

Prophecy Training Course

Lesson #1	Introduction to Spiritual Gifts	2
Lesson #2	The Gift of Prophecy Defined	7
	Purposes of Prophecy	9
	The Gift of Prophecy in the Local Church	16
Lesson #3	The Anatomy of a Prophetic Word	19
	Revelation	20
	Higher Levels of Revelation	28
Lesson #4	Sources of Revelation	33
	7 Steps of Judging Prophecy	36
	WORKSHOP	39
Lesson #5	Four Levels of Prophetic Ministry	40
	WORKSHOP	
Lesson #6	Called, Trained, Commissioned	47
	WORKSHOP	
Lesson #7	Interpretation	52
	Parts of the Body	58
	WORKSHOP	
Lesson #8	Practical Wisdom for Application	61
	Trying to Prophesy	64
	WORKSHOP	
Lesson #9	OT Prophecy VS NT Prophecy	64
	Old Testament Prophets	65
	New Testament Prophets	67

WORKSHOP

Lesson #10

Guest Prophetic Minister

Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

I. Some definitions:

- A. "Spiritual gifts are the expression of God's power at work in the Church today."

John Wimber

- B. "The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the supernaturally imparted abilities to do the works of Jesus."

Derek Prince

II. Purposes of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

A. Given for the common good.

1 Cor. 12:7

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."

B. Promotes unity with diversity

1 Cor. 12:12-31

"¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. ²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."

C. Edification of the Church

1Cor. 14: 12

"Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel."

D. Edifies the Individual

1 Cor. 14:4

"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."

E. To help us fulfill the Great Commission

Matt. 28:18-20

¹⁸"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

III. 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

A. Revelatory Gifts - The Gifts that Reveal

They are spiritual gifts which assist you in being led by the Holy Spirit. God imparts spiritual understanding to you through these gifts of revelation knowledge.

1. Discerning of Spirits

This is a supernatural gift of perception given sovereignly by God to enable individuals in the church to judge whether the spirit operating has a source that is human, demonic or divine.

2. A Word of Wisdom

The word of wisdom is an utterance inspired by God and spoken by an individual. It reveals a part of the wisdom of God. It reveals what God sees in a given situation. It is supernatural insight.

3. A Word of Knowledge

The word of knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God. It is a fragment of God's total knowledge – Things He just wants you to know.

B. Power Gifts - The Gifts that Do

It is not about your power, but about the power of God working through you under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. All of these gifts are released to provide the power you need to accomplish your mission for the Kingdom of God.

1. Gift of Faith

The gift of faith is the God-given ability to believe Him for the impossible in a particular situation.

2. Gifts of Healing

These gifts are channeled through human agents for the supernatural healing of diseases and infirmities to the glory of God.

3. Workings of Miracles

A miracle is a happening or event which is supernatural: The performance of something which is against the laws of nature. It is not man performing miracles, but God performing miracles through a cooperative act with men.

C. Vocal Gifts - The Gifts that Speak or Inspire

The Power of God is released when you are speaking the Word of God as directed by the Holy Spirit.

1. Gift of Various Kinds of Tongues

The “gift of tongues” is the supernatural ability given to a believer by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language not understood by the speaker.

2. Interpretation of Tongues

The gift of interpretation is the supernatural, spontaneous ability to interpret a communication given in tongues into the language understood by the people present.

3. Gift of Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is the supernaturally imparted ability to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and speak God’s mind or counsel.

IV. Spiritual Gifts are for Every Believer

Joel 2:28-29

*²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams,*

Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days"

"We all have access to all the spiritual gifts through the Holy Spirit. You might operate in one gift more than another but if you look at the life of Jesus and His disciples you will see that they all operated in all the gifts"
Doug Addison

"The Lord clearly states that He will pour out His spirit, His gifts and His power on all flesh. You can put your full trust in this truth: Spiritual gifts are intended for every believer. They are available to young and old, rich and poor, male and female. This is completeness. Nothing is lacking in the gifts of the Lord.

As with all spiritual gifts, you need to exercise a gift in order to keep it and grow with it. A gift can be understood as operating something like a muscle. If you do not use it, it will tend to atrophy. The more you exercise the gift the stronger it becomes. This is why it is so unwise to be lax in the use of the spiritual gifts which have been given to you. They are given for a purpose and will only remain strong as long as you are focused on your God-given mission. They are given as God discerns their need in each of us. You can be certain that Father God is faithful to give you all you need to accomplish your purpose in the Kingdom. Remember, you are who God gifted you to be."

James A. Durham

"Indeed we need training in the areas that are not our strongest gift. It is good to study and develop all your spiritual gifts, no matter how strong they are in your life. No gift is better than the others. We develop them all through the Holy Spirit as we mature and according to where God has us."

Doug Addison

"Our unique and different gifts and abilities should cause a believer to love and depend more on one another. This should make us more united as one body in Christ Jesus. There should be a strong synergy and connectivity within the body of Christ, all working together in love. There is no gift greater or better than another, but love is to be pursued when operating in concert with the gifts of the Spirit."

Hakeem Collins

I. The Gift of Prophecy Defined

A. Kenneth Hagin - Prophecy is supernatural utterance in a known tongue. The Hebrew word "to prophesy" means "to flow forth". It also carries with it the thought "to bubble forth like a fountain, to let drop, to lift up, to tumble forth, and to spring forth". The Greek word that is translated "prophesy" means "to speak for another". It means to speak for God or to be His spokesman.

