

Appointed and Sent for Ministry

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Fulfilling the Great Commission

Mt.28:18-20 – We are to spread the Good News

- This is the ministry that Jesus delegated to his followers

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- Even Jesus depended on the Holy Spirit – **Act.10:38**
- We also need to operate by the power of the Holy Spirit – **Act.1:8**

The Call of Every Believer

- **Mt.20:14** - Many are Called (=Invited) – Few are Chosen (=selected)
 - Not an elitist Christianity – God picking on a whim some and leaving others
 - God has no preference – **Act.10:34**
 - Parable of the marriage feast – **Mt.22:1-14**
 - All were invited in
 - The choosing is based on the garment (behavior) we wear
 - We need to respond to the call and repent or change our mind

Each Believer Is Unique

- Different Gifts – Given by God according to the place and role that He has planned for you -
- Different Development Level – According to your decisions, commitment and experience
 - These characteristics should determine your position/responsibility in the body

Appointing and Sending for specific tasks

- is based on these characteristics, not academic degrees that may reflect information and not maturity and wisdom

Ordaining - Sending Forth in the Ministry – Act.13:3

New Testament Examples

- **Act.13:1-4** – Paul and Barnabas SENT OUT as apostles BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - STARTED WITH AND BASED ON PRAYER, FASTING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS
 - WHICH I HAVE CALLED = Indication that God had already talked to them
 - A public recognition by church leaders
 - Impartation of gifts for appointed task: wisdom, grace, authority and power
- **Act.14:26-27** –
 - We are COMMENDED or GIVEN OVER to the GRACE OF GOD for special work – They could trust God
 - They completed the work
 - ✦ GOD'S CALLINGS ARE GOD'S ENABLINGS
 - God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles to prepare their heart

Ordaining - Appointing of Elders and Deacons

- **ELDERS**
 - Some confusion and tradition
 - **Act.20:17 and 28** refer to the same people (Also in **Tit.1:5 & 7, 1Pet.5:1-2**)
 - V.17 - ELDERS – presbiteros =
 - V.28 - BISHOPS – episkopos = Overseers
 - Elders are overseers
 - PROCESS: Fasting and praying and laying on of hands
 - QUALIFICATIONS: Holy Spirit direction
 - The focus is on function not titles
 - People give importance to titles because they assign a value to them –
 - ✦ This is of the flesh
 - Same people in **Act.13:1** Prophets and Teachers –and in **14:4** – Apostles
 - **1The1:1 & 2:6**
 - APOSTLE – someone sent for a specific purpose
- **DEACONS** = Servants, administration – to minister to the material needs of the congregation

- **Act.6:1-6** – The Selection Process
 - Appointment to operational and administrative office in the church (deacon)
- Gifts to the Church –
- **1Cor.12:27-31** – A Body with different members determined by God
 - **Eph.4:7-11-15** - Jesus' gifts to the church
 - GRACE = charis = delegation of power
 - GIFT = dore-ha = gratuity, something that is free
 - Different functions in the body (not just titles)
 - PURPOSE – to serve others, to minister to others
 - To produce UNITY AND STABILITY
 - **1Cor.13** – The supremacy of love

Questions to Consider

1. How many are called by God according to Jn.3:16-21?
2. What is God's criterion for choosing you?
3. What are the criteria for appointing people for the ministry?
4. Who does the appointing to ministry?
5. Who does the sending out?
6. Why is being sent an important part of ministry?