



Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Lesson 3: The Vocal Gifts – Part 2

Introduction

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

The vocal gifts or the gifts that help us speak like God

- The gift of speaking in tongues
- The gift of interpretation of tongues
- The gift of prophecy

The gift of prophecy

Prophecy is the greatest of the utterance gifts. The other two gifts combined do the same thing as prophecy on its own.

1 Corinthians 14:5

Definition of TO PROPHECY: _____

Definition of TO PROPHECY (Hebrew): To flow forth

Definition of PROPHECY (Greek): To speak for another; to speak for God or to be His spokesman

There are 3 different ways prophecy is in action according to the Word of God

1. The gift of prophesy as one of the gifts of the Spirit
2. The motivational gift of prophecy
3. The office of a prophet

The all involve prophesy but they are all different. It is important to understand this.

1. The gift of prophecy

This is what we are mainly teaching about in this lesson.

All can operate in the gift of prophesy as long as:

- They are born again
- Filled with the Holy Spirit
- Open to the supernatural

We should expect to prophesy every day. We should expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in our lives every day.

2. Motivational gift of prophecy

The title “Motivational Gifts” is a man-made term.

More accurately called _____

God has given each one of us gifts, talents, or qualities by His grace so that we can fulfill the ministry He has called us to.

These gifts are free. We were born with these gifts. We do not have all the gifts.

Romans 12:4

Everyone has motivational gifts in their lives, but not everyone has the motivational gift of prophecy.

Romans 12:6-8 lists these gifts.

Prophecy is one of the gifts listed.

Romans 12:6

Romans 12:6 – New Living Translation

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you

Prophecy is a gift that God gives a person to help them effectively minister and do what He has called them to do.

A person with a prophetic ministry gift will tend to operate in the prophetic on a continual basis.

Believers operating in the motivational gift of prophecy are the “seers” or “eyes” of the body.

They often have insight, foresight, and act like watch dogs in the church.

They are concerned with the church and the direction the church is going in.

Their gift ignites faith, hope and gives energy to fight for a breakthrough.

Their gift brings God’s perspective, releases vision and calling, and undermines the enemy.

They will often warn of sin or reveal sin.

They are usually very verbal and may come across as judgmental and impersonal.

They tend to be serious, dedicated, and loyal to the truth.

3. The office of a prophet

Ephesians 4:11

Jesus gave these five offices to the church. Why?

Ephesians 4:12-14

Most believers are not called to operate in one of these five offices.

They do not only prophesy but their words and messages are prophetic. They have a prophetic anointing when they speak.

Their words help break through obstacles that hinder the church from moving forward.

Prophets inspire, stir up, challenge, convict, build, break through, open up, ordain, establish, pull down, expose, and declare.

Prophets are strong in bringing correction.

Prophets call people back to their mandates and commissions.

Prophets have insight and understanding concerning the plans and purposes of God.

Prophets help release people into ministry.

Prophets help identify leaders and their gifts.

Prophets help release gifts into believers through the laying on of hands.

They bring revelation and insight concerning the plans of God for regions, churches, and individuals.

Prophets are used to bring deliverance and breakthrough.

Prophets are guardians and watchman who help preserve and protect God's work.

Prophets are called to pray and intercede.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy

1 Corinthians 12:31

We should have a very strong desire to operate in the gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1

Prophecy is the only gift we are specifically told to covet and to seek after.

1 Corinthians 14:31

1 Corinthians 14:39

1 Corinthians 14:39 – The Passion Translation

Be passionate to prophesy

Acts 2:17, 18

The three primary purposes of the gift of prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:3

These are the primary purposes for the gift of prophecy.

1. Edification

Definition of EDIFY: _____

When you receive a word of prophecy it should make you more effective and better able to serve the Lord.

Prophecy can bring a word “in season” to someone who is weary.

Proverbs 15:23

Isaiah 50:4**2. Exhortation**

Definition of EXHORTATION: To exhort, stimulate, encourage, admonish, and to stir up

To admonish can include severe warning or even rebuke. But it does not include condemnation.

Prophecy should always be with the purpose of restoration.

EXHORTATION also means:

- A calling to come nearer to God
- To insight to a more worthy cause
- To encourage to come up a little higher

3. Comfort

Definition of COMFORT: _____

2 Corinthians 1:3

This is God's character. A word from Him brings comfort.