B. Dick Iverson - The gift of prophecy is speaking under the direct supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit. It is becoming God's mouth piece, to verbalize His words as the Spirit directs. The Greek word *propheteia* means "speaking forth the mind and counsel of God". It is inseparable in its New Testament usage with the concept of direct inspiration of the Spirit. Prophecy is the very voice of Christ speaking in the church.

C. Derek Prince - The gift of prophecy is the supernaturally imparted ability to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and speak God's mind or counsel. Prophecy ministers not only to the assembled group of believers, but also to individuals.

Its three main purposes are:

1. To edify = to build up, strengthen, to make more effective.
2. To exhort = to stimulate, to encourage, to admonish.
3. To comfort = to cheer up.

Thus prophecy overcomes two of Satan's most common attacks:
Condemnation and Discouragement

D. David Pytches - The gift of prophecy is the special ability that God gives to members of the body of Christ to receive and to communicate an immediate message of God to His gathered people, a group among them or anyone of His people individually, through a divinely anointed utterance.

- E. John Wimber** - Prophecy is declaring the message of God to His church for the purpose of edification. It is not a skill, aptitude or talent. It is the actual speaking forth of words given by the Spirit in a particular situation and ceases when the words (given by the Spirit) cease. This may be given in a poetic form or even in a song.
- F. Jim Goll** - We could say prophecy is the expressed thought of God spoken in a language that no man in his natural gift of speech could ever articulate. The substance and nature of prophecy exceeds the limit of what the human mind is capable of thinking or imagining. Prophecy comes through the mouth of man, but comes from the mind of God.
- G. Larry Randolph** - Prophecy is God speaking through man.
- H. Steve Thompson** - Prophecy is "hearing " from God and speaking what you hear in order to build, comfort, or encourage someone. To prophecy is to hear **from** God and speak **to** men.
- I. James A. Durham** - In the Hebrew language, the word translated as prophecy has a root meaning of : "to flow forth or to spring forth". This gift comes so that you can let the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus spring forth through you. Your mouth becomes like a spring of life giving water as His truth flows through your prophetic utterances. True prophecy always exalts Jesus as Savior and Lord! Revelation 19:10c, "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy". True prophecy is always in agreement with God's Word.
- J. Hakeem Collins** - The term given by inspiration of God is translated from the Greek word *theopneustos*, which literally means, "God-breathed". In other words, God-inspired words are God's creative breath, and all Scriptures are the byproduct of His will. Therefore, being God's own utterance, the Bible is properly called the Word of God, which is prophetic in nature. The word of God given in prophecy is

related, because when prophets and prophetically gifted individuals prophesy, even in part, they are ministering under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and declaring the word of God

A prophetic word will always encourage spiritual growth in the Lord and His ways and will be seasoned in His love.

II. What are the Present Purposes of the Gift of Prophecy?

A. Edification - God has provided this gift to "edify " or build up the church

1. 1 Corinthians 14:3 *"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men"*
2. Prophetic words edify; they bring edification. Edify means "to build up". God desires to build up His people through prophecy. The word edify is related to the word edifice, which is another word for a building. The church is God's building. His building (His edifice) is built through prophecy. The prophetic is a building gift promoting spiritual growth, developing the character of believers. It is the only gift out of the 9 gifts of the Spirit that brings edification.

God desires to build a home for Himself in the life of the believer through prophetic words. Edification is spoken in prophecy to build up a person, local body, or area of Christian life and ministry. God's desire is to build in us the strength and life of His Son through

prophetic speaking (both as we give and receive). Edification is part of God's love to build up strong believers unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

3. *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."*

Ephesians 4:29

4. *"According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."*

1 Corinthians 3: 10-15

5. Other edification scriptures:

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make peace and the things by which one may edify another"

Romans 14:19

"Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification"

Romans 15:2

"Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies."

1 Corinthians 8:1

"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; All things are lawful for me, but not all things edify, Let no one seek his own, but

each one the other's well being."
10:23-24

1 Corinthians

"Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification."
Corinthians 14:26

1

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

B. Exhortation - God wants us to "incite, encourage, advise and warn earnestly".

1. 1 Corinthians 14 :3 - "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."
2. Exhortation is the Greek word "paraklesis", which means "solace, encouragement, consolation, admonition, or comfort". The Holy Spirit uses prophecy to exhort believers to holiness, love, worship, praise, prayer, evangelism, humility, and giving. To urge forward.
3. The word **Encourage** is only used in the Old Testament. The word **Exhort** is only used in the New Testament.
4. The exhortation or encouragement gift is like the "mouth " of the body of Christ that's sole purpose is to call aside believers to God and make an appeal to them while motivating them to do better and remain diligent to the purposes of God in their lives. Like the prophetic ministry this exhortation gift becomes the reinforcement of

God in a believer's life to keep on pressing forward and become a champion in the faith – **Hakeem Collins**

5. In Dr. Ralph F. Wilson's article "Understanding the Gift of Prophecy: II, The Purpose of Prophecy Today" he writes: "Exhortation to obedience and service, as well as, encouragement and comfort from the Spirit to those experiencing pain & trouble are one aspect of the Spirit's building up of the church through prophecy."
6. I searched in depth in regards to the Hebrew meaning of the words exhortation and encouragement and how they were used in the Old Testament. In the Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible the translated Hebrew word for encourage is *chazag* which means "to be, become strong, to strengthen self and harden".
7. Other exhortation scriptures:

