we are, we are Christ's representatives here on earth and He has anointed us for this purpose.

2. A prophet is defined as: *someone who speaks a new message from God to the people*. Paul when speaking about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit has this to say:

   > *"so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another. We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one's gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith;* **Rom12: 5-6**
   >
   > *"I wish that all of you could speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may be edified. Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?* **1 Cor 12: 5-6**

   This is to edify the Body of Christ.

3. An evangelist is defined as: *someone who spreads the good news of salvation,* is that not part of the commission we are give in Mark 16 *"Go into all the world* ***and preach the gospel*** *to every creature…"* So as a believer we are called to be an evangelist and spread the good news (gospel).

4. A pastor is defined as: *someone who shepherds the flock*, **1 Pet 5: 1-3**

   > *"As a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings, and a partaker of the glory to be revealed, I appeal to the elders among you:* ***Be shepherds of God's flock*** *that is among you, watching over them not out of compulsion, but because it is God's will; not out of greed, but out of eagerness; 3not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock…."*

   As witnesses (believers) we are instructed to be shepherds of God's flock, the last verse says we are to be "examples to the flock"

5. A teacher is defined as: *someone who guides and instructs,* Jesus in Matt 28 commands us to "*teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you."*

   As a believer we ought to sharing and witnessing what God has done in our lives and through that we will be instructing and teaching, more that that we will be encouraging others in a closer walk with God.

We have been entrusted to fulfil God's desire that should not be lost and in so doing God has equipped us to fulfil that role so as a believer know that "YOU ARE CALLED" to go into all the world, to preach the gospel and to make disciples of all nations, teaching them all that Jesus taught so that not one should be lost but that all can be saved.