

the five fold ministry and their functions

the five fold ministry and their functions is an essential topic for anyone interested in understanding biblical leadership, church growth, and spiritual development. This article explores the fivefold ministry, which consists of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-13. Readers will discover the purpose behind each ministry, their unique functions, and how these roles work together to equip believers and build a healthy church. By examining the scriptural foundations, practical applications, and the impact on modern congregations, this article offers a comprehensive guide for leaders, church members, and anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of biblical ministry structure. The article also covers historical context, the challenges and benefits of implementing the fivefold ministry, and answers frequently asked questions related to these important roles. Continue reading to explore the transformative power and functions of the fivefold ministry in today's church.

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Understanding the Five Fold Ministry

The five fold ministry refers to a biblical model of church leadership and spiritual gifting described in the New Testament. These five distinct roles—apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher—are designed to work together for the growth, maturity, and unity of the body of Christ. Understanding the five fold ministry and their functions provides clarity on how churches can operate efficiently, foster spiritual maturity, and fulfill their mission. This framework is not only foundational for church governance but also essential for

nurturing individual believers and communities.

Biblical Foundation of the Five Fold Ministry

The five fold ministry originates from Ephesians 4:11-13, where the Apostle Paul explains that Christ gave these gifts to the church. The purpose of these ministries is to equip the saints for service, build up the church, and achieve unity in faith and knowledge of Christ. Each role is distinct but interdependent, ensuring that the church functions effectively and remains spiritually healthy. The biblical foundation emphasizes that these functions are not hierarchical but collaborative, with each ministry contributing to the overall maturity and effectiveness of the church.

The Functions of the Five Fold Ministry

The five fold ministry and their functions are designed to edify, guide, and empower the church. Each role has specific duties and responsibilities that complement one another. Together, these ministries form a balanced leadership structure, preventing dominance by any single role and promoting holistic spiritual growth.

- **Apostles:** Provide vision, establish foundations, and oversee church planting.
- **Prophets:** Offer spiritual insight, direction, and encourage alignment with God's will.
- **Evangelists:** Share the gospel, reach the lost, and inspire outreach.
- **Pastors:** Care for the flock, nurture relationships, and facilitate healing.
- **Teachers:** Impart biblical truth, clarify doctrine, and promote understanding.

Each function is crucial for building a mature, unified, and purpose-driven church community.

The Apostle: Pioneer and Foundation Layer

Role and Characteristics of Apostles

Apostles are often seen as pioneers and spiritual architects. Their primary function is to lay foundations, establish new ministries, and provide oversight. Apostles are visionary leaders with a strong sense of calling to advance the Kingdom of God in new territories or contexts. Historically, apostles initiated church movements, set doctrinal standards, and addressed complex challenges within the body of Christ.

Key Functions of Apostles

- Establishing new churches and ministries
- Providing spiritual oversight and governance
- Clarifying doctrinal truth and promoting unity
- Mentoring and developing emerging leaders
- Facilitating cross-cultural missions and outreach

Apostles ensure the church remains grounded in biblical truth while expanding its reach and influence.

The Prophet: Revealer and Guide

Role and Characteristics of Prophets

Prophets serve as spiritual guides, offering insight and revelation from God. Their function is to communicate God's heart, will, and direction to individuals and the church body. Prophets are known for their discernment, sensitivity to spiritual matters, and ability to encourage or correct according to divine guidance.

Key Functions of Prophets

- Providing spiritual insight and revelation
- Encouraging and edifying the church
- Correcting and warning about potential pitfalls
- Confirming God's direction and calling
- Promoting intimacy with God and spiritual growth

Prophets play a vital role in keeping the church aligned with God's purposes, especially during times of transition or challenge.

The Evangelist: Messenger and Harvester

Role and Characteristics of Evangelists

Evangelists are passionate communicators of the gospel, focused on reaching the lost and inspiring outreach. Their function is to proclaim the good news, mobilize believers for evangelism, and facilitate growth through conversions. Evangelists are often gifted in connecting with diverse audiences and igniting a passion for missions within the church.

