



3 Most Controversial Gifts: #2 Prophecy

There's no getting around it, the supernatural gifts of the Spirit can leave us feeling uneasy, but that clearly isn't God's intention.

Imagine you are an Israelite during the 400 silent years, the Intertestamental period between Malachi and Matthew. This was a time when there was no new revelation coming from God, all you had was prophecy to go on. How would trusting in those promises strengthen your faith? What does trusting in the promises of God look like?

Have you ever had any experience with someone speaking a prophetic word over you or someone you know? What was that like?

Read: 1 Corinthians 14:32-33, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Old Testament and New Testament prophecy differs because the cross changed everything. In 1 Cor. 14:32 it says that *"the spirits of the prophets (New Testament) are subject to the prophets (The Established WORD of God given by the prophets)."* If we can hear and know God's voice, why do we need to test it against scripture?

How do we test any claim, be it from God or anywhere else, against scripture?

Where do we draw the line from healthy skepticism and verifying a message from God and quenching the Spirit?

How do we know if we have quenched the Spirit?

Read: Matthew 7:15, 1 John 4:1, Matthew 24:24

Scripture is replete with warnings about false prophets. What comes to your mind when you think about what a false prophet might **be**?

How do we determine who a false prophet is?

- They have selfish motives.
- They distort the Gospel to suit their needs.
- The fruit that their lives produce will be rancid.

John 13:35 NKJV

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

The fruit of any Christian is rooted in the Love of God, look at their lives and ask the question:

Do they love God?

- **Love His Word?** - What does it look like to love God's Word?
- **Love His people?** - What does it look like to love God's people?
- **Love His call?** - What does it look like to love the call of God on your life?

Read: Numbers 11:29, Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:16-18, 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, Revelation 19:9-10

Imagine that you were there on the Day of Pentecost, when all that prophecy was being fulfilled. What would you have done? Would you be confused by the gifts as many were, or would you recognize the move of God and worship Him, and many also did?

How do we keep our eyes and ourselves open to the fulfillment of scripture in our lives?

When we read about the testimony of Jesus being prophecy it reminds us that all true prophecy points us back to the work of Jesus on the Cross.

Why do you think God desires the gift of prophesy to be common among His people?

How could the gift of prophecy build up the church or a person?

How can we pray for each other tonight?