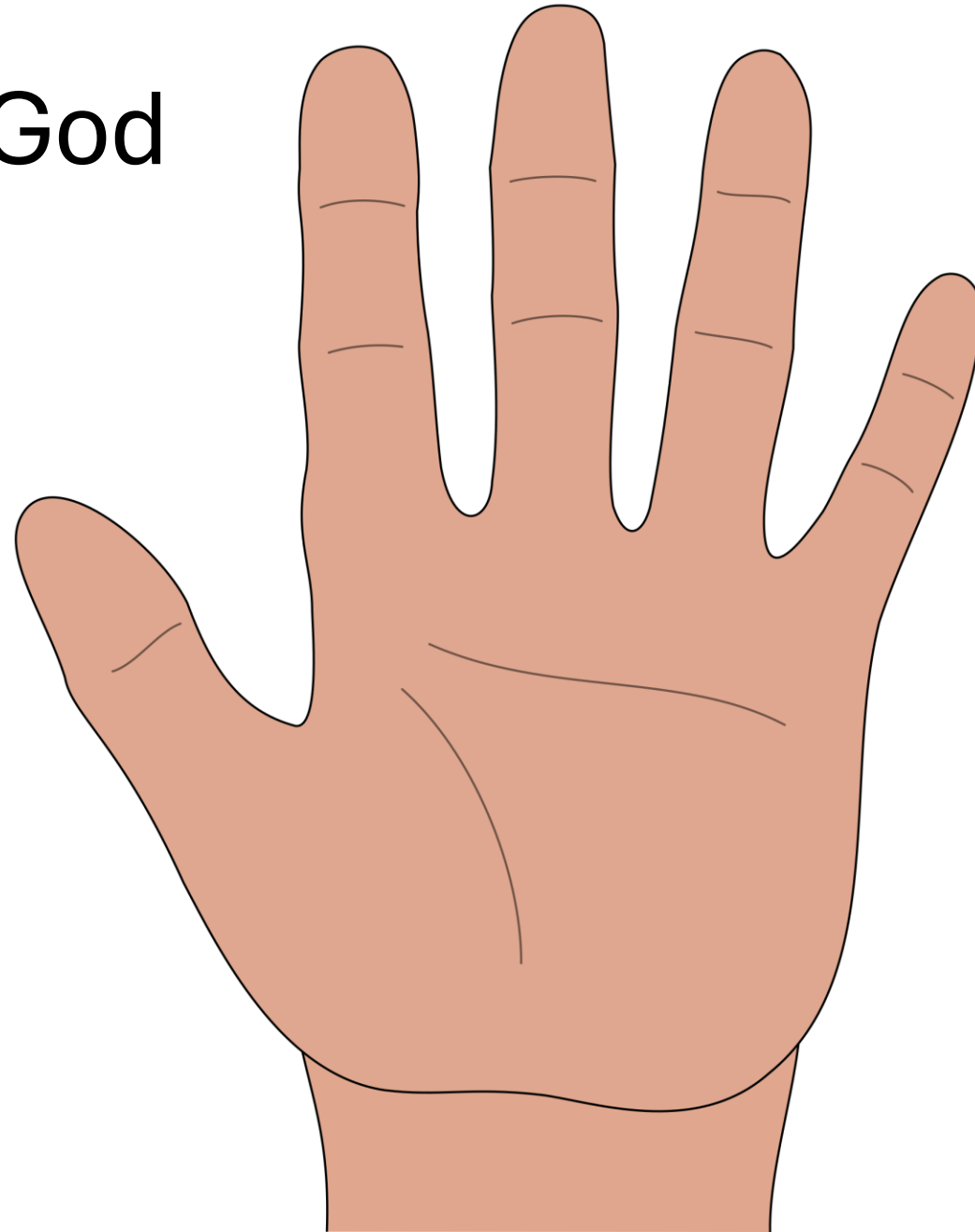


Discovering Your Destiny

#5 series on Ephesians

Ephesians 4:11 *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers...*

Five Fingers of God



1. The Thumb – the Apostle

- The Apostle has the Father's heart.
- Wants to start a church where no-one else has been.
- Has a breakthrough ministry.
- Demonstrates the Father's heart by great concern for the church, and especially churches he started.

Acts 20:19 *I [Paul] have done the Lord's work humbly and with many tears. I have endured the trials that came to me from the plots of the Jews.*



1. The Thumb – the Apostle

- The Apostle has the Father's heart.
- Releases God's people into their calling.

Hebrews 3:1 *And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger [apostle] and High Priest*

- Jesus has placed something of Himself in us.



Questions:

- Do you get excited about a church plant or mission work?
- Do you get excited when you see a breakthrough in a community?
- Do you have a desire to see churches grow strong?
- Do you desire to see people released in their calling?