Key Functions of Evangelists

- Sharing the gospel with clarity and conviction
- Mobilizing believers for outreach and missions
- Training others in evangelistic methods
- Building bridges to the community and world
- Encouraging spiritual harvest and growth

Evangelists are essential for expanding the church and fulfilling the Great Commission.

The Pastor: Shepherd and Caregiver

Role and Characteristics of Pastors

Pastors are shepherds who care for the spiritual and emotional needs of the church. Their function is to nurture relationships, provide guidance, and facilitate healing. Pastors are compassionate leaders who build community, foster unity, and ensure the well-being of individual members.

Key Functions of Pastors

- Providing spiritual care and counseling
- Building relationships and unity within the church
- Facilitating healing and restoration
- Overseeing discipleship and spiritual growth
- Protecting the flock from spiritual harm

Pastors are central to maintaining a healthy, supportive church environment.

The Teacher: Instructor and Illuminator

Role and Characteristics of Teachers

Teachers are gifted communicators of biblical truth, focused on imparting knowledge, clarifying doctrine, and fostering understanding. Their function is to instruct, train, and equip believers for maturity and effective service. Teachers are known for their ability to explain complex concepts and ensure sound doctrine.

Key Functions of Teachers

- Imparting biblical knowledge and wisdom
- Clarifying doctrine and promoting sound theology
- Training believers for spiritual growth
- Encouraging lifelong learning and study
- Supporting other ministries through education

Teachers help believers build a strong foundation of faith and understanding.

Benefits of the Five Fold Ministry in the Church

Implementing the five fold ministry and their functions leads to numerous benefits for the church. This approach creates a balanced leadership team that addresses all aspects of spiritual growth and church health. When each role functions effectively, the church experiences greater unity, maturity, and impact in the community. Members are equipped for ministry, empowered to serve, and supported in their spiritual journey. The fivefold ministry also helps prevent burnout among leaders and ensures a holistic approach to discipleship and outreach.

Common Challenges and Misconceptions

Despite its biblical foundation, the five fold ministry often faces challenges and misconceptions. Some churches may misunderstand the roles, leading to imbalance or conflict. Others may struggle with recognizing or releasing these gifts among their members. Common misconceptions include viewing the fivefold ministry as hierarchical, exclusive, or outdated. Addressing these issues requires education, humility, and a commitment to biblical principles. Churches must remain open to the Holy Spirit's guidance and prioritize unity and cooperation among leaders.

Practical Implementation in Modern Churches

Integrating the five fold ministry and their functions in contemporary churches requires intentional planning and discernment. Leaders must identify and nurture these gifts within their congregation, provide training, and create opportunities for each ministry to flourish. Collaboration, accountability, and ongoing evaluation are essential for success. Churches benefit from clear vision, open communication, and a willingness to adapt as the Holy Spirit leads. When implemented properly, the fivefold ministry transforms church culture, empowers believers, and extends the impact of the gospel locally and globally.

Q: What is the five fold ministry and why is it important?

A: The five fold ministry refers to the biblical model of church leadership outlined in Ephesians 4:11, consisting of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. It is important because it provides a balanced structure for equipping believers, fostering spiritual maturity, and promoting unity and growth within the church.

Q: What are the main functions of each role in the five fold ministry?

A: Apostles establish and oversee church foundations; prophets provide spiritual insight and direction; evangelists share the gospel and inspire outreach; pastors care for the flock and nurture relationships; teachers impart biblical truth and clarify doctrine.

Q: How do the five fold ministry roles work together?

A: The fivefold ministry roles are interdependent, each complementing the others to ensure the church is healthy, mature, and effective. When these ministries collaborate, they equip believers for service and maintain balance in leadership and spiritual growth.

Q: Can these five fold ministry gifts be found in modern churches?

A: Yes, many modern churches recognize and implement the five fold ministry by identifying these gifts among their members, providing training, and allowing each role to operate collaboratively for the benefit of the congregation.

Q: What are common misconceptions about the five fold ministry?

A: Common misconceptions include viewing the five fold ministry as hierarchical, exclusive to certain denominations, or outdated. In reality, these roles are collaborative, biblically grounded, and relevant for all believers.

Q: How does the five fold ministry benefit church growth?

A: By equipping leaders and members in various functions, the five fold ministry fosters holistic growth, unity, and outreach, leading to a more dynamic and effective church that impacts its community.