"As you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children" 1 Thessalonians 2:11

"Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men" 1 Thessalonians 2:1

"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."
1 Timothy 4:13

"Teach and exhort these things" 1 Timothy 6:2

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." 2 Timothy 4:2

"Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober minded." Titus
2:6

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'today'" Hebrews
3:13

*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner
of some, but exhorting one another,...."* Hebrews 10:25

"And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation,...."
Hebrews 13:22

C. Comfort - It is Christ speaking in great personal concern and tenderness and care.

1. 1 Corinthians 14:3 - *"But he who prophesies speaks edification and
exhortation and comfort to men"*
2. The Holy Spirit is also known as the Comforter, "*parakletos*", "an
intercessor, consoler, or advocate". Prophecy is one of the ways He
comforts the believer. Comfort is the Greek noun, "*paramythia*",
which means consolation. This is a different type of comfort, and it is
especially important for believers who are suffering or struggling in
their faith. When the Holy Spirit comes, the results include comfort,
strength, and the ability to speak forth the Word of God boldly.
3. Comfort through prophecy brings healing from distress, strife,
hurting and troubled times.
4. By definition and use, prophetic comfort has its roots in the very
heart of God's love and care for His people.

5. Other comfort Scriptures:

"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalms 23:4

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

John 14:26

"... The Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

"Therefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:18

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

1 Thessalonians

5:11

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work."

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

"Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

D. Convict and Convince - This relates to believers who are unlearned and uninitiated, as well as, to unbelievers.

1. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 *"But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you."*
2. **Webster's Dictionary** - That convict or convince is the state or appearance of being convinced, as of the truth of a belief, - to overcome the doubts of, be persuaded.
3. Other convict or convince Scriptures:

"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one" John 8:9

"for he vigorously convinced the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ." Acts 18:2

E. Instruction and Learning - Great truth is seen as the revelatory gifts open the Scriptures to us.

1. 1 Corinthians 14:31 - *"For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."*
2. Other learning Scriptures:

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you"
John
14:26

"Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."
Proverbs 9:9

"It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God' "
John 6:45

F. Gift Impartation

1. 1 Timothy 1:18 - *"This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,"*
2. The word impart is taken from the Greek word *metadidomi*, meaning "to give over or to share". When something is imparted, it has been conveyed from one person to another. The breath of God is released through prophesying, and life is imparted and activated. The prophet's anointing carries with it the ability to activate. Prophets have the ability through prophesying not only to impart but also to stir up and ignite ministries and gifts within individuals.
3. All of us need impartations of the anointing. You can receive some things directly from God; other things will come through the channel of another individual. Although most people received gifts and calling when they were born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit, additional anointing can come through the avenue of laying on of hands and prophecy.

4. Spiritual impartations are given to help us fulfill the will of God for our lives. This is a part of equipping. We become equipped to do the work of the ministry through impartation.
5. Other gift impartation Scriptures:

"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership." 1

Timothy 4: 14

"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established."

Romans 1:11

"Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power."

Ephesians 3:7

G. Testimony of Jesus - Jesus stands in the midst of His people to tell of His works.

1. Revelation 19:10 - *"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophesy' "*
2. If believers act in faith when the spirit of prophecy is present, they all can prophesy. This does not make each one of them a prophet. Their utterances will be limited to the "testimony of Jesus". They will be speaking forth words of truth, valuable words of truth that are based on the revealed Word of truth in the Bible.

The Word of God testifies of Jesus. The more a person meditates on and knows the Word of God, the easier it will be to prophesy. The Word of God carries with it the spirit of prophecy. Then, as we worship God, the word of the Lord can more easily bubble up in us or fall upon us, and we can prophesy freely.

Gift of Prophecy in the Local Church

from: Born to Prophecy, Hakeem Collins, 2013, Creation House, Lake Mary, FL (page 173)

The prophetic ministry in the early church was expressed and utilized for the purpose of establishing the voice of the Lord. Prophecy, prophets, and the ministry gift of prophesying was God's idea and not man's. If it was God's idea in the Old and New Testaments, then it is a concept and culture that we as believers should embrace. Here are some appealing discoveries of the important role that New Covenant prophets were established by the Lord.

- Prophets were established and set by God governmentally in the NT church along with apostles and teachers. (1 Corinthians 12:28)
"And God appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues."
- Prophets are ranked second in order in the NT church by God. (1 Corinthians 12:28)
- Prophets are one out of four "headship" ascension-gift ministries given by Christ to His church as His extension. (Ephesians 4:11)
"And He himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers"
- Prophets can operate and flow in the spirit of prophecy. (Revelations 19:10)

"I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- Prophets have a resident ministry gift of prophecy in them. (1 Corinthians 14:3, 31)

"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

- Prophets are called, generally speaking, to 1) Equip, train, and mature the saints; 2) Activate, ordain, recognize, and assist the saints into their ministries; and 3) Edify, build up, and strengthen the church of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4: 12-13)

"For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"

- Prophets were tremendously used to confirm, set, affirm, and ordain mature leaders in the church, just like in Antioch when Paul and Barnabas were released as apostles. (Acts 13:1-3)

"Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers:..... As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then , having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."

- Prophets move in the ministry of consolation, encouragement, exhortation, and strength. (Acts 15:31-32)

"When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words."

