

Prophecy!

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Many individuals in our church prophesy and I believe it's important that we understand it.

What is prophecy? Basically it's God speaking to His creation. Prophecy is one of the 12 gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NKJV)

¹Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ²You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- God does not want us to be ignorant about spiritual gifts - v1
- Gifts are given for the profit of all (for the sake of others, not ourselves) – v7

Steve Thompson in his book, "*You May All Prophecy*," defines prophecy as "hearing from God and speaking what you hear in order to build, comfort, or encourage someone."

1 Corinthians 14:3 (KJV) But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to edification*, and *exhortation*, and *comfort*.

Prophecy is speaking the mind and heart of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

- Edification means to build up, to promote in one's growth
- Exhortation means to encourage, to summon – to evoke especially by an act of the will
- Comfort means to calm, console, and to soothe

Personal prophecy is speaking unto men

1 Corinthians 14:31 (KJV) For ye *may all* prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

Why should we prophesy? Because the Word of God says so:

1 Corinthians 14:1 (KJV) Follow after charity, and **desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.**

Who can prophesy? All

1 Corinthians 14:31 (KJV) For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

Let's understand how the prophetic (the overall ministry) functions

1. Spirit of Prophecy - This is an opportunity for all

Revelation 19:10 (KJV) ¹⁰And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it not*: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the **testimony of Jesus** is the spirit of prophecy.

- a. When an atmosphere is present for faith to arise, prophecy may come forth (participating in faith)
- b. Associating and fellowshiping with prophetic ministries and working with them (Association with others)

1 Samuel 10:10 (KJV) And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

1 Corinthians 14:5 (KJV) I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

2. ***Gift of Prophecy*** – Ministry for some

1 Corinthian 12:8-10, list it as a gift of the Spirit

There is a difference here. The gift of prophecy is a spiritual gift given by the Holy Spirit, its enablement, equipment. The person with the gift of prophecy can bring edification, comfort and exhortation to God's people on a "regular basis."

The gift of prophecy, often begins to manifest itself through various kinds of revelation such as spiritual impressions, visions and dreams. Training and nurturing enhances prophetic efficiency and causes the person with such a gift to be a profitable part of team ministry

Romans 12:6 (KJV)

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

Everyone does not have the gift, only certain gifted people function consistently in the church. This is the realm of prophetic ministry.

3. ***The Office of the Prophet*** – calling for a few

Ephesians 4:11-13 (KJV) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

The New Testament prophet's purpose or assignment is perfecting the saints (complete furnishing; equipping) for the work of the ministry.

Prophecy Faith Builders

I can prophesy!

1 Cor. 14:31 KJV

For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

When I prophesy, I edify, exhort and comfort my brothers and sisters!

1 Cor. 14:3 KJV

But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

I pursue love and desire to prophesy!

1 Cor. 14:1 KJV

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but rather that ye may prophesy.