

# **THE FULLNESS OF MINISTRY**

Christopher Patrick Johnson

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# FOREWORD

At last! A book that not only brings clarity, wisdom and revelation to the five-fold ministry, but also is radically committed to seeing the Centrality of Jesus Christ exalted among church leadership. As a young shepherd of a flock in Lakeland, Florida, and a traveling minister in America and abroad, I can say with a clear conscience that what you hold in your hands is one of the rarest and most insightful treasures you can find on this subject, especially within Charismatic and Pentecostal circles.

Christopher Johnson writes with profound clarity the desire of God the Father to have a family of sons who look to their older brother Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29), as the Model of true relationship and brotherhood in ministry. It is high time we look beyond titles and positions in the Body of Christ and take a fresh look from a different perspective at the model of leadership that Jesus Christ came to establish on the earth—namely servanthood.

If as a church leader you're after building your own kingdom and living for the praise and recognition of man, you will not finish this book, and more directly, you might even hate it. But if you're hungry for the exaltation of Jesus Christ in all things and for seeing Him receive the glory only He deserves, you will devour what you are about to read again and again.

I have personally been greatly impacted by the ministry that the Father has given Christopher Johnson. I know of no other individual in Christ who is more committed to the Preeminence of Jesus Christ as this brother and dear father in the faith. It is impossible to hear him preach and teach and not want to know the glorious Person of Christ more for yourself. His many years of experience and ministry as a shepherd, counselor and father to many give him the express capability to write as one who has walked experientially through much of what you are about to read.

I encourage you as a church leader or saint longing for more depth and insight into the fullness of what ministry really is, to focus your attention on Jesus Himself: the Fullness of Ministry. May we be humble enough to receive the fatherly corrections and timely encouragements herein, and bold enough to give ourselves to a true New Testament expression of what we call church. I trust that, like myself, at many points you will have to put it down and invite the Holy Spirit to come and search your own heart. Get ready for a truly refreshing adventure into this subject. There is simply nothing like it out there!

Jeremiah Johnson, Founder – Unknown Dreamer Ministries

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this book to the entire Body of Christ.  
Then, I dedicate it to those truly called by the Father  
to service in one of the five ministries of Jesus.  
Specifically, I dedicate this revision to the next generations.  
You have my heart and prayers.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Having written the original version of this book in 1977 at the tender age of 24 years old, armed with only great encouragement from a spiritual father, the calling of God on my own life, and a revelation of Jesus Christ and the ministries that represent Him, I realized I had little experience or wisdom. As the years have passed since then, many have suggested I revisit the topics and add some of what has been learned. Frankly, I have resisted, wanting the original to simply stand on its own merits. But as those from the younger generation, some of whom are spiritual sons to me, have pled with me to revise the work, I saw the wisdom in their appeals. I acknowledge all of you! You know who you are. Thanks for the encouragements.

Thanks also to my two brothers, Tommy, and especially Joey, and my friend Beau, all of whom have hounded me over the years to add some “absolutely necessary” sections to the book. Thanks to the brothers who patiently read the revised manuscript and have provided helpful feedback. Lastly, I am forever indebted to Norman Sellers, who taught so many of us New Testament Greek back at Miami Christian University. I ask the Lord Jesus to bless you. I am indebted.

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## INTRODUCTION

From the days of the Reformation, the days of Huss, Luther, Calvin, the Wesley brothers, and many others until these present hours, God has been actively engaged in a progressive and total restoration of His Church. These are perilous and yet glorious days. We are living in times when God is shaking all things that can be shaken, and the world seems turned upside down. But He is also restoring all things needing to be restored in the Church, in preparation for the coming and appearing of His Son. A major part of the restoration of the Church is the recovery and restoration of the five ministries that represent Jesus's own ministry. More than anything else, this book is about Jesus Christ. Apart from Him and His fullness, there is no service and no ministry. Any and all service and ministry exists because of Him and for Him. Everything connected to service and ministry comes out of His own fullness. Jesus Himself is the Fullness of Ministry.

When He ascended, He Himself gave as love-gifts to His Church, which is His Body, the five ministries outlined by Paul in Ephesians 4:10-16. This “five-fold ministry” of Jesus exists to express, represent, and manifest Him to His Body, and to restore, prepare for use, and equip His saints for the work of service—so that His Body might be built up organically and numerically. They were given for a very specific purpose and a very specific timeframe—to bring us all to an intended goal and destination of “the fullness belonging to the Christ.” For that end to be attained, the five-fold ministry needs to be fully restored, fully functional, and fully recognized. This, the Father is fully intent on doing in the last of these days. But what Jesus and the Father and Spirit are really after is not apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers. The Godhead is after a people who are apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, shepherding, and teaching in nature, and who manifest the life and character of the Son of God. I trust this work will be helpful.

