**Outrageous Gifting**

What if I told you hidden and trapped within you DNA is the answer to your God-given calling?

* That answers the question, how does God want to use me?
* How do I make myself useful for God?
* How do I serve God?
* How do I partner with God in redeeming the world?
* How to I participate with God in building his church?
* How do I contribute to building up of people for God?

Tonight, I want to unlock for the first time for many of you, the hidden secret of your God-given gifting.

Discovering this answers the reason we have ineffective churches and ministries.

Discovering this answers the reason you have millions of Christians who are inactive in their faith.

* They have Jesus, have the holy spirit but their inactive and ineffective in their faith.

**May I have permission to rant about this?**

Not everything I am about to say is true about every church. Not every experience is like mine. Don’t misunderstand my rant…

It will sound like I am being critical for critical sake. But I am not.

* I examine the things I love. I am not afraid to identify problems with open eyes, so I can address them with open eyes.
* I love the church. I love churches, I love pastors, I love people who work at churches. I love people who attend church.

**First, let me identify one problem for you.**

For the modern era, Christians have been building churches like they have been building companies. Churches have modeled corporate structures when they have developed their church structure.

* A company org charge looks like a pyramid – levels, divisions, administrators, managers, executives all the way until you reach the ceo

**For most of my life, I have experienced church environments where all**

* If you have a question, you go to the senior pastor
* If you need prayer, you go to the senior pastor
* If you want to start something, you go to the senior pastor
* If you want to hear from God, you go to the senior pastor
* If you want to grow deep in God, you seek the senior pastor
* If you have a problem, you go to the senior pastor.

**Most churches I have been a part of have a hierarchy where all power and authority goes exclusively to the person who sits at the top of the organization: the senior pastor.**

* The only problem, is there is only one senior pastor and his name is Jesus.
* And when the Chief Shepherd (Jesus) appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:4

**What happens in the process of a few charismatic and powerful God-loving leaders (who genuinely and deeply love Jesus) – they become an intermediary to receiving instruction and understanding from God. Where…**

* I get my understanding from my Pastor. (2 Tim 2:7 – the Lord will give you understanding in everything). Not the senior pastor.
* I get truth from my Pastor. (John 16:13 -- The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.) Not the senio pastor.
* If I want to hear from God I got to my pastor (John 10:27 – my sheep hear my voice – not my shepherds hear my voice)

**See the amazing thing is Jesus came to eliminate all intermediaries that stand between you and him.**

* + We are so quick to establish rulers over ourselves.
	+ We are so afraid of our own power, we would rather be subject to someone who has power over us.

**We as a church body have heaped responsibility and expectation upon a senior pastor that he was never designed to carry.**

**Additionally, we have made our entire spiritual enthusiasm based upon how good the senior pastor preaches.**

That’s not his job.

* He is there to bring us together and to be encouraged together.
* You are designed to have total control of your growth and maturity.
* Your favorite pastor gets hit by a bus, your spiritual growth should remain unchanged if you are doing it right.

**How we create leadership structures, and what we come to expect from those leaderships structures is broken.**

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**The second problem…**

**The spiritual formation and development inside faith communities is broken.**

For most of my life, I would bring my fellow Christian a challenge, question or issue.

* The solution was always found in some other person.
* Someone who was a professional Christian. Someone who was paid to answer these things.
* Fewer Christians today possess truth and strength than before. Because they don’t need to.
* The average Christian is not in demand.
	+ Its so easy to pass all spiritual responsibility to a ministry or organization instead of involving yourself.

**Being a leader here, I occasionally get someone who comes to me and says**

* “Hey, I have someone who is curious about God. I want to bring them to you.” NO! I don’t bring them to me. You are the one that is placed in their life for this.

We have more and more churches that are equipping fewer and fewer people.

**I have found that we have become used to outsourcing our spiritual development to others. Others who *really* know.**

* Christianity has become its own profession – like law, business, counseling, medicine – we have left the spiritual to the professionals. The church leadership.

**It may be a new revelation to you, but God did not come and die for you to attend church and tithe. He came to give you new life.**

* He came so that your life would be activated
* He called you into parallel leadership with him.

**1 Corinthians 3:9 (NASB)** For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

With your salvation, came mission. Came calling.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NIV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**

**You and I have been called to bring people back to God, build them up so that they can bring other people back to God.**

* Impact people
* Equip them to impact people.

**Okay, But what does that practically mean? Does the bible give us personal instructions for each of for what that means? Yes it does.**

I believe this is the most instructional passage in all the bible for how we are to do ministry and impact the world.

**Ephesians 4:11-16 (NASB)**

And He gave **some as apostles**, and **some as prophets**, and **some as evangelists**, and **some as pastors and teachers**, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

**Christ gave gifts to men in the form of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. We call this the five fold.**

* You are a gift to the world sent from Christ
* You are the gift when you are using your gifting.

**I believe each one of you has the DNA of one or more of these roles.**

**But how do I know which one?**

* What if I told you the answer is found in your dna.
* You don’t need to become anyone different, you just to know who you already are.
* I was there was just a test you could take.

A year and a half ago, I met a man named JR Woodward who had rebranded these names to be modernized for our understanding. He rebranded Apostle as the Dream Awakener. He rebranded Prophet as Heart Revealer. He rebranded Evangelist as Story Teller. He rebranded Pastor as Soul Healer. He rebranded Teacher as Light Giver.

* I took his insights into the gifts and developed a mobile phone test.
* It will take you between 4-7 minutes to take.
* I build it for EpicLife. But it got shared from person to person. In the past year, it has been taken over 60,000 times and over 100 people a day now take it.
* I get emails all over the world about it.

