

- I) V7-11 INTRO: To another, prophecy  
We are currently continuing our study of the gifts of the Spirit
- II) In this study we will examine the gift of Prophecy  
**FIRST**
- III) The gift of prophecy is the gift that continues to fulfill the **prophetic method** of God  
This is because unless God reveals His plans, none would ever know them  
Ro 11:33 Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!
- IV) God's ways are past our finding out **without His revelation**  
Dt 29:29 The secret things **belong to the LORD** our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.  
Is 40:13-14 **Who has understood the mind** of the LORD, or instructed Him as His counselor? Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten Him, and who taught Him the right way? Who was it that taught Him knowledge or showed Him the path of understanding?  
Dan 2:20-22 Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. **He reveals deep and hidden things**; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him.  
**THE BLESSING IS**
- V) God has not remained silent: **He has consistently revealed Himself to man**  
Heb 1:1 God, who at **various times** and in various ways **spoke in time past** to the fathers by the prophets
- VI) When the writer says **various times** he speaks of God revealing Himself, piecemeal  
He is referring to the testimony of the OT: 39 Books written to reveal Him to us
- VII) In **various ways** would speak of the different ways He has revealed Himself  
He used dreams, visions, angels, events, symbols, miracles, and signs  
**IN THE OT THERE ARE AROUND 55 PROPHETS**
- VIII) He also used **prophets** to communicate His mind to people  
Nu 12:6 (God) said, "Listen to my words: When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal Myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.  
Amos 3:7 The Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants **the prophets**  
**KEY**
- IX) God's prophets did not communicate thoughts and messages **they made up**

- I) If they did, they then would be recognized as **false prophets**  
God warned the Jews not to pay heed to false prophets  
Jer 27:9-10 Therefore do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers, who speak to you, saying, You shall not serve the king of Babylon. For they prophesy a lie to you to remove you far from your land; and I will drive you out, and you will perish
- II) God's prophets were inspired by the Spirit and spoke what He intended to say  
They were called by God and given a message to communicate to the people  
2 Pe 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- III) A good example would be Jeremiah  
Jer 1:4-8 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." The said I Ah Lord God Behold I cannot speak for I am a youth. But eh Lord said to me Do not say I am a youth, for you shall go to all **whom I send you** and whatever I command you, **you shall speak**. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you says the Lord  
**IN THE NT THERE ARE AROUND 21 MENTIONED**
- IV) Prophecy speaks of **foretelling** future events and **forth-telling** the mind of God  
The early Church had **an office**, or class of individuals called **prophets**  
Eph 4:11-12 It was he who gave some to be apostles, **some to be prophets**, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up
- V) There are various NT prophets mentioned  
Zacharias, Simeon, Anna, the Baptist, Paul, Peter, John, Silas  
Agabus: Ac 11:27-28 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named 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.)  
Ac 21:10-11 And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

- I) Philip's daughters: Ac 21:9 Philip had four virgin daughters who prophesied.  
**THIS WAS IN THE FORMATION OF THE CHURCH**
- II) Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and **prophets**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone (Eph 4:11)  
Rev 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations bearing the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- III) **The gift of prophecy** is not the **office** of the prophet, but is a spiritual gift  
It **differs** from the office: God **encourages us** to desire to prophesy (1 Co 14:1)
- IV) One aspect of prophecy is the declaration of future events  
God inspires the one exercising the gift and declares what is about to happen
- V) The gift of prophecy can also be the **forth-telling** of God's intentions **for now**  
**WHY SHOULD WE DESIRE TO PROPHECY**
- VI) Ch 14 gives **insights** and instructions in regard to this gift  
**FIRST**
- VII) V3-4 He who prophesies speaks **edification**, **exhortation** and **comfort to men**  
This spiritual gift has three primary functions  
**Edification**: Building up, encouraging the Body of Christ  
**Exhortation**: Encourages us to walk with Christ  
**Comfort**: Reminding us that God is concerned about us
- VIII) V5 he who prophesies edifies the church  
God's desire is to **build us up**, and He uses this gift to do so  
**GOD GAVE ME A PROPHETIC WORD**
- IX) You will need a place that seats 200: this church is going to grow larger than it is
- X) When a prophetic word is given, the result is encouragement  
Personal experience at the Pastor's retreat, in '82
- XI) A prophetic word is not something that necessarily is overwhelming  
We don't quiver, sweat, raise our voices, or use KJV english  
**MOST OFTEN**
- XII) The Lord simply gives you an **impression**, and you exercise faith, and speak  
Ro 12:6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith

- I) V9 It is not a mysterious message: it is spoken with words **easy to understand**  
This is in contrast to tongues, which are hard to understand  
Prophecy is to the point: (Hinds feet prophecy resulted in discouragement)  
**KEY**
- II) V19 Prophecy is a gift that is used to instruct others in the ways of God  
Notice how Paul wrote that **I might teach** others  
Often the gift is exercised through the **teaching of God's word**
- III) V24-25 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in  
If an unbeliever or untaught person is present: The result will be conviction  
Prophecy brings exhortation and can bring people to faith in Jesus  
GET RIGHT WITH GOD!  
**HOW IS IT EXERCISED**
- IV) V29 Let two or three prophets speak and let *the others judge*  
If somebody tells you that you are to do something, test it against God's word  
1 Th 5:19-21 Quench not the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things;  
hold fast what is good.  
Gospel of Mark on Sundays: Woman confirmed this thought God had given me
- V) V29 THE FACT IS: This and all gifts are to operate in an orderly fashion  
When God moves it is not intended to be a carnival show: Don't cry out of control  
Sometimes people will say: I can't help it, God told me to do that! (V32)
- VI) V40 The foundational rule: **All things** are done decently and in order  
V33 God does not author Confusion, and services are done with guests in mind  
It isn't a chaotic dueling prophets environment
- VII) How do we know a true word from God  
Does it line up with the spirit of what has already been revealed in the Bible?
- VIII) False prophets contradict the written revealed word of God:  
Dt 13:1-3 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them," you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.

I) Dt 18:21-22 You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

**SECOND**

II) Is it promoting the true Christ

1 Jn 4:3 every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

2 Jn 1:7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

III) Does it result in honor to Jesus Christ

Jn 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you  
False prophets are interested in personal glory, attention, and wealth

**THIRD**

IV) God never contradicts or interrupts Himself: V33

Sometimes people will interrupt a bible study to give a word  
Paul encouraged its exercise, but not its abuse

V) It does not take the place of Bible study and teaching

'26 1 CO 12:10B PROPHECY 3/4/26

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