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Understanding the Five-Fold Ministry: God's System for the Equipping, Edification, Empowerment, and Expansion of The Body of Christ.

5. Qualifications

This chapter lists the markers that qualify someone for ministry, especially Five-Fold and leadership roles. The author argues that function without qualification breeds dysfunction, and offers a checklist of prerequisites beyond the basics of love, humility, and long-suffering.

Key takeaways

- Operating a gift beyond your measure of grace turns a gift into a disgrace; placing people by function alone creates dysfunction.
- Be saved and sanctified — you can't give what you don't have; ministry is service, not a place for novices to experiment.
- Be teachable — like any profession, ministry needs ongoing training and cultivation; there's always room to grow, no matter how long you've served.
- Be Holy Ghost filled — you need supernatural power to withstand the attacks that come with being a Kingdom ambassador.

- Be submitted — to God, to leadership/authority, and to your purpose's plan; submission is a Kingdom key that grants access.
- Be a servant leader — regardless of title, your first call is to serve; identify your gifts, those who need them, and a strategy to use them.

Passages worth keeping

“When we operate our gifts outside of our grace, we can potentially become a disgrace.”

Core warning of the chapter: qualification, not just ability, matters.

“God isn't looking for perfection. He's looking for availability and obedience. He perfects us in the process.”

Reassures that readiness is about willingness, not being flawless.

Scripture referenced

- **Acts 4:13** -- Peter and John's qualification: they had been with Jesus.
- **2 Timothy 4:1-2** -- Paul's charge to Timothy to preach and be trained in doctrine.
- **James 4:6** -- God gives grace to the humble — submission grants access.
- **Matthew 20:28** -- Jesus came to serve, the model for servant leadership.

- **Acts 1:8** -- Receiving power from the Holy Spirit to be a witness.