

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Sermon Points

Week 5 - 5.23.23 | Terrell Spears

Title: Prophecy

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:9-14:5

Main Point: The spiritual gift of prophecy manifests the power and presence of God in a unique way that magnifies His intimate and personal love for His people; by speaking to us in specific ways that highlight He is the Faithful Covenant-Keeper who sees, hears, knows, and cares for His people.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:9-14:5 - For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

Two potential barriers that contribute to apprehension concerning this gift:

1. Experiencing the abuse/misuse of the gift of prophecy
2. No background or experience with the gift of prophecy at all

Scriptural proofs for prophecy being prescribed:

- Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith... - Romans 12:6
- To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...to another prophecy... - 1 Corinthians 12:7, 10b

- And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets... - 1 Corinthians 12:28
- And he gave the apostles, the prophets... - Ephesians 4:11

Spiritual Gift of Prophecy

WHAT - WHY - HOW

The gift of prophecy	
is:	is not:
Spirit-Given / From God	Human-Derived
Spontaneous	Already Planned Out
Specific	Ambiguous or Vague
Scripture-Consistent	Contradictory to Scripture
Scripture-Subservient	Equal/Above Scripture
Spirit-Attested	Spirit-Rejected / Not Confirmed

Definition - The ability to go forth in faith and speak to others regarding a Spirit-given message that is spontaneously revealed.

In a Phrase (Word) - Mouthpiece

Biblical Examples of the Gift

- A. Luke 1:67 - Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied at John's birth
- B. Luke 2 - Simeon & Anna were both honoring God and declaring truth about Jesus
- C. John 4:19 - Jesus is perceived to be a prophet because of knowledge He had about the woman at the well
- D. Acts 13:2-3 - While worshipping and fasting, Holy Spirit spoke to Believers in Antioch to set apart Barnabas & Saul and send them to the mission field
- E. Acts 5 - Peter's knowledge of Ananias and Sapphira's deception [not explicitly stated, but could only be revealed by the Spirit]
- F. Acts 21:9 - Philips four unmarried daughters
- G. Acts 21: - Agabus speaks of what awaits Paul in Jerusalem

- H. 1 Timothy 1:18 - Timothy received prophecies to help his work in the ministry
- I. OT - Exhortations, calls to repentance, concerning the coming Messiah

WHY:

- 1. Upbuilding
- 2. Encouragement
- 3. Consolation

HOW:

- 1. With order
- 2. With intentionality
- 3. With testing
- 4. In community
- 5. Under submission to the Scriptures

Marks you may have this gift (indicators, strengths & characteristics)

- A. You are often moved to share words with people
- B. Sensitive to the Lord's voice when reading & studying the Word
- C. Feel prompted in moments of prayer to speak to specific people about specific situations and circumstances
- D. In conversations, you feel a spontaneous, and often strong, desire to speak into a situation, declare truth over someone, exhort, rebuke, comfort, console
- E. You have dreams that seem to have specific imagery or symbolism that is rooted in Biblical truth (and feel compelled to share them)
- F. You sometimes receive visions or images in your mind related to specific people or situations and you feel God is wanting you warn, admonish, or encourage someone
- G. You receive intimate knowledge about someone or something that you could only know if the Holy Spirit revealed it to you, and are met with a timely need to share it
- H. Seemingly random people are brought to mind, and you feel a specific desire to want to talk or pray with them

Goal of this gift - Fruit we hope to see produced in the church

- A. Upbuilding, Edification, Encouragement, Exhortation, Admonition, Consolation [I Corinthians 14]
- B. Salvation & Worship of God [I Corinthians 14]

- C. Attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ [Ephesians 4]
- D. Increased humility in offering and receiving ministry
- E. Increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading
- F. Treasuring Jesus as better

Picture within the Church: (Role in the body) - Post Office

Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it

GC

- Sunday
- 24/7

Ministries

- Counseling Ministry
- Prayer Teams

Ways to misuse this gift - warnings and weakness to watch out for

- A. Looking for hidden messages; seeking “prophecies”
- B. Sharing generic and/or ambiguous things under the umbrella of “the gift of prophecy”
- C. Anger or bitterness when others don’t receive your words well, or dismiss what you have to say
- D. Lacking humility when we are wrong, or miss it
- E. Looking to subjective feelings rather than the sufficiency of Scripture
- F. Operating with an attitude of spiritual authority that isn’t yours
- G. Temptations of pride in feeling spiritual superior to others
- H. Confusing spiritual-giftedness with spiritual maturity
- I. Can domineer others if how you share what the Spirit is revealing doesn’t adhere to Biblical admonitions towards gentleness and humility
- J. Speaking before submitting what you want to say to the Lord; literally asking for God to clarify and affirm
- K. Telling someone what they should do in relation to subjective choices with definitive statements
- L. Assuming additional details the Lord has not made clear
- M. Not forcing a word when the Lord has not given one

Encouragement - call to better utilize and grow in this gift -

- A. Seek to obey I Cor. 14:1 & I Thess. 5
- B. Pray and ask the Lord to grant and grow this gift amongst us
- C. Strive to cultivate a culture of humility at The Well with regards to this gift
 - a. If the Lord reveals something to you to share, offer it as a gift and not as a demand, with the expectation it will be assessed/weighed/tested
 - b. If you receive a word from someone, be receptive and receive it with gratitude
 - c. If the word resonates and it can be affirmed in the moment, freely offer that encouragement and affirmation to the one sharing
- D. Respectfully be honest if what is shared doesn't land with you
- E. Be prayerful in giving and receiving

Re-Address these questions:

1. What does the Bible say about the gift of prophecy?
2. Does my current view of the gift of prophecy align with the Bible?