

## THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART XIII The Gift of Prophecy - Part 1

Text: I Corinthians 12:10g

**Key Word:** Prophecy

**Key Thought:** The Ninth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Prophecy

The Gift of Prophecy needs to be carefully studied from Scripture. It is one of the more common gifts of the Spirit. The sharper the tool the more care is required for its use.

In today's sermon I want to preach about what this Spiritual Gift is. Also I would like to address some of the common mistakes that people have believed about the gift. Next week we will study the proper use of the Gift.

First we need to know what we are talking about. The **Hebrew word** used for "*prophecy (Naba)*" has several meanings.

1. *"To bubble forth like a fountain."*

2. It also means *"to let drop"* like the golden oil in the ripened olive gardens; or honey from a honeycomb that is bursting with sweetness; or like the sparkling rain that breaks forth from an overhead cloud.

3. Another meaning is *"to lift up"* like coloured banners giving honour to the presence of One who is worthy of all praise.

4. Still other meanings are *"to flow forth, tumble forth, or spring forth."*

The **Greek word** that is used offers us another angle of beauty about the word.

1. *"To speak for another; be a spokesman"* It is God's way of taking our unlearned lips and using them for God's channel of glorious communication.

Just as speaking in tongues is a supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue, so prophecy is a supernatural utterance in a known tongue.

"Prophecy . . . is God making use of someone to tell men what he thinks about the present situation or what his intention is for the future, or what he thinks they should know or be needful of right now."

Stephen Clark  
*"Spiritual Gifts"*

One way of understanding what the gift is by understanding the common misunderstandings of the gift.

### **A. The Gift of Prophecy is Confused with the Prophetic Office**

There is no more similarity between the O.T. Prophet and the N.T. Prophet than there is between the O.T. priest and the N.T. priest. The Office of a Prophet (for our time) are the gifts of Jesus Christ to the Church, while the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to individuals.

It takes much more than a Spiritual Gift to make a Prophet. When Paul laid hands on the believers at Ephesus we are told that they received the Holy Spirit. We are also told that they all prophesied (Acts 19:6). Up to that point they had not even known that there was a Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2). No one would be foolish enough to think that they instantly became a Prophet simply because they prophesied.

The Scriptures also warns us not to seek after the Office of a Prophet. Yet when it comes to Spiritual Gifts we are told just the opposite.

*"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy."*

*I Corinthians 14:1*

Prophecy in the O.T. dealt with things of the hidden past, present or future. The Gift of Prophecy in the N.T. was given for edification, exhortation and comfort.

### **B. The Gift of Prophecy is Used for Prediction**

There is no indication throughout the N.T. that the Gift of Prophecy was used to predict the future. As said earlier a prophet in the N.T. was simply one who **"spoke for another."** If there is something told that is hidden from the speaker then the Word of Knowledge is operating in co-operation with the Gift of Prophecy. If an event is predicted then it is through the Word of Wisdom in conjunction with the Gift of Prophecy.

Prediction is an area which has been used most commonly in today's psychic realm. God's prediction of the future has been given to us complete. It is called the Word of God.

### **C. The Gift of Prophecy is Intended for Guidance**

This is very close to what I just said but it does have its differences. This is an area of teaching that must be approached with great care. There is a vast difference that is seen in the Scriptures dealing with this area.

### C. The Gift of Prophecy is Intended for Guidance (Contd.)

**The O.T. prophet foretold and often led  
The N. T. prophet foretold but never led  
The N.T. Gift of prophesy is neither to  
foretell or lead.**

When Agabus (a N.T. prophet) came to the church at Antioch (Acts 11:27) he foretold about the upcoming famine that was going to spread over the entire Roman world. **It is very clear that he foretold but DID NOT GUIDE.**

A number of years later while Paul was ending his third missionary journey he landed at Caesarea (Acts 21:10-11) where he stayed with Phillip who had four daughters who prophesied. **Agabus came down from Judea to FORETELL what was about to happen.**

*"Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, 'The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"*

*Acts 21:11*

It is very interesting what the believer's reactions were.

*"When we heard this, we pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem."*

*Acts 21:1*

Paul let the people know that he was ready to die for the sake of Christ. **These good meaning people tried to guide Paul's decision when they should have left that to the Holy Spirit.** Their intention was sincere.

