Misled (A book survey of Allen Parr's "Misled") Cross Brand 8.20.25

What About Prophecy and Prophets Part 2

I. THE "GOD TOLD ME" SYNDROME

Extra-biblical revelation is when a person claims to hear from God on a matter totally unrelated to the written Word of God.

A few concerns we should have...

- ---Many want others to think they have some private connection with God that others don't have.
- ---There is no 100 percent certain way of knowing whether it was truly God speaking or our own thoughts or desires.

II. HOW TO TEST A PROPHETIC WORD

Test #1: Receive It but Don't Always Believe It

"19 Don't stifle the Spirit. 20 Don't despise prophecies, 21 but test all things. Hold on to what is good." 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

1 John 4:1, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Test #2: Beware of Vague and General Prophecies

We must look for specificity rather than vague and general words that could apply to many.

The more vague the prophecy is, the higher the likelihood it will apply to someone.

Test #3: Scripture Must Always Be the Ultimate Authority

Whenever someone speaks into your life, be sure that the spirit of what they're saying is consistent with the Word of God.

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him: We ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be easily upset or troubled, either by a prophecy or by a message or by a letter supposedly from us, alleging that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Test #4: Share the Prophecy with Trusted Spiritual Leaders

1 Corinthians 14:29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should evaluate.

Test #5: Ask God to Confirm the Prophecy

Ask Him to confirm whatever prophetic word is being spoken over your life so that you aren't making a decision based solely on something that someone said to you.

III. THE HEALTHY BALANCE (In Allan Parr's perspective)

So how should we view prophecy today?

--- We *can* conclude is that the majority of self-proclaimed prophets today are probably not functioning the way the Old Testament prophets did.

---Eliminate the words, "God told me" from your vocabulary unless you are 100 percent certain they came from God.

The better question might be......

"Do you think God may be directing you to.....?"

Or

"Do you sense God may be leading you to change?"

---Finally, modern-day prophets should always function according to biblical principles.

A prophet should focus primarily on <u>calling out sin</u>, inviting people <u>to repent</u>, warning them of the <u>consequences of sin</u>, and providing <u>specific</u> prophecies.