

The **SHAPE** of you

Your gifts from Jesus

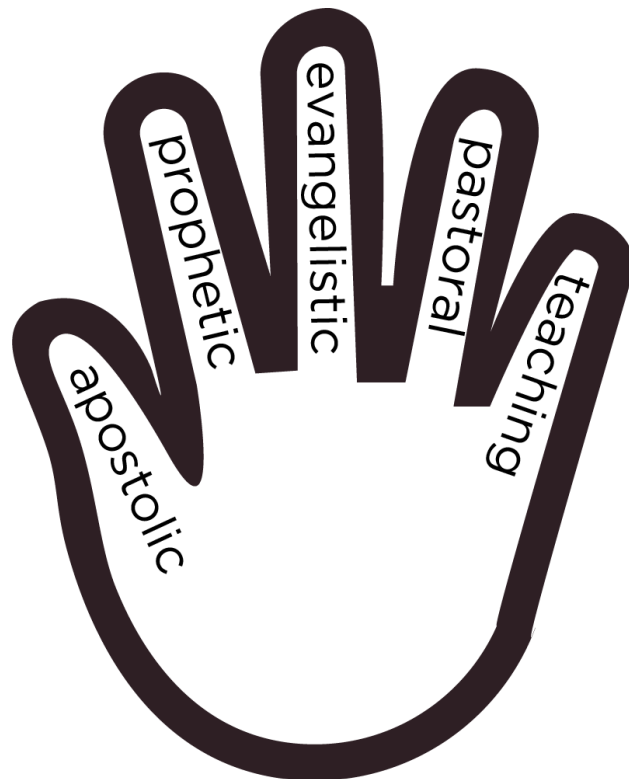
Everyone gets some of these!

**“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”
(Ephesians 4:11-13)**

These might describe how your **mind** works or **roles** that you might have in a church body. When a body works like this together, it looks and works a lot like Jesus!

You can take a quiz to help identify how Christ has shaped your mind and actions in these ways at www.faithpowered.com/fivefold

- Apostles have strategic and pioneering thinking and are sent out with authority
- Prophets have insight from God to share faithfully with others
- Evangelists have a passion and ability to share the gospel with non-believers
- Pastors have a passion to care for God's people with practical love and nurturing
- Teachers have the ability to clarify and share understanding about God



Apostles

An apostolic role is to be “sent out” with authority, providing the right foundation for ministry leaders to push into new territory and establish the church in new contexts. They steward the “DNA” of the church, discerning and defining how it works, grows and reproduces.

Apostolic thinking is visionary, pioneering, strategic, missional, innovative and Christ-centred.

There are not many apostolic roles in the church! If you have an apostolic way of thinking but not an apostolic role, you may be gifted to help apostles in their strategic thinking, but you should also find another role to work in under their authority.

Prophets

A prophetic role is listening to God and passing on what he says and shows you faithfully. It often involves waiting and being alone with God, but also involves developing relationships of trust. Prophets can encourage, strengthen and encourage anyone, but can only pass on more challenging prophecy helpfully within relationships.

Prophetic thinking involves understanding situations and people, questioning the status quo, seeing creative visions and solutions, committing to faithfulness and love, and is Christ-centred.

Everyone is encouraged to seek the gift of prophecy above all other gifts! God tends to find people a role where they can grow in relationships and prophetic practice wherever he gives people the gift of prophecy.

Evangelists

An evangelistic role is sharing good news about God and his kingdom with people who don't yet follow Jesus. Evangelists are empowered to show gospel goodness in their lives as well as their words. They are gifted in finding (and persevering to find) people receptive to the gospel. Evangelists know God's word and make it clear how and why people should respond to it.

Evangelistic thinking is outward-looking, loving time spent with people who don't yet share faith in God while wanting them to gain new life through faith, becoming Christ-centred.

Everyone has an ability to share their faith, especially when asked why we hope or believe. An evangelistic gift and role are given when God enables some to excel at sharing the gospel and looking for opportunities to do this the most actively.

Pastors

A pastoring role is shepherding and caring for God's people, showing love in action by caring, comforting, encouraging, protecting and nurturing others. This might involve creating an environment in which relationships can grow, either one-to-one or in a group. Pastors bring believers together so that they can grow into disciples of Jesus.

Pastoral thinking is loving, caring, empathising, patient, protective, sometimes challenging but also affirming and supportive in a Christ-centred way.

Everyone should expect to grow in love, patience and kindness as the fruit of the Spirit is produced in us. A pastoral gift and role are given when God enables people to practise using these for the benefit of others. Many find opportunities to do this with a few people, some find themselves empowered to shepherd more than they could possibly do in their own strength.

Teachers

A teaching role involves clarifying the revealed mind and will of God, looking for ways to explain and apply understanding and truth from him. Teachers study the Bible and help others to do so, discerning and gaining wisdom and a knowledge of God in the process.

A teacher's thinking involves seeking wisdom, loving the exploration of the Bible and other people's scholarship, being creative and faithful in applying wisdom in a Christ-centred way.

Everyone is encouraged to seek wisdom but James wrote that “not many of you should become teachers”. God provides the gift and role with a responsibility to use it faithfully!