### C. The Gift of Prophecy is Intended for Guidance (Contd.)

\*\*\* I remember a young woman who was having difficulty coming under submission to the Church authority. She felt that God had given her a special anointing to help the Church. As usual, the leadership could see beyond her immaturity.

It was only going to take a matter of time for the problem to surface. It happened one night in a prayer meeting when *"the anointing came down upon them."* I was told how you could just feel the power and presence of God.

During that time, this woman began to take the forefront in the meeting. A prophecy came forth from her lips declaring that one of the women who was expecting a child would have her prayers answered. The "LORD" said (supposably) that the child was a boy.

This family took the message entirely as IF it had come from God. They painted the room blue and purchased many boy's outfits.

On the day of the birth the child came forth but it was a beautiful little girl. I have learned since to "judge (discern)" any prophecy that comes forth and not to believe everything I hear. \*\*\*

I've seen those looking to appease their own selfish desires for pride and recognition who have told people whom they should marry, where they should work, or where they should live. It is a very incorrect way of using the Gift. **At no time should we be told what to do through the gift of prophecy or the office of a N.T. Prophet.** They can foretell (and need to be very sure it is from God and not from their good intentions) but never guide the decisions that others make.

### D. The Gift of Prophecy is Intended for Preaching

There are many words that can be translated into *"preaching"* in the N.T. including *"to proclaim, announce, or to cry out."* These words are always used in connection to expounding the Scriptures. There is no place in Scripture where we can properly exchange the word "preach" for "prophecy."

Preaching is something which is divinely inspired but it is not Supernatural. In contrast, every part of a prophecy is supernatural.

## E. The Gift of Prophecy is Repeating Scriptures

This was believed to be the case in the early days of Pentecost at the turn of the last century. This is not to neglect the fact that Holy Spirit does bring to our minds the Word of God.

*"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

*John 14:26*

Anyone can memorize and repeat Scriptures without making a mistake but also without ever receiving any Spiritual Gift.

## F. Prophecy is Above or Replaces the Word of God

No modern prophecy can either contradict, add or subtract to the Word of God without being at fault itself. **Unlike those of the O.T. prophecies, any prophecies of our era can never properly bring forth a new revelation of any abiding significance.**

**The results have always been disastrous throughout the history of the Church when prophecy has been exalted above Scripture.**

The Irvingites were the first to invent Pitman's Shorthand as a technique to record prophetic messages. They soon placed the written prophecies on the same level or exceeding the Word of God. In some cases it gave them a "**fuller revelation**" of God's Word. The red flags go up all over in my mind when I hear such kinds of things.

Spiritual Gifts are indeed a rich blessing for the church. It is because of this truth that our enemy does his best to try to bring accusations against its improper use. I know that people have misused this gift. Yet I also know the tremendous value that it gives a church when used properly.

Lets not throw the baby out with the bathwater. There is a beautiful potential for life through Spiritual Gifts. If someone incorrectly uses a gift, they should be gently guided into truth. No church has the "FREEDOM" to exercise Spiritual Gifts outside of the confines of God's Word.

**Lets covet the use of the best gifts and be eager to prophesy as God leads.**

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Date: Sept 27/20

Place: FCA

Time:10:30 Am

Song: Blow upon Me - D

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4. Still other meanings are ***"to flow forth, tumble forth, or spring forth."***

The **Greek word** that is used offers us another aspect about the word.

1. ***"To speak for another; be a spokesman"***

**One Way of Understanding What the Gift Is by Understanding the Common Misunderstandings of the Gift.**

**A. The Gift of Prophecy is Confused with the Prophetic Office - *Acts 19:6; Acts 19:2; I Corinthians 14:1***

**B. The Gift of Prophecy is Used for Prediction - (False)**

**C. The Gift of Prophecy is Intended for Guidance - (False)**

**The O.T. prophet foretold and often led  
The N. T. prophet foretold but never led  
The N.T. Gift of prophesy is neither to  
foretell or lead.**

*Acts 11:27; Acts 21:10-11; Acts 21:11; Acts 21:1*

**D. The Gift of Prophecy is Intended for Preaching - (False)**

There are many words that can be translated into ***"preaching"*** in the N.T. including ***"to proclaim. announce, or to cry out."***

**E. The Gift of Prophecy is Repeating Scriptures - (False) - *John 14:26***

**F. Prophecy is Above or Replaces the Word of God - (False)**