

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
PART 4A-THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED
GIFT #1 - THE GIFT OF APOSTLESHIP
1 CORINTHIANS 12:28

I. “APOSTLES” ARE LISTED FIRST.
They are first in order of merit and authority.

II. WHAT (OR RATHER “WHO”) IS AN “APOSTLE”?

“Apostle” speaks of “one sent forth”

Three usages of the term “apostle” in the New Testament:

A. “Apostle” Refers To The Lord Jesus Christ!

Hebrews 3:1–“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”

(Matthew 10:40; Mark 9:37; Luke 4:18; 9:48; 10:16; John 4:34; 5:24, 30, 36-40, 44, 57; 7:16, 28-29, 33; 8:16, 18, 26, 29, 42; 9:4; 11:42; 12:44, 45, 49; 13:20; 14:24; 15:21; 16:5; 17:18, 21, 23, 25; 20:21) [38 times Jesus refers to being sent by His Heavenly Father either directly or indirectly!]

B. “Apostle”, In A Very Special Sense Refers To The Twelve Men Who Were Chosen By Christ To Lay The Foundation Of The Church!

(Luke 6:13-16; Ephesians 2:20)

1. After Judas betrayed the Lord and hung himself, the eleven remaining Apostles selected Matthias to replace him. *(Acts 1:15-26)*
2. Later, Paul was selected directly by Christ to be an Apostle. *(1 Corinthians 15:7-9; 2 Corinthians 12:11-12; Galatians 1:1; Cf. Revelation 21:14)*

C. “Apostle” Refers To Christian Workers In General.
(2 Corinthians 8:23; Acts 14:14; Philippians 2:25)

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Here we see the Greek word translated “apostle” is also translated “messenger” and “minister”.

III. THERE ARE NO “APOSTLES” IN THE SPECIAL SENSE!

A. No One Qualifies To Be One Today!

1. **They were chosen personally by Christ!**
(Luke 6:13-16; Galatians 1:1)
2. **They were twelve in number!**
(Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:15-26; Revelation 21:14)
3. **They had seen the resurrected Christ!**
(Acts 1:22; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 15:7-9)
4. **They received their message by direct revelation!**
(Galatians 1:11-12)
5. **They had special signs to authenticate their message!**
(2 Corinthians 12:12; Acts 2:43; 4:33; 5:12)
6. **They could impart spiritual power and gifts to others!** *(Acts 8:17-19; 2 Timothy 1:6)*
7. **They had the same authority as the Old Testament Prophets!** *(2 Peter 3:1-2)*
8. **They wrote Scripture!**
(2 Peter 3:15-16)

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- B. There Were Only Twelve Apostles, And There Will Never Be More Than Twelve Throughout All Eternity!**
(Revelation 21:14)

- C. The First Apostles Were Called To Lay The Foundation Of The Church! *(Ephesians 2:20)***

- D. No New Testament Passage Instructs Churches To Select Or Ordain Apostles—Only Pastors and Deacons!**
(1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)