

GIFTED!

Lesson 8

Unleashing the Proclaiming Gifts - Prophecy

Introduction

This is week 6 in our journey into the gifts of the Holy Spirit...

The Goal of this Course

To help believers understand and unleash the gifts of the Holy Spirit into our fallen world for the building up of the body of Christ.

Understanding the gifts is essential... *without understanding what they are, their necessity, and parameters, the gifts are either limited or abused...*

Unleashing the gifts is also essential... *a refusal to unleash the gifts limits the Gospel and weakens the Church*

In tonight's teaching I want focus on the Perceiving Gifts and then show you how to begin unleashing them...

The Question I hope to answer tonight is this:

What are the **PROCLAIMING** Gifts and **HOW** do we **UNLEASH** them?

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV) — To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the **utterance of wisdom**, and to another the **utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the **ability to distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.

→ Pic - The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit

| Perceiving | Power | Proclaiming |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Word of Wisdom | Faith | Prophecy |
| Word of Knowledge | Gifts of Healings | Various kinds of Tongues |
| Discerning of Spirits | Working of Miracles | Interpretation of Tongues |

As we begin tonight, I want to share with you a belief I hold firmly...

There is a conspiracy against hearing the voice of God

I have told you over and over regarding the most often quoted statement by Jesus in the New Testament...

It is recorded 15 TIMES!

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Matthew 11:15 | Luke 8:8 | Rev. 2:29 |
| Matthew 13:9 | Luke 14:35 | Rev. 3:6 |
| Matthew 13:43 | Rev. 2:7 | Rev. 3:13 |
| Mark 4:9 | Rev. 2:11 | Rev. 3:22 |
| Mark 4:23 | Rev. 2:17 | Rev. 13:9 |

Not to mention how many times we are commanded, urged, commissioned to prophecy...

Tonight we are coming to the PROCLAIMING Gifts...

→ Pic – Proclaiming Gifts

| Proclaiming | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prophecy | A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a _____ to the person . |
| Tongues | A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a _____ to the person |
| Interpretation of tongues | A supernatural _____ given by God to an individual for the _____ of a _____ in an _____ language . |

When you think of prophecy, what comes to mind?

→ Pic – Image 1



What I hope to share tonight is the truth about NT prophecy and how the Lord wants to speak through YOU!

God's Voice Still Speaks

The voice of the Lord still echoes.

He has not gone silent in the halls of history.

He is **not distant**, nor has He **withdrawn** His presence from the Church. **He is near.**

And one of the clearest indications of His nearness is the gift of prophecy.

This gift is a living demonstration that God still speaks—not merely through ink on a page but by the breath of His Spirit upon surrendered hearts.

The gift of prophecy is not reserved for spiritual elites or prophetic superstars.

It is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, given to the Body for the building up of the Body.

And in a world choked by lies and spiritual apathy, prophecy breathes clarity, conviction, and comfort.

But we must be honest: prophecy has been mishandled, misunderstood, and even manipulated.

Some have shunned it altogether, while others have abused it for gain.

What we need is a biblical, Spirit-led understanding of prophecy—one that neither quenches the Spirit nor embraces chaos.

One that calls us back to Scripture, roots us in love, and sends us out with courage.

Tonight's study will guide you into the heart of prophecy: what it is, why it matters, and how it functions in the life of a Spirit-filled believer. May it stir your hunger to hear God's voice—and even more, to become His voice in the earth.

1 Corinthians 12:10 (ESV) — For to one is given through the Spirit ... **prophecy** ...

Προφητεία - propheteia

the capacity or ability to utter inspired messages

Before we get into the nuts and bolts know this: Prophecy is very important in the Church!

In the very first sermon preached after the coming of the Holy Spirit the Apostle Peter began with this Scripture...

Acts 2:17–18 (ESV) — ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

This is a quote from Joel 2:28-29...

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV) — Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

We are told here to “earnestly desire the spiritual gifts” and then he goes on ...

In this verse we are given TWO IMPERATIVES/DIRECTIVES...

Pursue Love...

Earnestly desire spiritual gifts...

“...especially that you may prophesy”

1. The NATURE of Prophecy

➤ **Prophecy is a REVELATION, not a SCRIPT**

Prophecy in the New Testament is vastly different from its Old Testament counterpart. In the Old Testament, prophets were God's mouthpieces. When they said, "Thus says the Lord," they were speaking with the same authority as Scripture itself. To disobey a prophet was to disobey God (Deut. 18:18–20).