- Prophets can foretell through divine prediction what is to come to warn the people, as Agabus did in regards to the famine that happened. (Acts 11:27-30, Acts 21:8-14)
'And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.'
- Prophets, along with the apostles, are foundational ministries in the NT church. (Ephesians 2: 20-22, Ephesians 3:5)
"having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,"
- Prophets have a special warfare mentality and confrontational grace to contend against false doctrine, prophets, and teachers who are like wolves in sheep's clothing. (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, Revelations 13, Matthew 24:11 , 24)
- Prophets, along with apostles, possess by their call, mantle, office, and gift the spiritual ability and insight into God's divine plan, revelation, purpose, and heart concerning His church. (Ephesians 3:1-5)

As we take into consideration the role of the prophets and the prophetic gift in the New Testament we can clearly see its importance and relevance in the early church and today. There are churches and leaders today that still refuse to embrace the prophetic ministry of the prophet in their church. A church without the voice of the Lord speaking is like a desert in need of water.

The Anatomy of a Prophetic Word

Each prophetic word basically is comprised of three different components. These components are the **revelation**, the **interpretation**, and the **application**. Each of these is often a distinct ingredient, but they blend together to comprise a prophetic word.

1. Revelation

The first part of a prophetic word is the information that we receive from God. This is the information that God gives without us having any prior natural understanding. Revelation is basically knowledge or information we could not have known unless God revealed it to us. Revelation comes in

varied forms and on different levels. **Revelation is simply that which is revealed by God to the prophetic person.**

2. Interpretation

The second component of a prophetic word is the interpretation. This is the understanding that God gives about the revelation we have received. Interpretation is the “What is God saying?” or “What does this mean?” portion of prophesy. Prophetic people need to realize that just because they received the revelation does not mean that they also have the interpretation. We often get into trouble when we try to interpret a prophetic revelation without first receiving God’s direction and clarity. **Interpretation is understanding what the divine information means.**

3. Application

The third component of a prophetic word is the application. This is the understanding of how we implement or utilize the revelation and interpretation that we received. Application is the “What do we do with this?” portion of prophecy. Many times the application is not our job. Rather it is left to the person receiving the word to determine what he or she is supposed to do as a result of the prophetic word. **Application is the wisdom of God released in how and when the word will have effect in the recipient’s life.**

A prophetic word will always encourage spiritual growth in the Lord and His ways and will be seasoned in His love.

Revelation

The primary way that God speaks to all believers is through the written Word of God, the Bible. The Bible has more authority than present-day, personal revelation because its authority extends to all people everywhere and at all times. However, in addition to the Bible, prophets regularly hear the voice of God through other means.

Jack Deere

The main thing to keep in mind about prophecy is that it is revealed and not arrived at in some other way under our own efforts or merit. Revelation is given. It is by the grace and mercy of God. The good news is that God wants to reveal himself and his purposes to the world, even when they do not seek Him. God wants to reveal himself to us much more than we are prepared to listen. If there is a communications problem, it is on our side and not because of some reluctance on the part of God. Revelation is a sovereign work of the Lord and it comes when he wants to give it to us.

God often chooses to speak in strange ways and through unusual means. This is one of the primary reasons why many people do not recognize when God is speaking to them. As we examine how God speaks, let us remember that He is the Creator and that His creativity is expressed in the ways He communicates. In fact, we must recognize that God's voice is seldom really a "voice" .

Steve Thompson

Lower Levels of Revelation - Lower levels of revelation include mental or spiritual impressions or perceptions, gentle internal visions, and the still small voice of God that we hear in our spirit. Each of these is a valid type of revelation, although lower level.

A. Impressions

Impressions are the entry level prophetic revelation for most people.

Intuition is knowledge that is arrived at spontaneously, independent of reason or inquiry. **Perception** denotes the act of apprehending by means of the senses or the mind and involves intuitive awareness. The term **impression** is also similar in meaning, but different in application. It is the Christian slang for the slight nudge of the Holy Spirit that believers often feel deep inside their being.

The Bible contains several powerful examples of impression-level revelations. In Acts 14:9 Paul perceived that a man who was crippled from birth had faith for healing. When Paul acted on his impression, the man was dramatically healed.

Impressions are a feeling that we ought to do something or that something is true. God uses impressions or feelings to guide us. Nehemiah said, "So my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles..." (Neh:7:5).³

Most people receive thousands of intuitive feelings on one level or another. These intuitive impressions are often interpreted as having a gut feeling, a sixth sense, being aware, or just having that certain feeling about something. Larry Randolph says, "It is my observation that this phenomenon is experienced by male and female, young and old, believers and non-believers alike. I have learned to trust the Holy Spirit's ability to amplify those small, inner nudges that come from deep within my soul. This has enabled me to perceive information such as imminent danger, hidden illnesses, secret sins, and at times the thought and intents of people's hearts."

As we become more mature and sensitive in the prophetic gifts, gentle nudges from the Spirit seem louder or more forceful. We then grow in confidence in what He is impressing on us and we can be a bit more bold.

B. Knowing

A revelation may come as something you simply know. And there may be no rational reason for how you know. Jesus is the Knower of hearts who reveals the secrets of our hearts to set us free from self-deception.

C. Body Sensations

God also speaks through impressions in our bodies. Many people receive words of knowledge for healing in this way. God will allow us to feel a sensation or impression in our body which reveals someone else's injury or sickness. While praying for someone, you may begin to feel an unusual sensation in your body that was not present prior to praying. This is God identifying a specific condition that needs healing. We can then speak this word of knowledge to them and minister healing as their faith is heightened.