I am yours in Him,  
Christopher P. Johnson



## CHRIST: THE FULLNESS OF MINISTRY

**I**t is foremost in the heart of God to have the glory of His person, His presence and His power filling the whole earth. Gradually and progressively He has revealed His plan to accomplish this since the time of the fall of man, until this present hour. All of time and history, however, must focus its attention upon that one person, who is by His very nature:

The sole expression of the glory of God—the Light-being, the out-ricing of the Divine—and He is the perfect imprint and very image of God’s nature.” (Hebrews 1:3—Amplified)

This One is the incomparable Jesus Christ. It is essential, therefore, we comprehend that the entirety of the plan and purpose of God is centered in and focused in the Father’s Son, the Christ, this Anointed One. Apart from Him no plan has been made and no purpose has been purposed. “This is in accordance with the terms of the eternal and timeless purpose which He has realized and carried into effect, in the Person of Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Ephesians 3:11—Amplified)

It is with the great truth of the centrality, supremacy, and preeminence of Christ Jesus in mind that we must approach the Word of God in any area of study. He Himself is the center of everything in the heart of God the Father. It is also with this in mind that we will seek to understand the five-fold ministry. Jesus Christ Himself is the fullness of ministry!

In this hour, the Father is seeking for a people who will fully manifest and express the life, the love, the glory, the character and the anointing of His Anointed One. We must first see that Jesus Christ, in and of Himself, is the full and total expression of all ministries. This is the most crucial element of this revelation. Any isolated element of anointing, whether through gifts or ministries in the Church can be traced to and/or seen in its full expression through the life of Jesus Christ, the Anointed One.

There are several passages of Scripture that establish this fact. John 1:16 states, “For out of His fullness (totality and abundance) we have all received grace for (in exchange for) grace” (translation mine). It is not out of what He has that we receive, but rather out of who He Himself is, in the fullness of His person and being that God has imparted to us. It is out of who Christ is that God gives to the Church, that the Church may assimilate that which is given, to become exactly and precisely the representation of Christ in the earth. The church, which is His Body, is “the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:23). Colossians 2:9 speaks of “the

fullness (the totality and plentitude) of Deity dwelling bodily” in Christ Jesus. He is the full and total embodiment and manifestation of all divine attributes, characteristics and qualities. He is the incarnation of all truth, ministry, grace, anointing, power and fruit, etc., of all things that concern godliness. The Scriptures tell us that the Spirit of God was not given to Him in measure (in portion) (John 3:34). In other words, He ministered in the full Spirit and expression of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, discernment, etc.—not in part (Isaiah 11:1-5). His ministry was in fullness in its total expression. He did not minister in “a word” of wisdom or “a word” of knowledge, but rather in the Spirit (full expression) of wisdom and knowledge. This is the one and only incomparable Christ, of whose character, truth, life, anointing, power, wisdom, and ministry we are made partakers. Truly, it is “out of His fullness” that we have received. Glory to His Name!

There is nothing that is given and distributed to the Church by God that does not proceed forth out of who Christ is. The purpose for this is that we who are His Body in the earth may grow up into the full expression of Christ in all aspects (Ephesians 4:15). It is so that “the Church, which is His Body” might actually become “the fullness of Him, Who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:23). All aspects of the life and ministry of Christ, who is the Head, are to be represented and manifested in and through His Body in the earth. Once again, He who is the Word of God is to become flesh through that “corporate, many-member man” which is “flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone.” All elements of His ministry are to be seen and known in the Church in order that His life may be manifested in and through the Church. Heinrich Schlier, a scholar, wrote:

*“He is the Head which has its Body in the Church, and which is thus present in earthly and bodily form in the Church. The Church is the “soma” (body) which has its head in Christ, and which is present in heavenly form in Christ. The head is not present without or apart from the body, nor the body present without or apart from the head. The Church is the earthly Body of the heavenly Head.”*

(Kittel’s TDNT, Volume 3, pg. 680)

When and where there is not full expression of His ministry, Christ is not fully present and manifested and we are not being fully restored, perfected, and equipped. We must pray and seek God diligently for the full restoration of all that is in Jesus Christ and all that is out of Christ. With this restoration is coming and now is the restoration of full-orbed and fully

functional apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors/shepherds, and teachers. These will be used and are being used to bring into existence the most glorious instrument in the hand of God that has ever been witnessed by men, demons, and the angels of God. This instrument in God's hand will be the mature, full-statured corporate Christ. He, the many-member man, that corporate Christ, headed up by Christ alone Himself, will express in all respects all that the Anointed One is.

Lastly here, Paul writes that God the Father "gave Him as Head over all things (subjected under His feet) to the Church (in her interest and for her benefit), which is His Body, the fullness of Him, the One filling (to fullness) for Himself all things in all places" (Ephesians 1:22b-23 – translation mine). If He is the fullness of all things divine, and if He Himself is the fullness of all ministry, and if the Church/Body is the "fullness of Him" from the divine perspective, and if He Himself is for Himself "filling to fullness all things" with Himself, then how can the Body of Him ever actually become "the fullness of Him" if some of the ministry of Him is missing from His Body? To think otherwise makes no sense. The only way that can ever become the reality of the Body of Him is for (all of) the five-fold ministry of Him to be present. His servant-ministers that represent Him must be active, functional, and moving together with each other and in concert with Him, who gave them to the Body to help it become what it actually is from the divine perspective, "the fullness of Him."