

Finding Your Base for Ministry

Walnut Creek, CA

22-23 February 2008

“How do I serve Jesus 24/7?”

**You were built with a
PURPOSE!**

Ephesians 4:7

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Ephesians 4:8-10

That is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.”

(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Ephesians 4:7,11

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

**It was he who gave some to be apostles,
some to be prophets,
some to be evangelists,
and some to be pastors and teachers,**

Ephesians 4:12-13

to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Base and Phase Ministry

Your *base* ministry is the one you most naturally return to, especially after stress or disappointment.

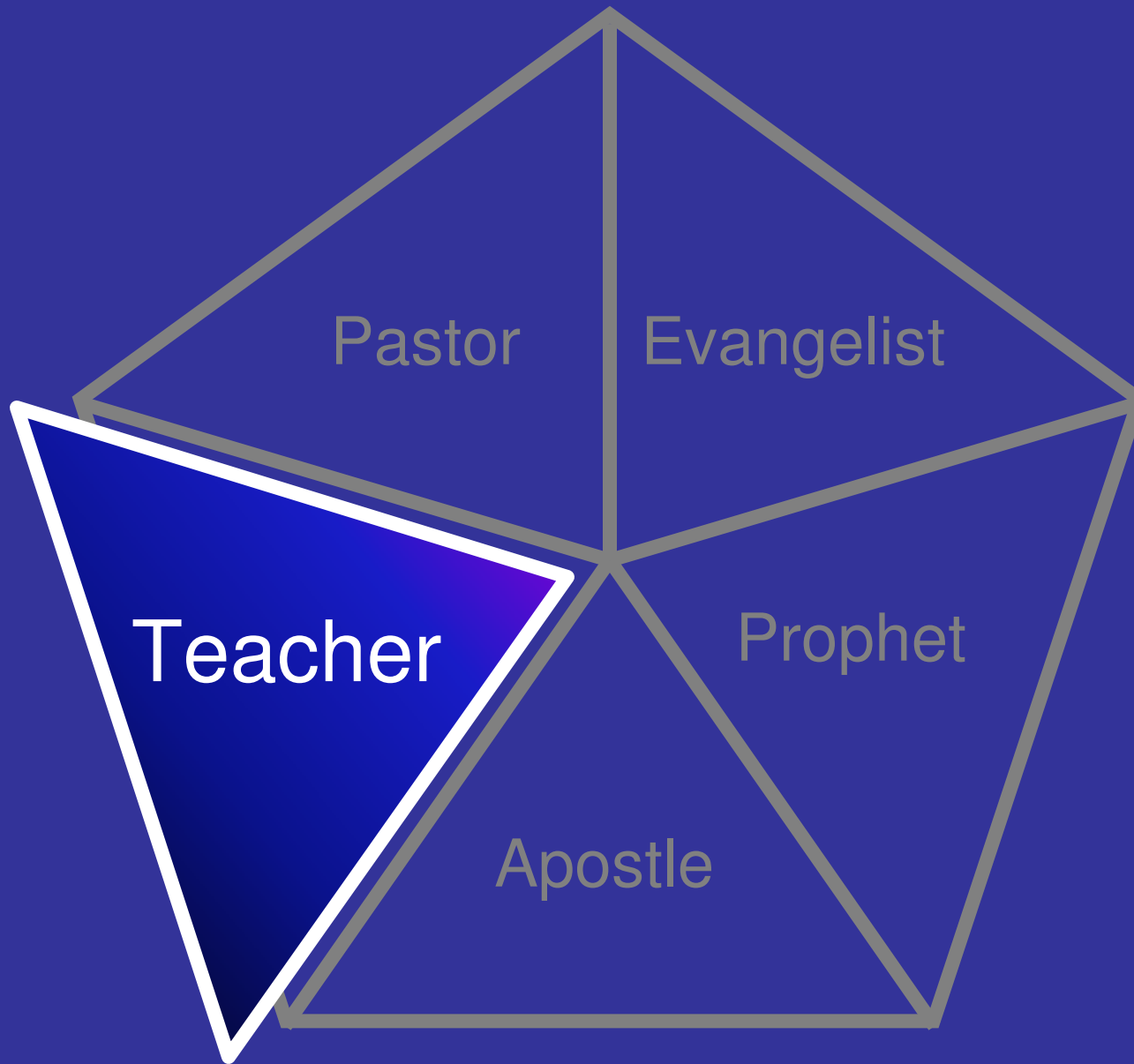
Your *phase* ministry is where God has called you for a season, to complete a specific task and/or to further round out your character

Base and Phase Ministry

As we go through the definitions, ask
God to show you...