We must learn to decode the spiritual language of the physical body. The key lies in the ability to discern between the normal pains of the body and physical senses that are influenced by the Holy Spirit. If these pains or feeling occur only while ministering under the anointing, you could be receiving important communication from God.

If you have strange or unexpected physical feelings every time you think about someone or come into contact with them, the Holy Spirit may be provoking you to pray for their healing. If the pain or feeling of distress goes away after acknowledging that it belongs to someone around you, this, too, is an obvious sign that God is talking to you about the problems of other people.

D. Emotional Impressions

God will also speak to you through impressions in your emotions. Whereas other impressions are informational in nature, these are more emotional in nature or "feeling oriented". God created our emotions and will sometimes speak to us through them for others. Many times God will allow us to feel in our own soul what someone else is experiencing. God is allowing us to feel what they are feeling so that we can minister to them.

E. Spiritual Senses

Each of us experiences this world through our five senses - touch, taste, smell, hearing and seeing. It's how God created us. But, he didn't stop

there. He also created us with spiritual eyes and spiritual ears, to see and hear things that are spiritually discerned. God will give us revelation through our “spiritual senses”.

- 1. Spiritual Sight** - You have been given another kind of sight. We call it “insight”. The most important kind of seeing is the seeing of spiritual realities. Let me explain it this way: There is a difference between *facts* and *truth*. Facts are what you experience naturally, with you five senses. But, truth happens at a deeper level, at a spiritual level. And very often, truth must be seen with spiritual eyes. Let me give you an example:

ST was praying for a woman and “saw” her hands as though they were completely white. It was so unusual he immediately asked, “What is this, Lord?” He then realized God wanted her to know that she was blameless and that He saw her as having spotlessly clean hands. She began to weep as God set her free from the enemy’s accusations over some things in her past, that she was wrongly blamed for.

- 2. Spiritual Hearing** - Like spiritual sight, God will give us revelation when we hear a person speak or we hear someone speak his or her name.
- 3. Spiritual Smell** - God will often cause us to spiritually smell things that are messages or revelations. While praying for a young lady, ST and a friend immediately smelled incense. No one else in the room had smelled it. They began to speak to her about the presence of the Lord radiating from her life as incense. She began both to weep and rejoice as God healed her wounded heart and confirmed her preciousness to Him.

One lady frequently “smells” incest victims. When a victim of abuse walks by her at church or at a party, she often smells something like sulfur. She then prays for an appropriate time to minister to the wounded one.

4. Spiritual Touch - God will sometimes give revelation as you “lay hands” on someone for prayer. You may get a revelation when you touch and object (such as a letter, or a personal object).

5. Spiritual Taste - You might experience a distinct taste in your mouth that was not there previously. It might be prophetic revelation concerning those to whom you are ministering. Some people experience this phenomenon when praying for those who are sick.

F. Still Small Voice

This is the soft and gentle voice of God which comes as we wait on the Lord in prayer or meditation. God speaks this way for personal instruction or encouragement. It is a highly subjective way to hear God, since it comes internally and quietly.

For some, this means that the inner voice of the Spirit is actually God communication through their conscience. Others perceive it as the Spirit of God bearing witness with their spirit, while others believe it is the literal voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to their mind and spirit. Whichever the case, God speaks to us through inner declarations of His Spirit. I also believe these whispers of the Spirit are given to encourage the downhearted, provide instruction to those lacking wisdom, and give direction to people in need of guidance.

A busy mind is a hindrance to hearing the still, small voice of God. It is important, therefore, to incorporate the “prayer of listening” into our devotional life. Remember that the faintest whisper from heaven is greater in value than all the noise of religious activity.

G. Internal Audible Voice

This is often a loud booming voice, not coming in our thoughts, but instead cutting through and interrupting them. Although this is not really audible, it seems to be because it resounds so loudly within us.

H. Glimpses in the Spirit (Mental Pictures)

These are the lowest level of visions and are fleeting internal pictures that we receive from the Lord. They are brief in duration and usually contain only a still picture, not a scene or story line.

Mental pictures that come without warning or forethought are often inspired by God. This phenomenon is often referred to as "seeing with the mind's eye". Much like when a camera's eye opens momentarily to capture a scene, the mind's eye can give us snapshots of past, present, and future images. In a split second things can be perceived that are unknown to a person's state of mind. Although a lower form of revelation, God can speak powerfully through these gentle visions.

I. Look A Likes

Often when I meet someone, I will see a similarity in their countenance to someone else I know or know of. But they do not look like this person at all. Rather, the Lord is showing me through spiritual sight that there is some aspect of his or her life which is identical to this other person. Many times the Lord will reveal that this individual has a similar spiritual calling as the other person.

J. The Natural World

God speaks to us through His creation in at least three different ways.

1. The design and beauty of creation reveals the existence of a Designer who is both beautiful and powerful. In Romans 1:20, the apostle Paul declared that God's eternal power and divine nature is clearly seen through that which He has made.
2. The natural world bursts with analogies to the spiritual world, which illustrate spiritual principles for us. For example, a lazy person may learn a great deal from observing the ways of the lowly ant. (see Prov. 6:6-11)

3. God may illumine natural events to communicate His plans or express His ways. For example, the Lord used a locust invasion to give Joel a message for his nation (see Joel 2:25-27). Paul also indicated in Colossians 2:17 that things in the natural world are but a shadow of things to come.