But in the New Testament, something shifts. The apostles—those chosen by Christ to write the Scriptures—carry that divine authority. The role of the prophet changes. It becomes less about canonizing divine law and more about sharing spontaneous impressions from the Spirit that strengthen the Church (1 Corinthians 14:3).

1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV) — On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

→ Pic – Proclaiming Gifts

| Proclaiming | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prophecy | A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a <u>language known</u> to the person |
| Tongues | A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a _____ to the person |
| Interpretation of tongues | A supernatural _____ given by God to an individual for the _____ of a _____ in an _____ language |

Wayne Grudem defines New Testament prophecy...

Prophecy is telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.

It is not preaching. It is not teaching. It is not doctrinal exposition.

Prophecy is the Spirit impressing something on a believer's heart—a word, a picture, a sense—that is then shared in human language.

This is important: New Testament prophecy is fallible.

That means it can include human error.

That's why Paul says, "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said" (1 Corinthians 14:29).

1 Corinthians 14:29 (ESV) — Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.

It must be tested, evaluated, and held accountable to Scripture.

It is also why modern prophetic language should be humble.

Instead of declaring, "Thus saith the Lord," it's better to say, "I sense the Lord may be saying..." or "It seems to me the Lord is highlighting..." We prophesy in part (1 Corinthians 13:9). We see through a glass dimly.

1 Corinthians 13:9 (ESV) — For we know in part and we prophesy in part

Prophecy is not a script. It is revelation in motion. It is God partnering with surrendered vessels to speak His heart, often unexpectedly.

It's the Spirit interrupting our thoughts with heaven's thoughts. It may come during worship, prayer, conversation, or even in dreams and visions.

The key is recognizing it, yielding to it, and sharing it in love and humility.

When understood rightly, prophecy becomes a sacred bridge—linking the mind of God to the needs of His people.

2. The **PURPOSE** of Prophecy

➤ To **BUILD**, **STRENGTHEN**, and **CONSOLE**

The gift of prophecy has a purpose—and it's not to impress.

It is to build up. Paul makes this clear in 1 Corinthians 14:3...

1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV) — On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

Let's unpack that.

UPBUILDING means to build up, to strengthen the inner man.

Upbuilding – To increase the potential of someone, with focus on the process involved

Prophecy strengthens the weary, imparts spiritual clarity, and realigns hearts to God's truth. It's like fresh breath in dry bones.

ENCOURAGEMENT is to call someone forward.

The Greek word is *paraklesis*—the same root used for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Encouragement – To cause someone to be filled with courage

Prophecy calls people out of fear and into faith. It exhorts them to walk holy, to rise from despair, to trust God afresh.

CONSOLATION is to comfort, to bring solace to the grieving, the brokenhearted, the disillusioned.

Consolation – To bring comfort to someone

Prophecy becomes a divine balm that says, “God sees you. He knows. He's near.”

This is what separates biblical prophecy from performance prophecy.

If the words given puff up the speaker or confuse the hearer, it is not true prophecy.

But if the words penetrate the heart, align with Scripture, and lift the hearer closer to Christ—then the Spirit has spoken.

True prophecy reveals the Father's heart. It might expose sin, but it will always point to redemption. It may confront, but it will always be bathed in love. It's never condemning.

The purpose is not to crush but to call higher.

Even when prophecy speaks of future events, the emphasis is not information but transformation.

It's not about dazzling predictions—it's about the Spirit aligning people with the purposes of heaven.

In a world drowning in discouragement, prophecy is a lifeline.

In a church seduced by consumerism, prophecy calls us back to Christ. That's why Paul said to "earnestly desire" this gift—not to build platforms, but to build people.

To prophesy is to participate in the work of Christ—who still speaks, still calls, and still comforts His Bride.

3. The **PRACTICE** of Prophecy

Prophecy balances **HUMILITY** and **BOLDNESS**

If the nature of prophecy is spontaneous and the purpose is edifying, then the practice of prophecy must be both humble and bold.

These two postures—**humility and boldness**—must walk hand-in-hand for the gift to be exercised in a way that glorifies God.