Your *base* ministry

Your *phase* ministry



Teacher - Definition

One who grasps Truth and is excited by it.

They hold Truth out for others to receive, explaining, enlightening and applying.

The teacher provokes others to explore the Truth.

Teacher - Bible Example

Apollos in Acts 18:24-28

“He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately...

He vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.”

Jesus the Teacher

Often called “Rabbi” or “Teacher”

The Sermon on the Mount

“They were amazed at his teaching,
because his message had authority.”

Luke 4:32

Understanding Teachers

Teachers enjoy:

- Reading and studying the Bible
- Researching a subject and gathering information and insight
- Helping others understand the truth
- Bringing clarity, both to theory and to practicalities

Understanding Teachers

Words that describe a teacher:

- Trains
- Coaches
- Instructs
- Inspires
- Explains
- Enlightens

Understanding Teachers

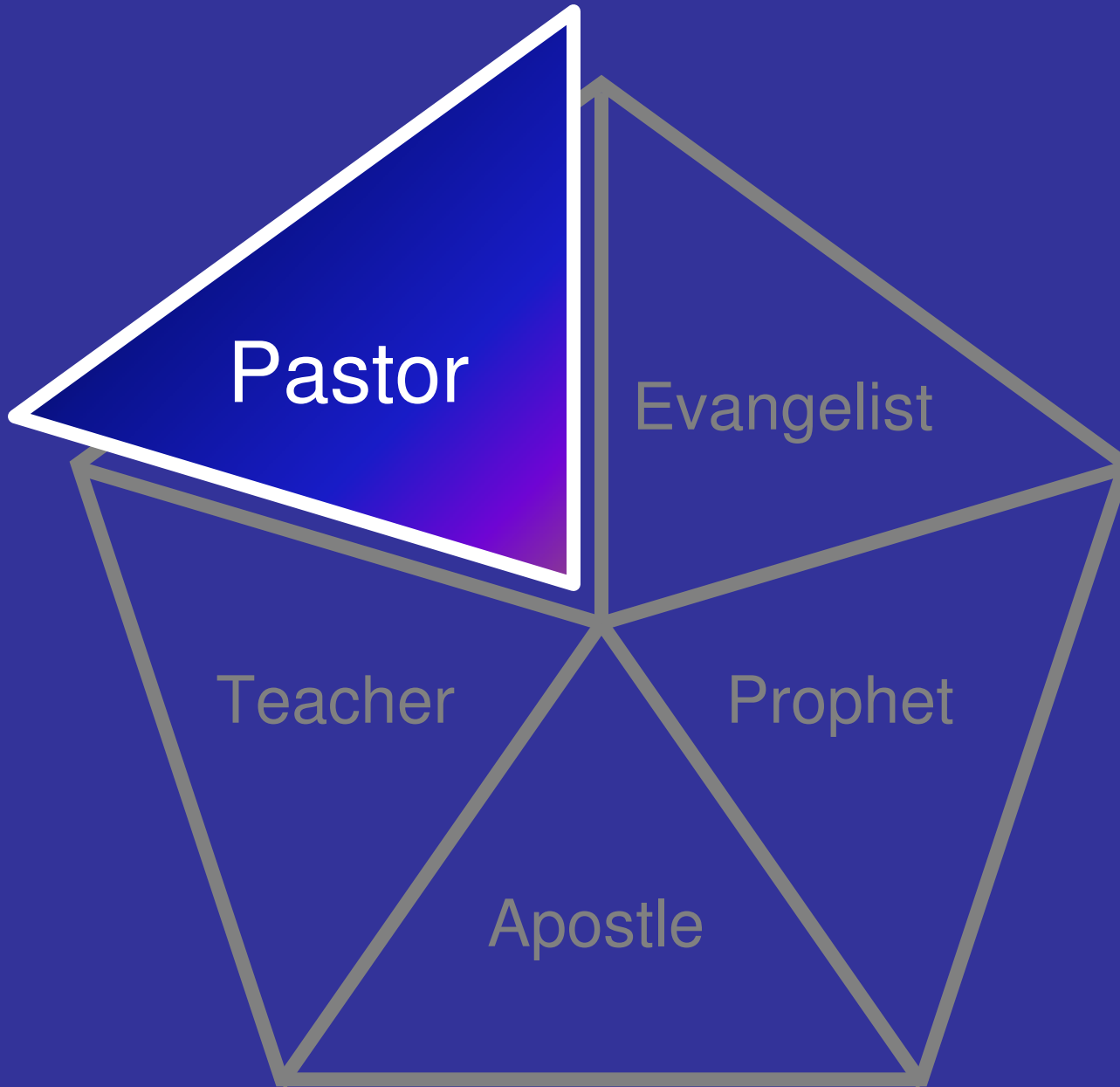
Potential pitfalls facing a teacher:

- Legalism
- Being judgmental
- Assuming they have a monopoly on truth
- Too theoretical and abstract
- Being slow to act

Understanding Teachers

The Teacher in everyday life:

- **Trainer**
- **Coach**
- **Demonstrator**
- **Researcher**
- **Some detail orientated jobs**
- **...even Teachers!**



Pastor - Definition

One who shepherds the people, cares for others with a tender heart and sees needs.

They confront as well as encourage.

Pastors long to see Christians grow to their full potential.

They can easily and patiently empathize with others and stimulate them to care.

Pastor - Bible Example

Barnabas in Acts 15:36-39

“Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him... They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus.”

Jesus the Pastor

The Good Shepherd

“I am the
Good Shepherd”
John 10: 11

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears,
you will receive the crown of glory that
will never fade away.”
1 Peter 5: 4

Understanding Pastors

Pastors enjoy:

- Seeing others grow
- One-to-one chats
- Showing hospitality
- Speaking the truth in love
- Listening (and they're easy to talk to)

Understanding Pastors

Words that describe a pastor:

- Caring
- Nurturing
- Loving
- Confronting
- Supporting
- Mediating

Understanding Pastors

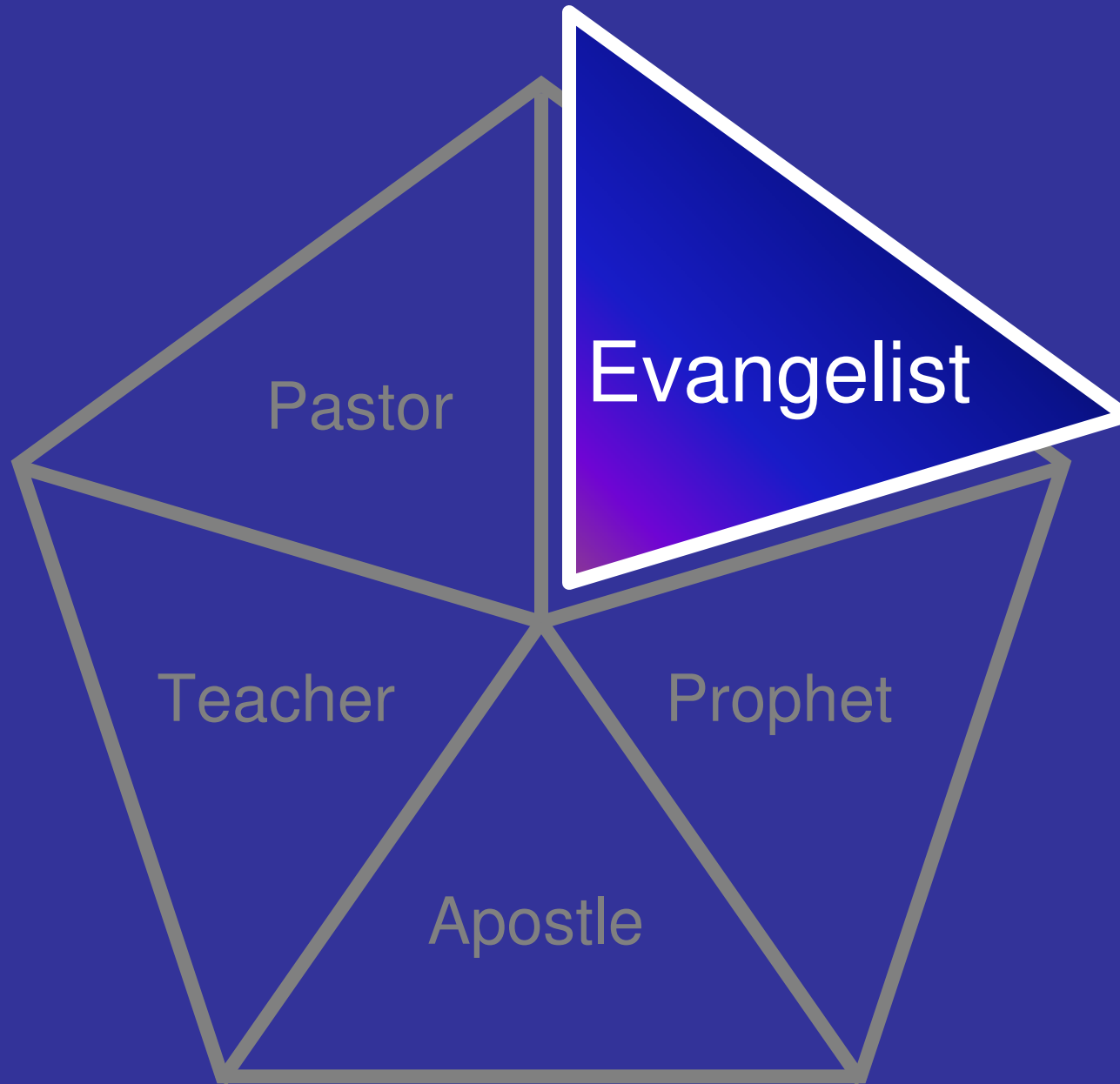
Potential pitfalls facing a pastor:

- Feelings are paramount
- Think only they care (esp if you disagree with them)
- Listen to people more than God
- Risk-averse
- Failure to confront as part of loving

Understanding Pastors

The Pastor in everyday life:

- Counselor
- Social worker
- Nurses
- Care-giving professions
- Community builders in any situation
- Parent!



Evangelist - Definition

Evangelist means “bearer of Good News”

One who brings good news and shares the message readily.

Evangelists seek out and love spending time with non Christians. They know the gospel and make it relevant to non Christians.

They provoke other Christians in their witness and give them boldness.

Evangelist - Bible Example

Philip in Acts 8:12

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ they were baptized, both men and women.”

Jesus the Evangelist

The Good News

The Samaritan Woman in John 4

“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I ever did’... And because of his words many more became believers.”

Understanding Evangelists

Evangelists enjoy:

- Building relationships beyond the church
- Discussion and sharing their point of view
- Leading people to Christ
- Encouraging others to witness

Understanding Evangelists

Words that describe an evangelist :

- **Enthusiast**
- **People gatherer**
- **Persuasive**
- **Sower and Reaper**
- **Herald**
- **Proclaim**
- **Living invitation**

Understanding Evangelists

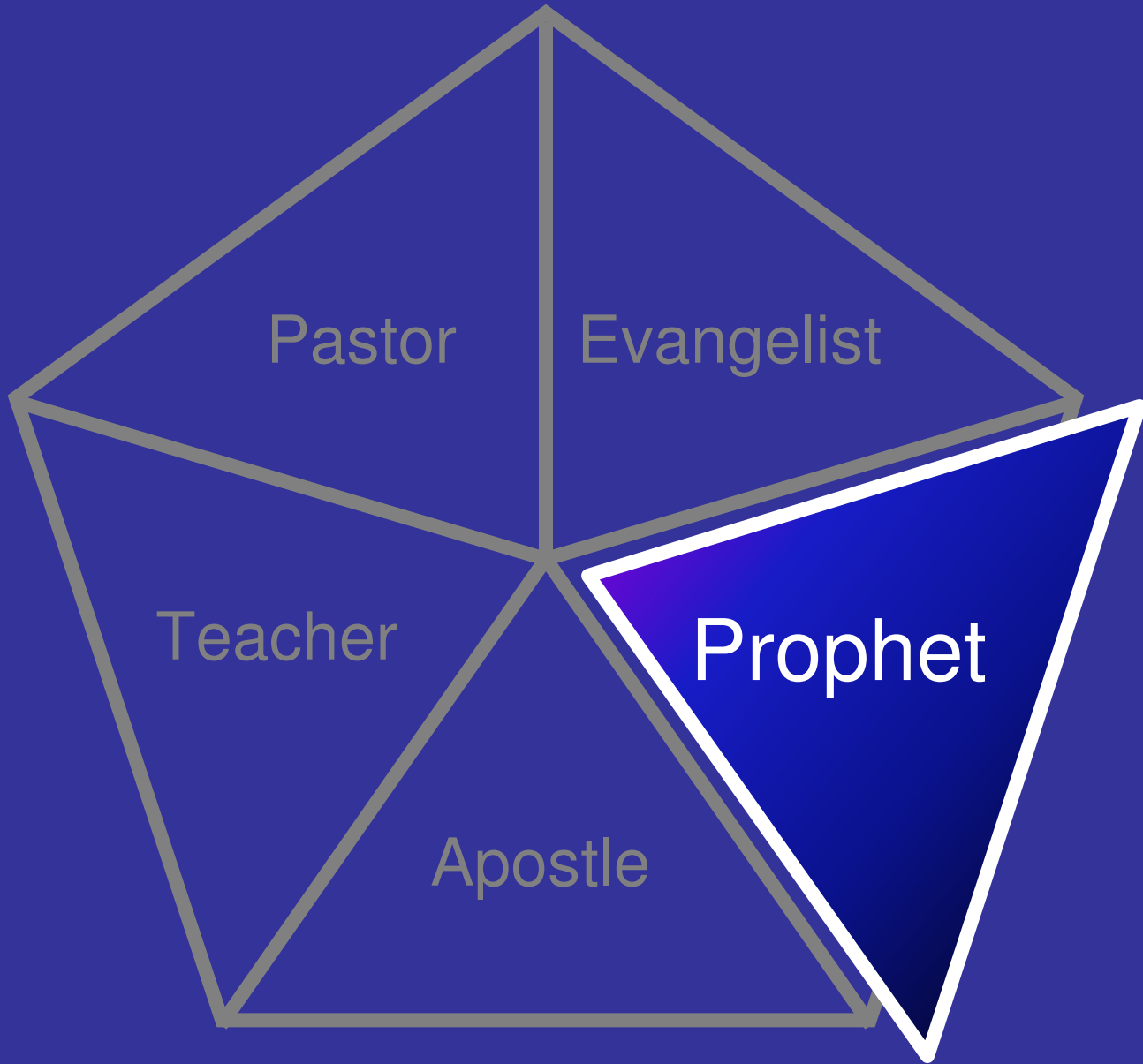
Potential pitfalls facing an evangelist:

- Lack of accountability
- Lone Ranger
- Little love for the church
- Scalp hunting
- Present Christianity as one-off decision
- Offer a “milk only” diet

Understanding Evangelists

The Evangelist in everyday life:

- Salesperson
- Successful retailers
- Journalist
- Advertising and PR
- Politician (some!)
- Enthusiast - for anything!



Prophet - Definition

One who listens to and hears God

They foretell and tell forth revelation from God

They understand the times and what people should do

Prophets can stand back from the immediate and see creative solutions

Prophet - Bible Example

Agabus in Acts 11:28 and 21:10

“Agabus stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius).”

Jesus the Prophet

The ultimate Revelation of God

Jesus is prophetic in his pronouncements (Mt. 24 & 25) and in his actions (Mt. 21:12 & 19).

He prophesies his own future in Mt. 17:12

He fulfills OT prophecy (Is. 53)

Understanding Prophets

Prophets enjoy:

- Being alone with God
- Waiting on God
- Listening to God
- Seeing new possibilities
- Bringing encouragement, edification and exhortation to others
- Intercession

Understanding Prophets

Words that describe a prophet :

- **Waiting**
- **Retreating**
- **Seeking God's heart**
- **Challenging**
- **Confronting**
- **Discerning**