2. Index Finger – the Prophet

- The Index finger points the way.
- Hearing God speak is the privilege of every believer.
- God primarily speaks through the written Word.



2. Index Finger – the Prophet

- Word ‘prophet’ originally meant a ship whose sails are set to catch the wind.



2. Index Finger – the Prophet

A Prophecy	A Prophet
To minister in prophecy is a gift.	To be a prophet is a calling.
When you minister in prophecy, the ability to prophecy is a gift.	The ability to prophecy is a gift.
The words themselves are a gift.	When a person is a prophet, they are the gift (to the church)

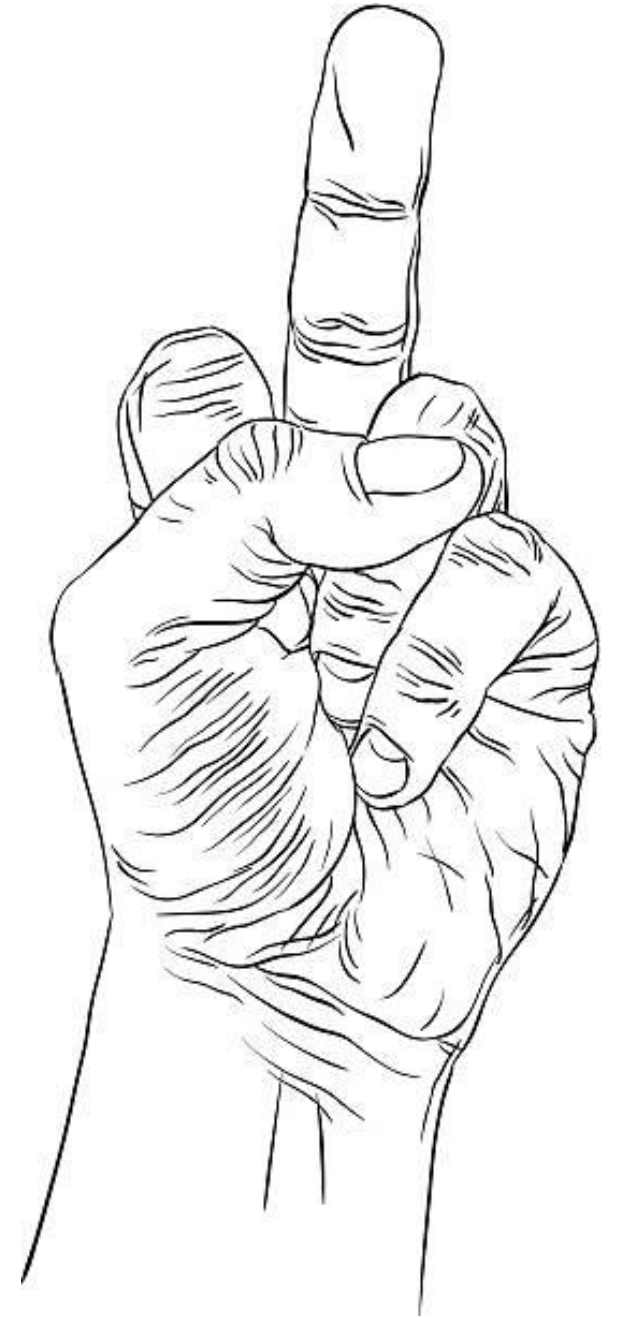
QUESTIONS:

Have you ever had:

- a strong impression to pray for someone?
- A strong impression to encourage someone?
- Felt something that indicated someone's pain?
- Had a dream, picture or vision that could point the way in someone's life or situation?

3. Middle finger – the Evangelist.

- The middle finger is the furthest reaching.



Acts 8:4-17 (NLT) *But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralysed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.*

A man named Simon had been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great. Everyone, from the least to the greatest, often spoke of him as “the Great One—the Power of God.” They listened closely to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic.

But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.

3. Middle finger – the Evangelist.

- Context: early church being persecuted.
- Philip used opportunity – racial / cultural barriers didn't stop him.
- “Gospel” (GK: *euangelion*) = a returning army declaring “*The battle is won – you are safe!!*”



3. Middle finger – the Evangelist.

The middle finger (evangelist) still needed the thumb (apostle) for both baptism of the Spirit and for a word of knowledge..

Acts 8:18-21 *When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. “Let me have this power, too,” he exclaimed, “so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!”*

But Peter replied, “May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God.

QUESTIONS

- Do you get excited about someone finding Jesus?
- Do you automatically see opportunities to share Jesus?
- Do Cultural barriers stop you from sharing?
- Do you have a strong belief that the battle is won?

Evangelist

Prophet

Apostle

Body

All three fingers are connected to the one hand which is connected to the one church/body of which Jesus is the head.