Philippians 2:3 (ESV) — Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Paul gives practical instruction in 1 Corinthians 14:29–33.

1 Corinthians 14:29–33 (ESV) — Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

Prophecy is not a free-for-all. Nor is it a spiritual dictatorship. The Holy Spirit does not override our self-control. "The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets" (v. 32). That means those who prophesy can and should operate in order and under authority.

Practically, this means that in corporate settings, prophetic words should be shared with respect to time, tone, and timing.

In many churches, prophetic impressions are submitted to a leader or gatekeeper for discernment before being shared with the whole congregation.

This is not censorship—it's stewardship.

Prophets must walk in humility.

That means acknowledging we can miss it. It means not needing to be the center of attention. It means letting others weigh our words and gladly receiving correction.

At the same time, prophets must walk in boldness.

That means speaking up when the Spirit prompts, even when it's uncomfortable. It means refusing the fear of man. It means trusting the Holy Spirit to speak through us—not because we are perfect, but because He is present.

Practicing prophecy also means creating space for it. That can happen in small groups, prayer meetings, or even casual conversations. When we expect God to speak, we'll be more sensitive to His voice.

The practice of prophecy should also be marked by love. Paul bookends his teaching on spiritual gifts with a whole chapter on love (1 Corinthians 13).

1 Corinthians 13:2 (ESV) — And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Without love, prophecy is noise. With love, it becomes life-giving truth.

4. The **DISCERNMENT** of Prophecy

➤ **Prophecy is GUIDED by the SPIRIT and GROUNDED in SCRIPTURE**

Because prophecy is fallible, discernment is essential.

What do you do if prophecy and its interpretation are wrong?

This is a sticky topic... It is one which has divided the Church into many camps...

The Bible clearly tells us of the potential problems...

False prophecy is real—and dangerous.

Prophecy has problems...

Matthew 24:11 (ESV) — And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

1 John 4:1 (ESV) — Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

As I have said many times...

There is both the PROPHETIC and the PATHETIC...

The Bible warns of those who use spiritual gifts to draw people away from Christ or into bondage.

But a mistake in prophecy doesn't make someone a false prophet. It makes them human.

That's why we must foster a culture of grace and growth. A place where people can practice, learn, and be lovingly corrected. Where discernment is a team effort. And where Scripture always sits on the throne.

ILLUSTRATION: ACTS 21

There is an interesting story told in Acts 21...

Acts 21:8–14 (ESV): On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' " When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

Paul has traveled to Caesarea...

There he meets up with Philip...

Notice that Philip has four daughters who prophesy...

Agabus, another known prophet, comes from Judaea and gives a prophecy regarding Paul if he goes to Jerusalem...

Acts 21:10-11 (ESV): While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "

It is important to see what happens next!

The people present respond to the prophecy!

Acts 21:12 (ESV): When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Notice that it says, "... **we and the people there**..."

Who are the people there?

- Those traveling with Paul
- Philip and his four daughters
- Agabus

We know there are at least 5 with prophetic giftings in the group!

So what should Paul do?

Acts 20:22 (ESV): And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there

Notice that Paul has received a word from the Holy Spirit that he is to go to Jerusalem!

Acts 20:22-23 (ESV): And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

Paul didn't know what awaited him in Jerusalem, but after Agabus prophecies he now knows!

What should he do?

Paul had already made up his mind!

He had a word from the Holy Spirit already. He was to go to Jerusalem...

So how does he respond?

Acts 21:13 (ESV): Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Paul had settled long ago that his life was not his own any longer...

Acts 20:24 (ESV): But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

So how did these prophets respond to Paul refusal to listen to them?

Acts 21:14 (ESV): And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

So what happened to Paul?

Everything Agabus prophesied!

I wonder how many, “I told you so” were muttered?

Did Paul mishandle the prophecy spoken over him?

This is very important teaching for us!

1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 (ESV) — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.

The fact that we are told not to despise prophecy implies that people might be tempted to do just that—especially when a word is off or misapplied. But the solution is not to shut it down. The solution is testing.

Testing prophetic words means measuring them by Scripture.

Prophecy is subject and secondary to Scripture

Prophecy does not COMPETE with but COMPLEMENTS Scripture.

I want to give you FIVE potential sources of prophecy...