Understanding Prophets

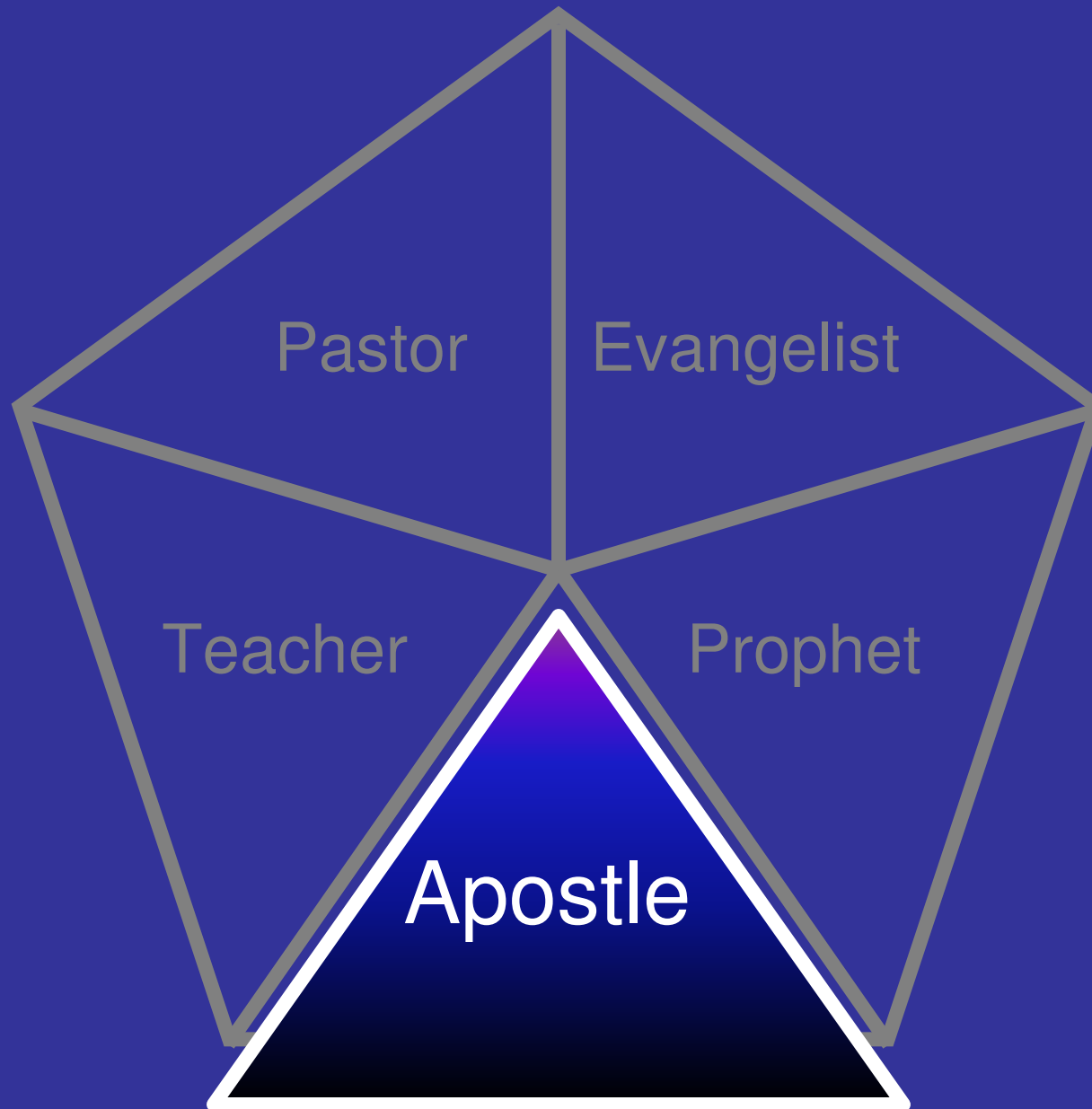
Potential pitfalls facing a prophet:

- Unaccountable and isolated
- Harsh and judgmental
- Not 'releasing' a prophecy once delivered
- Over-spiritualization
- Hypersensitive
- Not recognizing the limits of anointing

Understanding Prophets

The Prophet in everyday life:

- Visionaries
- Futurists
- Campaigners (for unpopular issues)
- People who speak out their perceptions
- Often the creative types
- Maverick politicians



Apostle - Definition

Apostle comes from the Greek work *apostolos* meaning 'one who is sent out'

The apostle is visionary and pioneering. They might establish new churches or Kingdom initiatives.