God is constantly speaking through His creation. The Creator is eager to reveal Himself through His handiwork. Honestly, we can discover a wealth of understanding about the spirit world just by observing the traits and characteristics of the created world around us. We need to open our eyes and realize that the natural world is but a silhouette of the spiritual world.

K. Secular World

Never underestimate the willingness of God to speak in unusual ways, especially through authority figures. Romans 13:1 proclaims, *"Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities: For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God"* This means we are to respect those in authority in the secular world and trust that God can use them to speak to us when necessary.

God can speak through school teachers, police officers, lawyers, doctors, secular movies and secular songs, historical and fictional writings, billboards on the freeway, quips and quotes in magazines and other unusual methods.

L. Literal Dreams

Literal dreams are simply quick vignettes, showing us the future under certain circumstances. Many times these short dreams are easier to understand because they need little or no interpretation.

M. Puns

God will often use puns or plays on words when He speaks to us.

N. Sentence Fragment

Sometimes God may speak only a single word. And while the word may be clear, its interpretation may not be. Our glory is to search out the meaning. (see Prov. 25:2)

O. Fleeces

God sometimes speaks through “fleeces” (see Judges 6:36-40). To confirm God’s will, Gideon laid out his wool fleece on a threshing floor and asked God to make it first wet, then dry. It can be appropriate to lay out a metaphorical fleece when we have to make a decision, especially when we have come to an impasse. We have prayed and waited, but we are still uncertain. In those cases we can ask God for a definite sign of His direction.

P. Cosmos

In our quest to hear from heaven we must never confuse astronomy with astrology. Basic **astronomy** is the science and mathematics dealing with the celestial bodies of the universe, including the position and motions of planets, stars, comets, meteors, and interstellar matter. **Astrology** teaches that the position of these astrological bodies at the time of a person’s birth, and the movement of these bodies thereafter, reflect that person’s character and destiny.

I want to make it clear that I am not promoting the practice of astrology, which entails the use of the horoscope and other false systems of ascertaining the will of God. Any attempt to forecast the future by analyzing the movements of heavenly bodies or the belief that they influence individuals and the course of human events is forbidden in Scripture.

God's contempt for astrology is clearly demonstrated through the prophet Isaiah. When the prophet rebuked the Babylonians for their idolatry in Isaiah 47:13, he taunted them to seek salvation from their astrologers, stargazers, and monthly prognosticators. Apparently their reliance on Astrology compelled them to trust their lucky stars instead of trusting the Lord for guidance.

Astronomy, on the other hand, plays an important role in understanding the effect of the cosmos on the earth and its inhabitants. It is no secret that the planets and their orbital movement are like the gears of a giant clock, which marks seasons and periods of time. The author of Genesis 1:14-16 clearly states that the stars and planets are used to divide the day from night and are for signs, seasons, days, and years.

The cosmos also serves as a prophetic timepiece, foretelling special events when certain elements for the universe are emphasized and highlighted by the Holy Spirit. In an extra ordinary example in Matthew 2:2-10, three Mesopotamian wise men were informed of Christ's birth by a bright star in the night sky. Although many scholars believe it was a rare alignment of Jupiter and Saturn, others suggest it was a supernova or exploding star employed by God to guide the wise men to the infant Messiah. Whichever the case, these men were able to receive a message from God by reading heaven's cosmic clock.

In other instances in the Bible, we also see God speaking through unusual cosmic activity. It is evident in Joshua 10:13 that God communicated His favor to Israel by causing the sun and moon to stand still until they could avenge themselves of their enemies. Acts 2:19 also declares that God will forecast events of the last days by speaking through wonders in heaven above and signs on the earth below.

Q. Coincidence & Circumstances

What are coincidences and circumstances? Webster's Dictionary defines a **coincidence** as a "striking occurrence by mere chance of 2 or

more events at one time.” **Circumstance** is defined as “a condition or attribute that accompanies, determines, or modifies a fact or event.”

In the physical world, circumstances and coincidences are common happenings of everyday life. The two often work together in shaping our destiny. It is the circumstances of life that push us toward unknown destinations and coincidences that make us scratch our head along the way.

These two dynamics of life are not always random events, but are often orchestrated by God. What looks like chance is frequently the voice of God speaking in the natural world of circumstance. There is a thin line between physical circumstances and divine intervention, which is critical to the issue of guidance. This means we must learn to distinguish between the ordinary occurrences of life and God-influenced circumstances. This requires a high-level of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and a good dose of common sense.

Higher Levels of Revelation - Higher level revelations include open visions, angelic visitations, visitations of the Lord, vivid dreams, trances, being caught up in the spirit and other prophetic experiences. As a general rule, the less subjective way in which a revelation comes the higher level it is.

A. Audible Voice

The audible voice of God is difficult to describe. When He speaks in this fashion, all thought and doubt is removed. It is not so much that it is loud in volume but that it is immense in nature. In Scripture, the audible voice comes at moments of crisis (see Gen 22:11-12) or at great turning points such as the giving of the law at Sinai, the baptism and

transfiguration of Jesus, the week before His cross and the conversion of the apostle Paul.

God still speaks in an audible voice. Nothing in the Scripture teaches that once the Bible was completed, God would stop speaking audibly. National evangelical leaders from our own times report having heard the audible voice of the Lord, and their integrity is without question.

Rick Joyner - "The Lord's voice was not loud; I do not think it even rattled the windows. Yet there was such depth and endless power in those words that I felt like a mere atom standing before the sun. I actually heard eternity, and it was almost more than this frail, human body could take."