Prophecy Plays an Important Role in Spiritual Warfare**1 Timothy 1:18****1 Timothy 1:18 – New International Version**

Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well

1 Timothy 1:18 – New Living Translation

Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles.

Use prophecies to fight the enemy

How does prophecy come?

1. _____

Sometimes our visions are literal of everyday things

Jeremiah 1:11, 12

Sometimes they are supernatural or unusual.

Acts 10:9-16

Definition of TRANCE: Displacement of the mind, bewilderment, astonishment

We need prophetic interpretation.

2. _____

Genesis 37:5-10**Numbers 12:6****Daniel 1:17****Matthew 1:20**

Write down your dreams.

Pray over them and share them with a trusted leader.

Remember they may not be relevant for weeks or months.

3. _____

You will get an inner conviction about something.

Be still and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

4. _____

We can see words over people.

The first word activates our spirit.

Ask the Lord questions to get a clearer understanding.

5. _____

Every prophetic word must line up with the scripture.

The Lord may give you a scripture to prophetically speak or pray over a person.

It will pop into your mind or heart. This is why a foundation in God's Word is so important.

That Scripture will help a person to stand strong and fight.

Judging Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:29

Judge is also translated evaluate, discern, decide whether what the person said was right or wrong

We see in this verse that prophecy should be judged.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Prophetic words should be judged according to the _____

1. Does it edify, exhort and comfort?

I Corinthians 14:3

Prophecy must build up, admonish, stir up, encourage, release pain and discomfort, and enable people to know and understand the heartbeat of God for themselves.

People should be coming into blessing in God and not into a curse.

The final purpose of prophecy is always positive, not negative. It should always be redemptive.

2. Test the spirit

I John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

There are 3 possible sources behind every prophecy.

- The Spirit of God
- The spirit of man
- An evil spirit

We need to discern the spirit behind what is said not just test the words.

A word can contain some inaccuracies but we can still receive from the spirit of the word in which it was given.

There is a difference between “poor” prophecy and “false” prophecy.

3. Does the prophecy conform to scripture?

2 Timothy 3:16

We should build our lives on _____, not prophecy.

Prophecy must not establish new doctrine or practices. It may reveal an unfamiliar doctrine.

Prophecy must never be used to govern our understanding of scripture rather scripture should govern our prophecy.

Submit the prophetic word to the scripture and see how it fares.

Do not let circumstances be the guide but rather the Word of God.

4. Does it glorify the Lord Jesus?

John 16:13, 14

The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory to Jesus

Any word or ministry that exalts man's ministry at the expense of the glory of Jesus must be considered unworthy

5. Look at the fruit

Romans 14:17

The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy.

Notice that righteousness comes first.

Any form of joy and peace that bypasses righteousness is _____

We talk so much about the Holy Spirit that we forget an important thing about Him – He is HOLY!

Matthew 7:15, 16

A false prophet is not going to come to you and announce that he is false prophet.

How do you know? – _____

Here is a list of some of the fruit from false ministries:

- Pride, arrogance, and boastfulness
- Exaggeration
- Dishonesty
- Financial irresponsibility
- Immorality
- Broken marriage vows
- Broken homes

What prophecy is NOT

1. _____

Romans 8:1

The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter!

Condemnation, confusion, and discouragement are weapons the devil uses against believers.

Prophecy undoes the strategies of the enemy.

2. _____

Prophecy should never be used to make people do what we want, get them on our side in a situation, or even make people feel indebted to our ministry rather than indebted to Jesus.

A good leader must be accountable and responsible so that they do not become deceitful, demanding, controlling, domineering and repressive.

We must examine the motivating force behind each person speaking prophetically.

We must never confuse God's will with our own needs and desires.

Prophecy should never give warnings or threats to others. For example that the blessing of God may be removed if you don't listen to the voice of the prophet.

Beware of people who are always saying "the Lord told me" and "God has shown me".

- What is the spirit behind it?
- It can be a sign of control.
- Revelation has a power all on its own. It does not need to be prefixed like this.
- Our spirit will recognize the truth.

3. _____

The simple gift of prophecy has nothing to do with the future.

If a prophetic word includes something about the future, the gift of prophecy is working along with the gift of the word of wisdom.

Many times the gifts operate together. We separate them for the purpose of study.
Example of coffee – A black liquid is coffee. If it has cream in it, it is still coffee.

Prophecy sometimes is a vehicle for other gifts like a word of wisdom. It is still called prophecy.