They provoke others to seek vision and start new things

Apostle - Bible Example

Paul throughout Acts!

eg 16:9-10

“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

Jesus the Apostle

Jesus is the Sent One

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world...” *John 3:17*

“...fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.”
Hebrews 3:1

Understanding Apostles

Apostles enjoy:

- Dreaming dreams and making them happen
- Strategizing
- Causing breakthroughs
- Change!
- Challenging the status quo
- The 'quarterback' role =
seeing possibilities in others

Understanding Apostles

Words that describe an Apostle:

- **Imagines**
- **Initiates**
- **Excites**
- **Envisions**
- **Challenges**
- **Stretches**
- **Changes things!**

Understanding Apostles

Potential pitfalls facing an Apostle:

- Seeing people as a means to an end
- Using and abusing others
- Low boredom threshold
- Terrible at completing-finishing
- Can leave a trail of devastation in wake
- Arrogance and pride
- Not appreciating those who settle and build

Understanding Apostles

The Apostle in everyday life:

- **Entrepreneurs**
- **Explorers**
- **Innovative business people**
- **Those who start things**
- **People who transform a stuck situation**
- **Those who spot hidden talent**

Understanding Yourself

Share with your neighbor:

Overall, which of the five-fold ministries do you think is your *base* ministry?

Which is your current *phase* ministry?



Pastor

Evangelist

Teacher

Prophet

Apostle

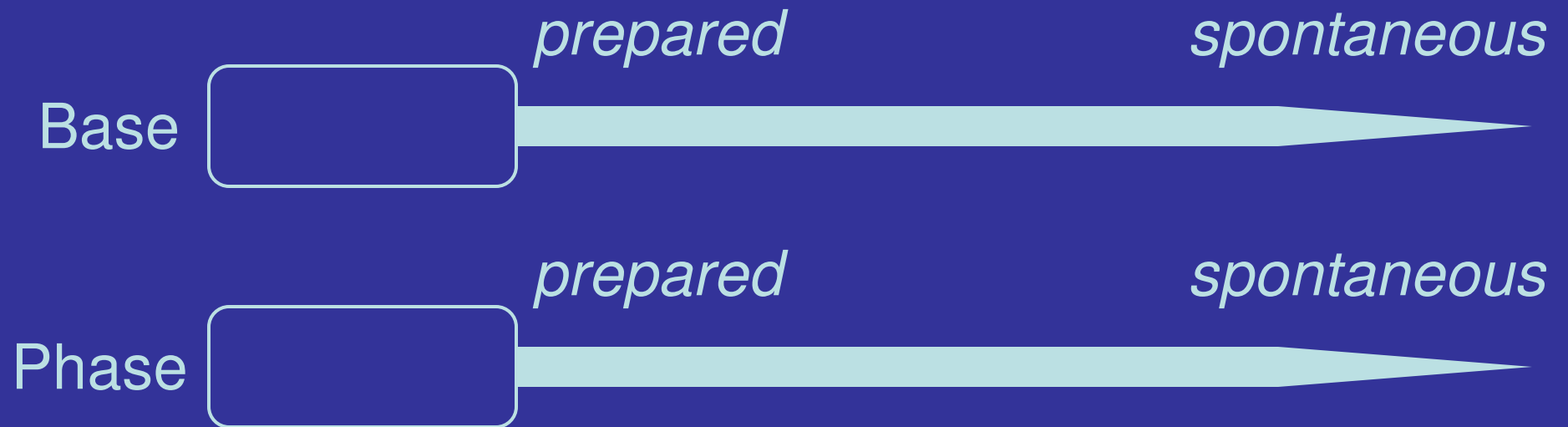
Fitting This With Spiritual Gifts

They operate “on top” of your base ministry

Your base (and phase) will effect how you perceive and utilize your spiritual gifts