Q: What challenges arise when implementing the five fold ministry?

A: Challenges include misunderstanding the roles, imbalance in leadership, resistance to change, and difficulty in identifying these gifts. Overcoming these hurdles requires education, humility, and intentional collaboration.

Q: Are all believers called to one of the five fold ministries?

A: Not all believers are called to one of the five fold offices, but every believer can operate in various spiritual gifts. The fivefold ministry represents specific leadership and equipping roles within the church.

Q: How can a church identify five fold ministry gifts among its members?

A: Churches can identify these gifts through prayer, observation, assessments, and providing opportunities for members to serve in different capacities. Leadership development and mentoring are also crucial.

Q: What is the biblical purpose behind the five fold ministry?

A: The biblical purpose is to equip the saints for ministry, build up the body of Christ, and achieve unity and maturity in faith, as stated in Ephesians 4:12-13.

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The Five-Fold Ministry and Their Functions: A Comprehensive Guide

The concept of the five-fold ministry is a cornerstone of many Christian denominations, offering a framework for understanding spiritual gifts and leadership within the church. Understanding the roles and functions of each ministry is crucial for both those serving and those seeking to grow in their faith. This comprehensive guide delves into the five-fold ministry – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers – exploring their individual functions and the vital interplay between them in building a thriving and healthy church community. We'll dissect their unique contributions, helping you gain a clearer understanding of this powerful spiritual dynamic.

H2: Unveiling the Five-Fold Ministry: A Biblical Foundation

The foundation for the five-fold ministry lies in Ephesians 4:11-13, where Paul outlines the gifts Christ gave to equip his church: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." This passage clearly establishes five distinct ministries, each contributing uniquely to the overall health and growth of the church.

H2: Apostles: The Foundation of Faith

Apostles are often understood as foundational leaders, responsible for establishing and overseeing new churches or church movements. Their primary function is to establish a new framework of faith and/or build upon an existing one. This involves:

H3: Establishing Doctrines: Apostles lay the groundwork of belief, often setting forth core theological principles and practices.

H3: Planting Churches: They are often pioneers, planting new congregations and establishing their governance structures.

H3: Overseeing Networks: Apostles often oversee networks of churches, providing guidance and support to other leaders.

H3: Apostolic Authority: They are granted a unique authority, often involving overseeing other ministries within a network.

H2: Prophets: Speaking God's Word

Prophets serve as the voice of God, delivering His messages to the church and guiding its direction. Their functions include:

H3: Revealing God's Will: Prophets bring forth God's prophetic word, offering insight into His plans and purposes.

H3: Exhortation and Correction: They offer encouragement, challenge, and correction, calling the church to accountability.

H3: Encouragement and Comfort: They bring words of comfort and hope, lifting up the church in times of difficulty.

H3: Discernment of Spirits: Prophets often possess a spiritual gift of discernment, identifying the influences at work.

H2: Evangelists: Sharing the Gospel

Evangelists are passionate communicators of the Gospel, focused on sharing the good news of salvation with the world. Their primary function is:

H3: Proclamation of the Gospel: Their core task is sharing the message of Jesus Christ to unbelievers.

H3: Reaching the Unreached: Evangelists often target specific unreached groups or populations.

H3: Revival and Awakening: Their ministry often plays a key role in spiritual revival and awakenings within communities.

H3: Soul Winning: They are dedicated to leading individuals to faith in Christ.

H2: Pastors: Shepherding the Flock

Pastors are shepherds of the flock, caring for and nurturing the members of the church. Their functions involve:

H3: Spiritual Oversight: Pastors provide spiritual leadership, guidance, and mentorship to the congregation.

H3: Pastoral Care: They offer individual and community care, providing support during times of need.

H3: Teaching and Preaching: They teach the Word of God and preach sermons to the church.

H3: Church Administration: They often handle the administrative aspects of church life.

H2: Teachers: Equipping the Saints

Teachers focus on equipping believers with the knowledge and understanding they need to grow in their faith. This involves:

H3: Biblical Exposition: Teachers delve into Scripture, providing detailed explanations and interpretations.