Be advised that hearing the voice of God also requires the responsibility of obeying the voice of God. It would be better not to hear God at all than to hear and disobey.

B. Internal Visions

Unger's Bible Dictionary defines "visions" as a "supernatural presentation of scenery or circumstances to the mind of a person while awake." Other references suggest that visions are inspired insights of revelation from God.

As a rule, visions are more than just still pictures; they include a "storyline" of transpiring events. They can be interrupted by distractions and good focus is needed to keep from missing them. Visions are similar to dreams, but normally they occur while we are awake. Most of the symbolism used in visions is established in Scripture, but not all of it. Sometimes these images are momentary; at other times they can last for a long time.

Such visions were common throughout church history and are mentioned over one hundred times in the Bible. A great number of

people also have visions that contain warnings, predictions, and other prophetic messages.

Although visions are a part of our spiritual experience, be advised that not all visions are from God. This means we must verify the source of our vision and be cautious of what many today call “second heaven revelation.” It is taught that there are three heavens – the first being the physical heavens, the second being a spiritual realm where fallen angels and principalities abide, and the third being the highest spiritual realm where God lives.

C. Open Visions

These visions are received when your eyes are open and are not stopped by distractions. These visions can start and continue even when you are involved in attention-consuming activity, such as driving a car. The experience is similar to seeing a scene acted out physically as on a movie screen. Open visions may be seen by more than one person at the same time.

D. Symbolic Dreams

God uses dreams to speak to us in our sleep when our defenses are down and we are more receptive. These dreams can be highly symbolic in nature and must be carefully interpreted over time and often with much prayer and meditation.

Most of our dreams are nothing more than random, meaningless accumulations of impressions from our activities during the day. These may in some way reflect our mental state but are in no way a message from the Lord. If you are left only with a vague feeling that a dream might have been from God, it probably was not. The dreams which come from Him are usually easy to recognize, even if we do not immediately know what they mean.

To discern between natural dreams and spiritual dreams, a simple test can be used. Does the dream provoke you to pray and seek God? Is there a sense of God's presence in the dream or immediately following the dream? While in the middle of the dream, do you become aware that the dream is from God? Is the dream repeated over and over again? Is the dream symbolic or cryptic by nature? Is Scripture seen or spoken in the dream? Do you awake abruptly from the dream with a sense of God's presence? Does the dream keep coming to your mind for days or weeks afterwards? If you can say "yes" to any of these questions, there is a strong possibility that your dream is inspired by God.

E. Dreams of Angels or the Lord

Some dreams consist simply of an angel or the Lord speaking to us. These are not visitations; they are dreams, but they are a high level of revelation. There are a number of scriptural examples of these types of dreams (Genesis 20:3, Genesis 31:24, 1Kings 3:5, Matthew 1:20, Matthew 2:12-13)

F. Trances

The Greek word for "trance" literally means "standing outside one's normal state of mind". In a nutshell, trances are a displacement of the mind which gives a person a sense of detachment from their physical surroundings. While in this state, the mind and senses will often shut down, allowing the person to be overtaken by visual images. As a rule, these trances are similar to visions, but stronger in intensity and longer in duration of time.

Trances are found in the New Testament. Peter fell into a trance in which God profoundly spoke to him (Act 10:34). During a trance, most, if not all, awareness of your natural surroundings is obscured and you are transfixed on the events in the trance as opposed to an open vision where you observe something transpiring. In a trance you participate in

a scene through your actions. They can last any length of time, from a few seconds to several hours.

Church history is filled with accounts of God speaking through trances. The majority of Bible characters mentioned in this chapter did have one thing in common. They were praying when they fell into a trance. Paul experienced this phenomenon while praying in a temple; Peter's trance came while praying on the roof of a house; and Abraham's trance came as he communed with God during a time of sacrificial offering.

This tells me that the primary connection to biblical trances is established through prayer and intercession. I believe this is partly due to the humility of heart brought about by this kind of devotion, which according to James 4:6, is God's grace given to the humble. It is nearly impossible to maintain a humble prayer life and not encounter the supernatural on one level or another.

G. Being Caught Up in the Spirit

This is similar to a trance, except you seem to be transported somewhere. Paul was caught up in the spirit into the third heaven. He was not sure if this happened with his spirit leaving his body or if he was actually caught up bodily to the third heaven (11Corinthians 12:2-3). God still uses experiences like these to speak to His people today.

H. Angelic Visitations

According to contemporary theology, angels are celestial beings created by God before the beginning of time. They are spirits of wind-like velocity that have superhuman power and knowledge.

The bulk of angelic activity today can be divided into three categories - Ambassadorship, Warfare, and Guardianship. We must be careful how we interact with these heavenly beings. NEVER disrespect or argue with

a warring angel; TRUST the protection of guardian angels; and ALWAYS obey the declaration of a messenger angel.

It is amazing to see how often in the book of Acts angels brought messages to the saints. Angels may appear in their glory or in human form as a guest in our home without ever revealing their real identity. Or they may perform their service for us, giving us no hint of their presence. Prophetic people often see them when others cannot.

Just as a gust of invisible wind can stir the atmosphere around us, the movement of angels in the unseen world can set things into motion in the physical world. This activity is often detected as an unusual sound or the feeling of wind around your body or face. In some instances, you might also see a momentary flash of light out of the corner of your eye or shimmering colors that come and go around you. We must learn to properly discern the presence of these heavenly beings and accommodate their purpose for being in our midst.

