

## **The Speaking Gifts: Prophecy**

**1 Corinthians 12:7 – 11; Romans 12:6**

Prophecy; Teaching; Exhortation; The Word of Wisdom; The Word of Knowledge

Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues

### **The Prophecy Distinguished**

*From the Office of the Prophet (Ephesians 4:11)*

*Telling the Future v. Telling the Truth*

*From Tongues (1 Corinthians 14)*

“speaks not to men, but to God” v. 2

“in the spirit he speaks mysteries” v. 2

“spirit” here is NOT the Holy Spirit, but the conscience thoughts of an individual that go unspoken (see “my spirit” in v. 14)

“edifies himself” v. 4 because he is speaking to himself words he himself understands

### **The Prophecy Defined (1 Corinthians 14:3 – 5)**

Prophecy: an immediate unction from God – a special illumination – always in accordance with the Word of God; a particular truth is laid upon the mind of a believer in order that he may communicate it unto the church:

Prophecy is speaking the truth of God’s word publicly

It is not merely preaching or teaching; it may happen during preaching or teaching, but the gift stands apart from preaching or teaching

How does prophecy differ from teaching and preaching?

Preaching/Teaching involves *preparation*

Prophecy is characterized by *immediacy*: something occurs in the process of teaching or preaching that was not discovered in the preparation of the sermon or study.

### **The Prophecy Discerned: 1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:19 – 22**

*“According to the proportion of faith” (Romans 12:6) | THE faith: systematic theology: putting in order the doctrines found in the Scriptures*

**The Prophecy is to be discerned by others as to its faithfulness to the word of God:  
1 Corinthians 14:29 – 33**

## The Prophecy Delimited:

*To Believers:* 1 Corinthians 14:3 – 5

Prophecy conveys the word of God with three effects on believers (1 Corinthians 14:3):

- 1) Edification: promoting the spiritual growth of another; **speaking to construct** – but with specific application to a particular issue – not teaching in general
- 2) Exhortation: *paraklesis*: (Acts 9:31) consolation; call alongside for help; “grace to help in time of need”; **speaking to counsel**
- 3) Comfort: *paramootheria*: **speaking to console**

“That all may learn, and all may be comforted” 1 Corinthians 14:31

*To Unbelievers:* 1 Corinthians 14:22 – 25

Prophecy conveys the word of God with one effect on unbelievers: 1 Corinthians 14:22 – 25: the conviction of sin (“the secrets of his heart made manifest”); **speaking to convict**

The same word which comforts the believer convicts the unbeliever

**Ephesians 4:15 – “Speaking the truth in love, [that you] may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.”**