H3: Disciple-Making: They train and mentor believers, helping them mature in their faith.

H3: Theological Education: They provide theological training, strengthening the foundation of believers' understanding.

H3: Practical Application: They emphasize the practical application of biblical principles to daily life.

H2: The Interdependence of the Five-Fold Ministry

It's crucial to understand that the five-fold ministry isn't a competition but a collaborative effort. Each ministry complements and supports the others, working together to achieve the overall goal of building up the body of Christ. A healthy church will see these ministries working in harmony, each contributing its unique gifts to the collective growth and spiritual maturity of the congregation.

Conclusion:

The five-fold ministry is a vital framework for understanding spiritual leadership and gifting within the church. By understanding the unique functions of each ministry—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers—we gain a clearer picture of how God equips his church for its mission. The true strength lies not in individual ministries but in their unified and collaborative effort to build a vibrant, growing, and thriving community of faith.

FAQs:

1. Can one person possess multiple gifts from the five-fold ministry? Yes, individuals can possess and operate in multiple gifts. However, they usually have a primary gifting.
2. Are all five ministries essential for every church? While all five are biblically outlined, the manifestation and prominence of each might vary depending on the size, context, and stage of development of a specific church.
3. How can I discern my gifting within the five-fold ministry? Through prayer, spiritual mentorship, and observing your strengths and passions, coupled with seeking wise counsel from other believers.
4. Is there a hierarchy within the five-fold ministry? No, there is no inherent hierarchy. Each ministry is equally important and vital for the health of the church.
5. How can the five-fold ministry be misused? The five-fold ministry can be misused through pride, ambition, manipulation, and a lack of accountability. Humility and servant leadership are critical.

the five fold ministry and their functions: *Understanding The Fivefold Ministry* Matthew D Green, 2015-01-26 DIV God is building His body around the world in the most unexpected ways through the most unexpected people. Take a self-test to find out where your gifts lie and what area of ministry God may have custom-designed you for. /div

the five fold ministry and their functions: *Deeper Revelations Of The Five-Fold Ministry* Apostle Frequency Revelator, 2019-11-16 The reason why there is so much confusion in the Church today with regard to the operation of the gifts of the spirit is because the five-fold ministry gifts are not fully operational. It is a typical scenario right across the Body of Christ globally that people who are called to be apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists are relegated to the side-lines while those who evidently don't have God's call are the ones holding the reins. For this reason, the church continues to be plundered by forces of darkness as the masses are trapped into a morass of debilitating poverty, sickness and limitation in progress. In this publication, Apostle Frequency Revelator unveils the divine truth that the solution to a myriad of problems facing the masses across the Body of Christ is to focus on God's call and specific function within the five-fold ministry. When the five-fold ministry is in full operation, each member of the church will enter into their special individual ministry and function to the level where powers and principalities are shattered by the Body of Christ as a collective. It is through the fivefold ministries, that the church will reach the full stature of Jesus Christ and be no longer tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine that comes by. It is important to get a biblical understanding of the origin of the five-fold ministry, so that our churches will be healthy and functioning according to the will and plan of God. In this publication, Apostle Frequency Revelator unveils that every Christian has a special ministry bequeathed upon him although not every Christian may be called to the fivefold ministry. It is therefore, the responsibility of every believers to learn to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as function

in a particular ministry that God has called them to. Therefore, if you are called into one of the ministries of the five-fold, this book is a delicate recipe right in your hands. It will cause to understand how to function fully and effectively in the Body of Christ. Using the analogy of a human hand to depict the various functions of the five-fold ministry, Apostle Frequency Revelator practically demonstrates how each of the fold-fold ministries operate and relate to each other. Each of these offices illustrates a different aspect of how the Body of Christ operates as a collective. Therefore, this five-fold hand analogy is meant to reinforce your deeper understanding of the components of church governance so that believers across the Body of Christ globally could easily flow and operate in work of ministry.

