

“The Gift of Prophecy” (Part 7 of 16)

1 Cor. 12:7-10; Romans 12:6; Eph. 4:11

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, **to another prophecy**, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;*

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, **some prophets**, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one. . . individually . . . as He wills.**

1. to each one
2. individually
3. as He wills

The Gift of Prophecy:

- “The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely-appointed utterance.” (C.Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church To Grow*, pg 238)
- Typically deals more with the present than the future.
 - Perhaps the most frequent use of prophecy in the N.T. was the prediction of the future:
 1. Agabus predicted a universal famine (Acts 11:28)
 2. the imminent arrest of Paul (Acts 21:11).
 3. Other prophets had also predicted his impending imprisonment (Acts 20:23).¹
- **Literally:** “To speak forth”; “To speak for another”
 - To speak as God’s encourager, comforter, and edifier.
- Believers are called to “desire” this gift:

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, **but especially that you may prophesy.**
- Believers are called to welcome the prophetic gift in their churches.

¹Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). *Tyndale Bible dictionary*. Tyndale reference library (Page 1084). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.
Paul Berry

1 Corinthians 14:39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 **Do not despise prophecies.**

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

- This isn't said of any other gift.
- God knew there would be a struggle – how about you?
- Prophecies can be wrong
 - Prophet must be open to correction by Elders.
 - Most real Prophets want their words to be tested and proven true to Scripture and fulfillment.
- Follows four basic tests:
 1. Does the message agree with Scripture.
 - No Godly prophecy will ever conflict with His written Word.
 - Interestingly – God may use false prophets to test your love for His Word:

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

1 “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,
2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—and let us serve them,’
3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
 - According to the tenants of the faith:

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, **let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;**

 - A better translation would be “in agreement to the (not his) faith.”
 - That is, prophesying is to be in right relationship to the body of truth already revealed (cf. “faith” as doctrine in Gal. 1:23; Jude 3, 20).²
 2. Does the message:
 - Edify?
 - To build up, to inform, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to establish
 - Exhort?

cf. confer, compare

²Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- Turn men to Christ Jesus, motivate through Scripture, spur people on to holiness, motivate to godliness, pick-up/dust-off/stand-up
- **Comfort?**
 - To invest hope, to soothe, to speak compassionately, to come along one's side, to tenderly encourage.

A Child's Comfort

A little girl came home from a neighbor's house where her little friend had died.

"Why did you go?" questioned her father.

"To comfort her mother," said the child.

"What could you do to comfort her?"

"I climbed into her lap and cried with her."³

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks **edification** and **exhortation** and **comfort** to men.

Acts 15:32-33 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, **exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.**

33 And after they had stayed *there* for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles.

3. Are there Elders present to test the message?

1 Corinthians 14:29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

4. Is the message orderly, does the message bring peace instead of confusion.

1 Corinthians 14: 30-33 But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

33 For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

³10,000 sermon illustrations. 2000 (electronic ed.). Dallas: Biblical Studies Press.