So we are going to do it again together. It will take 5-7 minutes but I believe it will show every person in this room the secret of their God-given gifting.

After the test, I will describe to you the significance of each one.

**FiveFoldMinistryTest.com**

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**Apostle – Dream Awakener – Stand up**

You are uniquely gifted at awakening people to discover who they are

You are uniquely gifted at helping them reach their potential.

* You are able to see the potential in others giftings before they do?=
* You are able to see clearly what needs to be done
* You are opinionated for what people need to do in their own life.
* You love to see things happen and get frustrated when they don’t.
* You come alive when you are able to help others achieve something
* You are able to make other people’s journey your own
* You don’t mind bending the rules and coloring outside the lines.
* You take joy in people’s victories and share in their struggles.
* You are not afraid to share truth about a situation even if it costs you

Without you

* people don’t know what they are capable of
* people don’t have someone to come alongside them and grow them
* things stay the same. People remain unchanged.

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**Prophet – Heart Revealer** – Stand up!

You are uniquely gifted to reveal God’s heart for his people

You are particularly gifted at hearing the Holy Spirit and helping others do the same.

* You cannot standby while there is injustice
* You are compelled to help the needy, broken and oppressed
* You are easily distracted by what seems like random thoughts, ideas, words and pictures.
* You occasionally have vivid dreams
* You have a strong feeling for whether something is from God or not
* You believe life can is about choses and you can choose your destiny.
* You frequently get gut feelings and are usually right about your opinions.
* You can feel, understand and relate to God’s heart for people when you pray for them.
* You are particularly encouraging and discerning
* When you read, God puts situations, people and specific examples into your heart.
* You can distinguish between what is from God and what is not from God

Without you,

* people do not hear God
* people have no intimacy with God
* people attribute the works of satan to God.

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**Evangelists – Story Teller** – Stand up!

You are uniquely gifted to celebrate the transformations of God

You are gifted at inviting and including people into relationship

* Its really important to you to have friends, relationships and a life outside your church circle
* You are able to get other people excited about what you are excited about
* You are highly adaptable and feel comfortable in almost any setting you are in
* You have a heart for people who are far from God
* You make other people feel comfortable when you are around
* You feel frustrated when church is more inward focused than outward focused
* The things you love, you REALLY love.
* You are intentional and strategic before you open your mouth and say something
* You are really convinced that God is really really good.
* You believe your life should speak louder than your words
* You can be bold and speak your mind – it sometimes catches people off guard.
* You have an appreciation that life is short – you never know what will happen.
* You get excited when eyes are upon you

Without you

* People don’t celebrate the transformations of God
* People are welcome to come to God’s family but are never invited.
* People don’t know how to tell and share their own story
* People’s faith are stale and without enthusiasm

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**Pastor – Soul Healer** – Stand up!

You are uniquely gifted at restoring and healing the broken souls

You are uniquely gifted at integrating people into the family of God

* You have a good grasp on reality
* You are capable of helping others make better choices for themselves
* You are concerned for people’s hearts and emotions
* You feel people’s pain when they hurt
* You see the answers to relational dysfunction
* You embrace people and make them feel like they are welcome and included
* You are exceptional at having fun and enjoying life
* You are an excellent listener
* You have a soft and tender heart for those who are hurting

Without you…

* People remain in stuck in their pain and brokenness
* People are left out, left behind and forgotten
* People remain don’t know where to turn
* People are held down and not lifted up

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**Teacher – Light Giver** - Standup

You are uniquely gifted at making truth and understanding accessible to all

You are gifted at helping people apply truth and the scriptures to their life

* You are curious for deeper understanding, learning and revelation
* You are able to explain complex ideas and concepts in ways people understand
* You are the type that will search and research what you don’t understand
* You are interested in topics some other people find very boring
* You feel like you can see situations clearly and provide clear answers
* You feel like you never stop learning
* The opportunity to share my perspective excites you
* You can feel frustrated when others don’t have the same hunger to learn like you

Without you…

* Lies are never challenged
* People lives never embody the scriptures
* People don’t understand why they should change
* People are bored with the bible
* People are not curious and hungry to read the bible

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Let me close with this…

Brian Orme said it last week – we keep praying, God move! Why don’t YOU move? God save this city. Why dont YOU save this city?

* Its almost as if we are praying God to put out a burning house with a raincloud when we are standing on top of a hose next to a spigot.

The most fundamental truth we can live by is that God partners with you in accomplishing his mission. God’s mission on earth requires your participation.

* If you want to see God move, you better be prepared to move.
* When you realize God accomplishes His will by partnering with your will, you will realize you play an incredible role in redeeming the world.

Heres what the neat thing is…

* We have organized everything we do in our ministry around these roles
* We have a vision meetings for our ministry and they are organized into each of these roles.

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He Gave US the ministry of reconciliation.

* He did give us a ministry of reconciliation and also enroll us in ministry school
* He

He also gave gifts to men.

* He called every one of us into ministry
* But he didn’t throw us into the water without equipping.

**Ephesians 4:11-12 (NASB)**

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

But wait wait wait – I thought there were no more apostles and prophets? I thought they were only in preparation for christ’s coming?

**Ephesians 4:13-16**

… until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

You are the most outrageous gift that has ever been given.

Jesus is no longer walking the earth, but he is – among you and me.

The single guy approach to ministry doesn’t work anymore.

Inside your DNA is the answer to working with God.

God you move. YOU move.

1 Cor 3:9 – fellow worker

Can you believe that you have been given the gift of revealing God’s heart?

* Can you believe you have been given the gift of helping people discover who they are?