the five fold ministry and their functions: *The Permanent Revolution* Alan Hirsch, Tim Catchim, 2012-01-06 A new brand of apostolic ministry for today's world *The Permanent Revolution* is a work of theological re-imagination and re-construction that draws from biblical studies, theology, organizational theory, leadership studies, and key social sciences. The book elaborates on the apostolic role rooted in the five-fold ministry from Ephesians 4 (apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teacher), and its significance for the missional movement. It explores how the apostolic ministry facilitates ongoing renewal in the life of the church and focuses on leadership in relation to missional innovation and entrepreneurship. The authors examine the nature of organization as reframed through the lens of apostolic ministry. Shows how to view the world through a biblical perspective and continue the permanent revolution that Jesus started Outlines the essential characteristics of apostolic movement and how to restructure the church and ministry to be more consistent with them Alan Hirsch is a leading voice in the missional movement of the Christian West This groundbreaking book integrates theology, sociology, and leadership to further define the apostolic movement.

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the five fold ministry and their functions: *The Five Fold Ministry* Roy J. Myers, 2017-08-05 This book describes the ministries that Jesus Christ set forth in the New Testament church.

the five fold ministry and their functions: *The Five Fold Ministry* Roger Thurecht, 2020-08-20 EPHESIANS 4:11-13 NKJV11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. All of the five fold ministers function like coaches - they demonstrate how the work of the ministry is done, so that the saints may be equipped to do the work of the ministry. God's plan is multiplication of His Kingdom. God's foot soldiers are His people. It is God's will that none should perish, not one. The saying is true, Shepherds don't have sheep; shepherds tend sheep. Sheep have sheep! The secret to church growth is equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry, carried along, empowered by the Holy Spirit. The secret to building up the body of Christ is an accessible five fold ministry. The key to seeing the body of Christ united in the faith, and in knowledge, and with a maturity approaching that of Jesus Christ, is the operations of the five fold ministry. The five fold ministers are a wonderful blessing and aid to the Body of Christ. Most exponents are genuine. However there are a few who claim to be five fold ministers who are not. The Body of Christ need

not be troubled by these impostors. Within these pages you will find such quantities of truth as to have received a vaccination forever against error, at least where these ministries are concerned. My aim in writing this book is to equip the saints with a thorough knowledge of what each of these ministries looks like, and the outcomes they can expect in each case. After reading this book even a new Christian should be able to discern between what is true, and what is false. False apostles, false prophets, false evangelists, false shepherds and false teachers are not numerous, but they do exist. So if I can borrow an argument the apostle Paul uses with respect to the spiritual gifts: God would not have us ignorant.¹ CORINTHIANS 13:4-8a, 13 RSV⁴ Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; 5 it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends ... 13 So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. The word for love used in the King James Version in the above passage is charity and on this occasion that translation is helpful. That is to say, when encountering a five fold minister for the first time our attitude should be charitable. We ought to be believing the best, and hoping the best where that ministry is concerned, measuring their output against the Word of God.

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the five fold ministry and their functions: Restoring the Five-Fold Ministry Hartwell Paul Davis, 2019-08-27 The church represents the largest organization in the world, covering all nations, all cultures, and millions of members. Church leadership, like leadership in any organizations, is of vital importance. However, the difference is that Jesus's model of leadership and use of power and authority can be different from leadership in the world of business. The differences between the fivefold ministry gifts and the leadership of elders and deacons are often misunderstood, and the changing nature of church leadership from biblical roots has resulted in several forms of maladaptive leadership in the church today, the most common being the rise of the pastoral supremacy syndrome, where the focus on the pastoral gift has effectively destroyed the fivefold ministry intended to be God's leadership design. This book is about leadership—specifically about leadership in God's church.

the five fold ministry and their functions: Apostles Bill Scheidler, 2001-12

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the five fold ministry and their functions: Primal Fire Neil Cole, 2014-02-21 In the earliest days of the church, followers of Jesus embraced five core spiritual gifts—apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers—and the world was set on fire as a result. Over the past two thousand years, however, some of these gifts have been neglected or set aside, and we've forgotten what we're capable of. Now, in *Primal Fire*, Neil Cole shares the surprising truth about the five gifts

of Jesus—what they mean, how they reflect Christ, and the remarkable power and synergy that comes when we all work together to ignite the church's full potential and passion. Whether you're a church leader who wants to equip your members to grow spiritually, or someone who wants to better understand your own contribution to the body of Christ, it's time to reignite the Primal Fire and become the gifts that Christ intended for us to be.

