

The Inscrutable Question: Evidence Testing Requires Knowledge of the Plan of God & Its System; the Spiritual Gift of Pastor-Teacher

6. The delegated power of the Trinity remains potential until it is made operative by the inculcation of the Word of God. Two power options must be accessed and utilized in order for the believer to take advantage of this power: (1) the filling of the Holy Spirit and (2) the Grace Apparatus for Perception.
7. Development of these power options into spiritual skills enables the believer to acquire biblical problem-solving devices. God has provided divine solutions to all the problems that mankind must face. But these solutions cannot become operative until they are inculcated into the believer's stream of consciousness by means of the two power options.
8. Thus the plan of God has a system by which His power is manifest in the life of the believer:
 - a. Authority: God is sovereign over all His creation. Jesus Christ has been delegated all authority over the Church. God sovereignly decreed to delegate some of His authority to the written Word. Jesus Christ has chosen to delegate some of His authority over the Church Age believer down to Pastors.
 - b. Communication: As a part of the plan of God, He has developed a system through which His power and knowledge is transferred from divine omniscience over to the human soul. The conduit for this transfer is the completed canon of Scripture, the Old and New Testaments.
 - c. Communicators: The spiritual gift of pastor-teacher carries with it the authority and the power to interpret the Scripture by means of the Holy Spirit. This interpretation is assisted by a system developed by man but made apparent by the Holy Spirit. This system has developed into a science called hermeneutics. Although it is a human invention and subject to human error it serves to keep the interpretation centered on the categorical developments revealed in Scripture. The pastor must develop his interpretation with respect to (1) the central message of the book, (2) those to whom it is addressed, (3) the context of the passage being considered, (4) all the Bible has to say on its content, and (5) analysis of the text in its original language by means of exegesis which involves verifying the authenticity of the manuscript, the grammatical structure of the passage, and the historical context in which it was written. Once interpreted, the pastor then teaches the passage to his congregation.

I have been asked how a man determines he has the gift of pastor-teacher and how the gift is developed. In answering this question I borrow from the format of the Colonel's diagram, "The Equation of Hope." The adapted diagram illustrates the prerequisites necessary before a person may exercise this gift. (See visual: The Gift of Pastor-Teacher: From Awareness to the Pulpit.)

X radical shows that **salvation (SAL)** plus the simultaneous imputation by the Holy Spirit of the **spiritual gift (SGF)** sets up the **first potential (P₁)**: awareness of having the gift of pastor-teacher. When pertinent **Bible doctrine (BD)** is added to the potential, they produce **the first hope (H₁)**: absolute confidence of having a spiritual gift and by continued intake of the Word, identification will be made possible. The **plus (+)** closing the *X* radical is where the candidate becomes aware that he has the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. (1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 4:11)



Y radical shows that **awareness (AWR)** plus **aspiration (ASP)** sets up the **second potential (P₂)**: the attainment of the office of pastor-teacher. When the necessary **academic preparation (AP)** is added to the potential, they produce **the second hope (H₂)**: absolute confidence of eventually attaining the office under the principle that God uses prepared men. The **plus (+)** closing the *Y* radical is where the candidate attains the office, the event being officially recognized by the ordination ceremonies of his local church. (1 Timothy 3:1; Acts 14:23)

Z radical shows that the **office (OFF)** plus a **congregation (CNG)** sets up the **third potential (P₃)**: the reception of the Crown of Glory in eternity. When a maximum number of **parishioners in maturity (PM)** is added to the potential, they produce the **third hope (H₃)**: absolute confidence of receiving the Crown of Glory among his escrow blessings for eternity at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 4:12; 1 Peter 5:2-4; Ephesians 1:3-4)

The spiritual gift of pastor-teacher is identified by spiritual growth. This identification can be clarified experientially by the observance of spiritual growth among those he is able to teach on a consistent basis.

Awareness is motivated an aspiration to attain the office and clarified experientially by a desire to study and teach.

Motivation to study and teach one's assigned congregation is stimulated by the prospect of receiving the Crown of Glory at the Nike Awards.