Base and Phase

Q. How do you lead and give input?

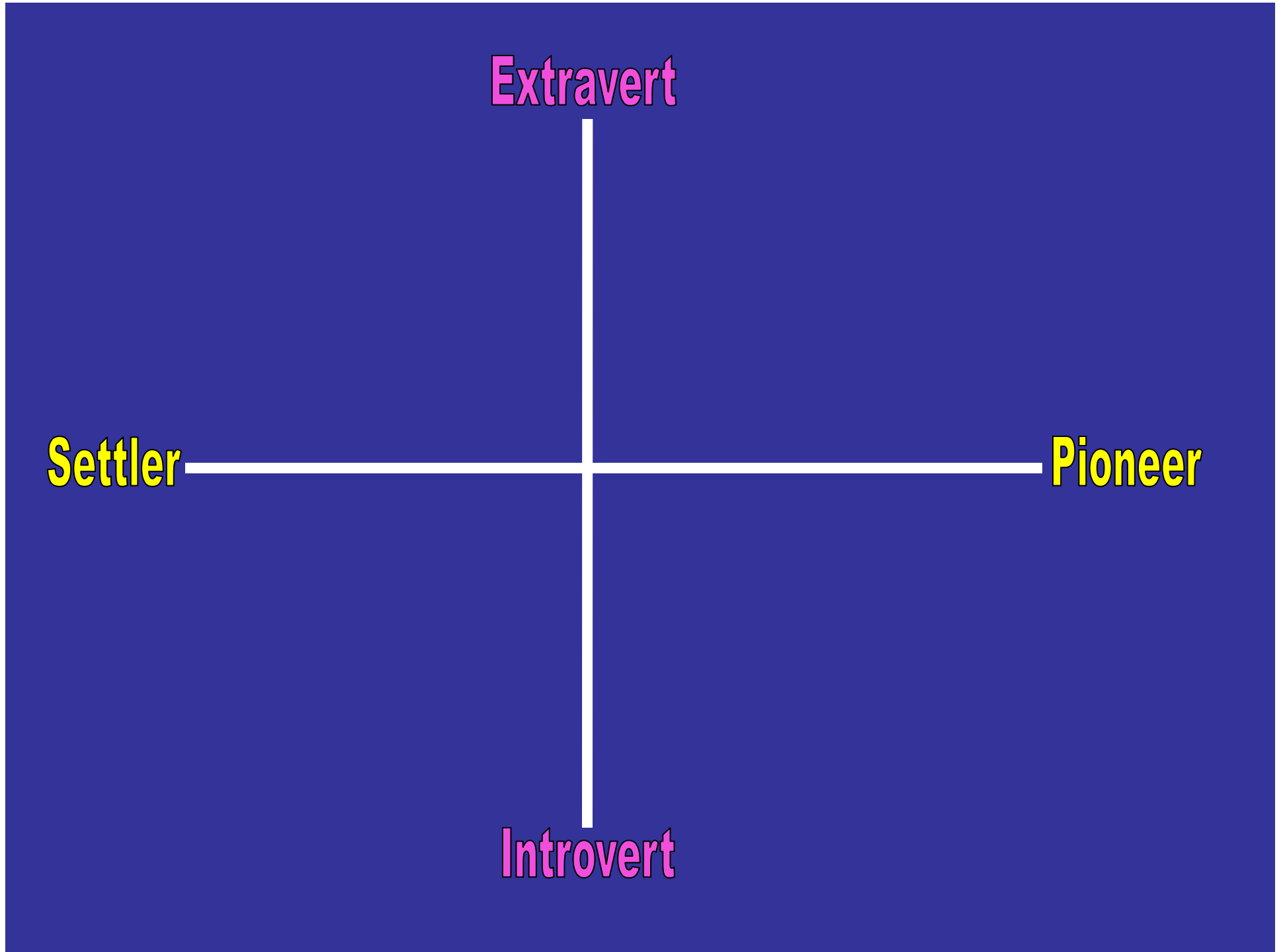


Extravert

Settler

Pioneer

Introvert



Extravert and Introvert

Extraverts...

Are refreshed by activity

Like variety

Enjoy being around people

Act quickly, sometimes
without thinking!

Process externally ie they
think by talking

Learn a new task by talking
it through with someone

Introverts...

Are refreshed by reflection

Like digging into something

Enjoy time alone

Think before they act,
sometimes without acting!

Process internally ie they
talk after thinking

Learn a new task by reading
about it

Pioneers and Settlers

Pioneers...

Love change and flexibility
Don't mind instability
Reach out beyond the
current
Are easily bored
Are frustrated by discipline
needed to sustain & build
Success = hitting the trail
Failure = turning back

Settlers...

Love continuity and stability
Don't mind routine
Develop and grow what's
already there
Are easily spooked
Are frustrated by constantly
moving targets
Success = becoming
established
Failure = breaking the law

“But I Don’t Fit!”

Remember:

- This is not the same as spiritual gifts
- Base and phase ministry
- Different temperaments produce different expressions of each ministry
- We are all uniquely created and called!



Pastor

Evangelist

Teacher

Prophet

Apostle

Helping Your People With This

Four principles apply:

- Teaching/ sharing/ encouraging
- Modeling it yourself
- Discerning and responding to what you see in others
- Make room for it in the rhythm of your group

Taking it Further

- **Recognize how this effects your own leadership style**
- **Evaluate: does your leadership team/group draw on all five-fold roles?**
- **How can you give opportunity for each of the five-fold roles in the life of your group?**
- **Do you encourage people to spot and value these differences?**