

The Gift of Prophecy

Romans 12:6

I. What is the gift of prophecy?

- A. By definition, a prophet is an inspired speaker who makes known the future through the use of the Scriptures.
- B. A prophet speaks forth the mind and counsel of God in an uncompromising fashion.
- C. Of course, in this age, we have the complete revelation of God in His Word, so the prophet in this age isn't proclaiming "new" revelation. In this dispensation he makes known the mind and counsel of God through the completed revelation of God's Word.
- D. The prophet proclaims God's truth and exposes sin, looking for conviction and decisions in people's lives.
- E. Example of a prophet: Notice in Acts 2:22-23, 37-41, Peter is straightforward and to the point. He let them have it square between the eyes. He told them just the way it was. He gets decisions and results with 3,000 people turning to Christ.
- F. This is a prophet. He exposes sin and demands that people repent and follow truth and righteousness and has little or no tolerance for worldliness, compromise, and disobedience.

II. Why is there a need for the gift of prophecy?

- A. Every Christian needs to become aware of the sin in his life. Otherwise we can get very comfortable with where we are at and quit growing. We can get satisfied and complacent. We can get to the point where we sin, and it doesn't even bother us. When there is sin in our lives, it hinders our fellowship and walk with God. This is where the prophet comes in. He proclaims, "Repent or perish."

- B. If we were never exposed to the ministry of the prophet, we would lean towards worldliness and the flesh. Romans 8:13
- C. We can tend to rebel against this, but we are doing ourselves a great injustice. We must learn to accept and value the prophet's message, and if it hits home, repent, and get it right.

III. What are the characteristics of the prophet?

We are going to use Peter as our example of the prophet and draw some characteristics of the prophet from his life.

- A. A prophet needs to express himself. Peter was always the spokesman for the twelve (sometimes good and sometimes bad). John 6:67-69
 - 1. The prophet is opinionated and not inhibited in the least, but expressive. You don't have to ask a prophet how he feels about something.
 - 2. The problem? The prophet can easily become bossy and impatient, having little tolerance for mistakes, and want things done **his** way, now! He can be very domineering.
 - 3. When the prophet expresses himself, he can be hostile with little concern about being gracious. He can lack tact.
Matthew 26:31-33
 - 4. The prophet is so quick to express himself that he can jump to conclusions and make decisions before all the facts are available to him. John 18:10-11
- B. The prophet has the ability to make quick impressions of people and be alert to dishonesty and hidden motives. Acts 8:18-23
 - 1. He wants justice, so when people are punished they understand that sin is bad. The danger is that the prophet can tend to judge others too quickly and become suspicious of everybody and everything.

2. The prophet will rely on his ability to convict people, rather than letting the Spirit convict, and many times he is less discerning than he thinks he is!
- C. The prophet believes in whole-hearted involvement. He will not be a spectator or half-hearted. He believes in intensity. Matthew 14:28
1. A prophet has a strong sense of duty and doesn't care what others think.
 2. A prophet has little patience for those on the sidelines, or has little concern for other areas that he isn't involved in.
- D. The prophet takes his own sin and failure hard because of how he has pointed out sin in others. Matthew 26:74-75
1. Prophets are quick to go on guilt trips.
 2. Sometimes their guilt trips make no sense and frustrate their loved ones.

IV. How does Satan attack people with the gift of prophecy?

- A. Causes lack of compassion
- B. Causes pride and self righteousness over a lack of certain sins
- C. Causes anger, bitterness, and a lack of forgiveness
- D. Causes a pessimistic, negative attitude
- E. Causes a lack of tastefulness in rebuke, but gets offended when others treat him the same way
- F. Causes him to expose sin without trying to restore the sinners
- G. Causes loneliness and isolation
- H. Causes frustration due to legalism

V. Scriptures that the prophet should memorize

- A. 2 Timothy 2:24-25
- B. Galatians 5:22-23
- C. Ephesians 4:32
- D. Galatians 6:1

E. Proverbs 16:18

F. 1 Peter 3:8

VI. Concluding thoughts:

1. We need this gift and need people to challenge us to get the sin out and live a righteous and committed life to Jesus Christ.
2. This is what they do. They challenge us to get the sin and worldliness out and live wholeheartedly unto God.