An example of this is in Acts 21.

Acts 21:10, 11

4. **The gift of prophecy is not to be used for** _____

A prophetic word should not tell you who you should marry, what job you should take, etc.

5. **Prophecy is not judgmental and negative.**

1 Corinthians 14:3

None of these things condemn. They are not destructive or negative.

Even when God rebukes you, it is for the purpose of redemption.

6. **Prophecy does not put you in bondage. It sets you free.**

2 Corinthians 3:17

7. **Prophecy brings life into a meeting, not death.**

Sometimes people speak out of a religious spirit. It is often all scripture, but brings no life into a meeting.

8. **Prophecy does not bring** _____

If you feel you must do something because it was prophesied, you should wait. Don't step out because of pressure.

Remember that prophecy is not to be used for guidance.

More Information and Practical Guidelines for Prophecy

1. Prophecy can be _____ but should not be _____

Personal prophecy is when individuals receive a word directly into their lives and circumstances from heaven.

This is a very common manifestation of the gift of prophecy.

Private prophecy is when one is taken aside and privately given a word.

- Not the Biblical pattern
- Lacks integrity
- Lacks accountability from leadership

Best solution – If you have a personal word for someone and you were unable to give it in a public setting like a service, prayer meeting, or Bible study, go to that person with another church leader and share the word with the person. This protects both the person giving the Word and the person receiving the Word.

2. We must earn the right to minister into people’s lives.

People must be respected and that should not be violated.

3. You can control the gift of prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:32

1 Corinthians 14:32 – Amplified Bible

For the spirits of the prophets (the speakers in tongues) are under the speaker's control [and subject to being silenced as may be necessary],

This means that you have “control” over your gift.

It is not true when somebody says, “I just had to say it. I couldn’t hold it in any longer.”

Remember that the gifts operate within the structure and government of the local church.

Solution – If you had a word for someone or for the church and you were unable to give it during a particular meeting or service, write it down and share it with the leader and the person.

4. Spontaneous or prepared prophecy

There two ways: spontaneous word and prepared word.

- Both are equally valid.

- Prophets in the Old Testament tended to lean towards the prepared word.
- Over one third of the prophecies in the Old Testament were written down ahead of time.
- Many prophets had secretaries or associates who were scribes.
- Jeremiah had Baruch write out his prophetic words.

Benefits of a prepared word:

- Opportunity to pray over it.
- Opportunity to get input and guidance from leaders.
- Creates immediate faith impact in the hearts of the congregation.
- People feel safe knowing it has already be subjected to the judgement of church leadership.
- The Holy Spirit can still speak and add to the framework of the word.

A spontaneous word

- We may not get the immediate response we were waiting for because the leaders and people have to “weigh” and “judge” it.
- It can lead to weak prophecy especially for people just beginning to step out in the gift.

5. Practical ways to prepare and operate more effectivity in the prophetic

-
- Be sure to listen to God while you are praying.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you.
 - Pray throughout the day.

-
- Meditate on the Word of God.
 - Meditate means to consider deeply, reflect, and be absorbed in thought.

-
- Make sure you are waiting with a sense of purpose.
 - Expect to hear from God.
-

- It edifies your spirit.
 - Helps us to be led by the Spirit.
-

- Don't live a day without expecting to prophecy.
- Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding are available to us.

6. Prophecies we receive are not self-fulfilling; but rather they need our cooperation.

We need to be involved through faith and obedience

How we respond dictates what will happen to the word

We need set goals for the fulfillment of the word.

- The Lord will give us the essential steps so that we can keep pace with Him.

Timing is the most difficult thing to get right in prophecy.

- Many people will always want to know when something will occur.
- Only God know the timescales into which He speaks.
- As we give ourselves to prayer and judging the word, He will begin to speak to us about the specifics in terms of times and seasons.
- God is never in a hurry, but is always on time.

Examples of God's timing:

- It took 24 years for Joseph's prophetic dream to be fulfilled.
- Abraham waited 40 years to receive his son Issac.
- David waited over 20 years for his prophecy about being king came to pass.

Conclusion: God's will is for every believer to operate in the gift of prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:31

This verse proves that it is God's will for every believer to operate in this gift.

It also shows that we can all learn as we operate in the gift of prophecy.

Many people never step out in it because they want to be perfect. But that is not how you learn. Do as much as you have faith for and then you can get better at it the more you practice.