the five fold ministry and their functions: Building a Discipling Culture Mike Breen, Steve Cockram, 2014-09-10 Much ink and many pages have been devoted to all of the missional issues facing the Western church today. As our culture becomes more post-Christian with each passing day, we are all realizing that what has worked in the past is no longer working, that we are far less effective for the Kingdom than we were even 10 years ago. But we would suggest it isn't because we don't know what the Great Commission states or the imperatives of the Gospel, or that our church services just aren't getting it done. It's because we are in the midst of a discipleship crisis in the Western church. The people sitting in our pews are rarely becoming like the people we read about in Scripture. They may come to a worship service, join a small group or even tithe, but their lives just don't seem to look like Jesus' life. The truth of the matter is that we don't have a missional problem or leadership problem in the Western church. We have a discipleship problem. If we make disciples like Jesus made them, we'll never have a problem finding leaders or seeing new people coming to faith. The central issue is that we have no idea how to make disciples who can do the things that Jesus did for the reasons Jesus did them. *Building a Discipling Culture* is the product of more than 25 years of hands-on discipleship practice in a post-Christian context that has turned into a worldwide discipling movement, dealing specifically with how to make the types of missional disciples Jesus spoke of. We all want to make disciples. Most of us are unsure how to do it. Dallas Willard put it this way: 'Every church needs to be able to answer two questions. One, do we have a plan for making disciples? Two, does our plan work?' For most of our church communities, we have a plan, but the plan isn't working. If you find yourself in this situation, this book is for you. -- Publisher's description.

the five fold ministry and their functions: *The Hand of God* Michael Jackson, 2019-06-19 As the Church continues the upward climb of dominance and preeminence from the abyss of the Dark Ages to its place of pre-determined glory through Jesus Christ, of ruling among the nations, God is manifesting His Plan, as the Holy Spirit releases revelation after revelation of what the Church is destined to be. One such example is the scripture of Ephesians: 4: 11-13. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. I have been asked on numerous occasion what is the 5 Fold Ministry? Many have heard of the term but really don't know what it means and they have never asked within their own church exactly what is the 5 Fold Ministry. They state they did not want to embarrass themselves. I usually have two answers for them. First, the only dumb question is the one you do not ask. As with anything else in life, how can one learn if they fail to ask questions? When it comes to your salvation, make sure you get answers. Not just answers but biblical answers. Find out where it is in the bible and then prove to yourself that you have received a biblical answer.

the five fold ministry and their functions: Beyond Awkward Beau Crosetto, 2014-09-15 We love to share good news with the world—a great restaurant, a coveted promotion, a new baby—and that makes us evangelists for many things. So why don't we do the same with Jesus? Simply put, talking about Jesus is awkward. Yet when we brave the awkwardness, we see God work. Beau Crosetto helps us move out of our comfort zones and beyond the awkwardness to share the life-transforming power of God with others.

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the purpose of the spiritual desert - those times when you feel distanced from your dreams and goals? This is your chance to discover meaning in the dry places. Mike Pilavachi, leader and founder of the Soul Survivor youth movement, has touched and inspired thousands with his message that the desert is ultimately a place we should desire to be. Like a crucible, the desert burns away all of the waste in our lives, giving way to pure character and humility, Only when we come to the end of ourselves and our desire for independence can we come to the beginning of God.

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conceal it. Though religious predomination is certainly nothing new, and hyper-authoritarianism is by no means limited to the Neo-Pentecostal branch of the Church, it has especially flourished in Charismatic and other Neo-Pentecostal groups since it was infused into the fabric, foundation, and functions of that branch of the Church in the early- to mid-seventies through what became known as the Discipleship or Shepherding Movement. The doctrines and practices spawned in that false movement remain an integral part of the operations of many churches and groups yet today! Written from an insider's perspective by a noted and respected Charismatic minister, *Charismatic Captivation*, has been appraised and praised by ministers, scholars, theologians, church leaders, and laymen as one of the most comprehensive and convincing volumes written to date on the prevalent problem of authoritarian abuse, yet without the Charismatic-bashing characteristic of other books citing Neo-Pentecostal abuses.

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