- **The Human mind**
- **The Human spirit**
- **A demonic spirit**
- **An angelic spirit**
- **The Holy Spirit**

Because of the potential confusion and danger from false prophets and prophecies, many reject ALL prophecy and thus **QUENCH** the Holy Spirit

Prophecy will never CONTRADICT but always CONFIRMS previous known words from God.

The response of the people regarding the prophecy given by Agabus actually contradicts what the Holy Spirit had already spoken to Paul...

So, their conclusion (for Paul not to go) was not correct.

In fact, if Paul had agreed with them he would have disobeyed the Lord!

Prophecy does not CONFUSE but always CLARIFIES God's will.

For Paul this brought clarity to his Jerusalem mission...

Acts 20:22-23 (ESV): And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

For the people present this brought future encouragement in the advancement of the gospel.

Acts 21:14 (ESV): And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”

1 Corinthians 14:31–33 (ESV): For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, 32 and the

spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

Testing also involves spiritual discernment.

The Holy Spirit within us bears witness to what is from Him. Mature believers, especially elders and pastors, can help weigh whether a word aligns with God's heart and purposes.

A tested word will bear fruit. It will draw people closer to Jesus. It will resonate with truth. It will produce peace, clarity, and conviction—not confusion or manipulation.

5. The **IMPACT** of Prophecy

➤ Prophecy awakens **HEARTS** and empowers the **CHURCH**

When prophecy is rightly understood and biblically practiced, the result is powerful: **hearts are awakened**, and **the Church is empowered**.

1 Corinthians 14:24–25 (ESV) — But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

Prophecy reveals the presence of God.

It demonstrates that He knows, He sees, and He cares.

It breaks through walls of resistance and draws people into divine encounter.

In the Body, prophecy equips and encourages leaders.

It strengthens faith.

It offers divine direction.

It releases breakthrough.

➔ Pic – Image 2



➔ Pic – Image 3



Prophecy is a gift of alignment.

It aligns people with God's purposes.

It speaks life into dry places.

It puts wind in the sails of weary saints.

And it calls the Church to move forward with clarity and conviction.

A church that embraces prophecy with maturity and reverence becomes a place where the voice of God is not only read but heard—where the Spirit is not just studied but encountered.

Conclusion: Don't Muzzle the Spirit

Paul's final word on prophecy is striking:

1 Corinthians 14:39–40 (ESV) — So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But all things should be done decently and in order.

Do not muzzle the Spirit. Do not silence His voice. Do not shut down His gifts.

The gift of prophecy is not an optional extra.

It's not a charismatic add-on.

It's a biblical, vital, Spirit-given means of building up the Church and revealing Christ.

We need it. Not for emotional highs or spiritual entertainment—but for edification, for mission, and for love.

Let us be a people who lean in, who listen, and who speak as the Spirit gives utterance.

Let us desire the gift, develop it in humility, and deploy it with grace.

Because God is a Talker.

The only question is—will we listen?

CONCLUSIONS

YOU: This is where we tell people what to do with what they have heard

This is APPLICATION

Must answer the three main questions

QUESTION #3

NOW WHAT? – What should we do now?

April 16, 2025

GIFTED!

David Jett

GIFTED!

UNLEASHING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Lesson 8 – Unleashing the Proclaiming Gifts -
Prophecy**

The Goal of this Course

To help believers understand and unleash the gifts of the Holy Spirit into our fallen world for the building up of the body of Christ.

What are the PROCLAIMING Gifts and HOW do we USE them?

The Gift of Prophecy

1. The NATURE of Prophecy

- Prophecy is a REVELATION, not a SCRIPT

2. The PURPOSE of Prophecy

- To BUILD, STRENGTHEN, and CONSOLE

3. The PRACTICE of Prophecy

- Prophecy balances HUMILITY and BOLDNESS

4. The _____ of Prophecy

- Prophecy is _____ by the _____ and _____ in _____
- Prophecy does not _____ with but _____ Scripture
- Prophecy will never _____ but always _____ previous known words from God

- Prophecy does not _____ but always _____ God's will

5. The _____ of Prophecy

- Prophecy awakens _____ and empowers the _____

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proclaiming | |
| Prophecy | A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a _____ to the person |
| Tongues | A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a _____ to the person |
| Interpretation of tongues | A supernatural _____ given by God to an individual for the _____ of a _____ in an _____ language |