Angels can also manifest in the visible realm and are represented in Scripture as appearing in human form and having human characteristics. They can look like men, speak like men, and often take on the appearance of friends or strangers. The odds are great, that angels come and go throughout our lives on a frequent basis. Hebrews 13:2 says it is possible to entertain angels without knowing it.

I. Visitations of the Lord

This is obviously the highest level of prophetic revelation possible. Like angels, the Lord Himself will often come in dreams, visions, or even reveal Himself visibly to us. Manifestations of Christ are known in theological terms as "Christophanies". Some believe these

manifestations are God taking on human form and interacting with His creation. Others believe they are intangible apparition, like visions and trances, but much stronger. In a visitation He is physically present.

It is possible to be visited by Christ in physical form and not know it at the time, like Mary Magdalene when she unknowingly encountered the risen Christ at His tomb in John 20:15. Also, two men traveling on the Emmaus Road in Luke 24:15-50 encountered the Lord without recognizing who He was.

Sources of Revelation

As we learn to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, we must realize that not every voice that speaks to us from the spirit realm is from God.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” 1

John 4:1

In this passage of Scripture, John makes it clear that we are able to hear from spirits other than the Holy Spirit. He went on to warn us not to become false prophets by listening to the wrong spirit. Therefore, because it is possible to become a false prophet by listening to the wrong spirit, it is vital for us to discern which voices are speaking to us.

We are commanded to embrace prophetic ministry while also carefully examining, evaluating, and judging all prophetic words. ***“Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.”*** 1Thessalonians 5: 19-21

1. Holy Spirit

- a. The Spirit of God is purity, holiness& righteousness and is always redemptive in nature.
- b. Only truth
- c. *“...test the spirits to see whether they are from God...”* 1 John 4:1
- d. *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”* James 3:17

2. Human Spirit

We are a spirit that has a soul and a body. Hearing from our own spirit is still a spiritual experience and being aware of this will help us discern which voice is speaking to us.

- a. Someone speaks from his/her own heart.
- b. *“...I did not speak to them, but they prophesied.”* Jeremiah 23:21
- c. *“And the word of the Lord came to me saying, ‘Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy and say to those who*

prophecy out of their own heart, Hear the word of the Lord!" "
Ezekiel 13:1-2

3. Evil Spirit

Spirits from the evil realm can speak to Christians just as they spoke to Jesus when He encountered Satan in the wilderness.

a. A lying spirit

"Some reading this book may question how this gift is different from a psychic, medium, ESP, clairvoyance, divination and witchcraft. Let me be clear: There are two sources of power, God and Satan. God's power flows from Him, we're able to move in His power because of the Spirit of God within us. It's no power of our own, and it brings glory to Him. Satan's power is counterfeit, a corruption of God's laws and His powers. Satan's power can be accurate in the same way that a con artist can tell the truth in order to advance a lie. His power is rather akin to cut glass, where God is diamonds."

From: Born to Prophecy, Hakeem Collins, 2013, Creation House, Lake Mary, FL

b. "...*this is the spirit of the antichrist...*" 1 John 4:3

c. "...*Get behind me, Satan!*" Matthew 16:23

d. False Prophecies

- 1) False prophecy is deceptive and can be very subtle.
- 2) False prophecy is often a deliberate attempt to lead God's people astray.
- 3) False prophecies often exalt men & women instead of God.
- 4) False prophets lack the humility of the Lord and carry the pride of their gifting, title or ministry.

- 5) False prophetic words release the power of death, discouragement, deception and delusion.
 - 6) False prophecy means cunning deception that leads us away from the truth and into error.
 - 7) False prophecy can also lead us toward the ways of this world.
- e. Evil angels are prideful, arrogant and masters of deceptive devices given to draw people's attention away from God.

4. Angels

- a. According to Hebrews 1, these are spirits sent to render service to the saints.
- b. Angels also speak to us about the things of God. They are simply messengers that often speak for God to the prophetic person but always lead the recipient to God and His Kingdom purposes.
- c. It is taught that there are three heavens

The 1st being the physical heavens.

The 2nd being a spiritual realm where fallen angels & principalities abide.

The 3rd being the highest spiritual realm where God lives.

Seven Steps for Judging Prophecy

Judging prophecy is for the common good of the Lord's body.

Jesus warned against false prophets, saying, *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."* Matthew 7:15

"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." 1 John 4:1

Judging prophecy is a statute and command of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:29 says, *"Let two or three prophets speak and let the others judge."*

Believers can learn to distinguish between true and false gifts. The Bible gives seven steps for judging prophecy.

1. By their fruits ye shall know them

You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

Matthew

7:16-20

2. Does it glorify Christ?

Jesus speaking of the Holy Spirit, said "He shall glorify me. "

John

16:14

"Therefore 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."

1 Corinthians 12:3

"By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,"

1 John 4:2

If the prophet is right and if the prophecy is right, they will testify of Jesus

3. Does it agree with the Scriptures?

If it is a true prophecy, it will be according to the Word of God, because the Spirit and the Word agree. The Word was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

2 Peter 1:21

The Holy Spirit is not going to tell you one thing in the Word and another thing through prophecy. If a prophecy doesn't agree with the Word of God, it isn't right. It's the same Spirit, it's going to agree with the Word.

4. Are their prophecies fulfilled?

"And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?' - when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him." **Deuteronomy 18:21-22**

5. Not all prophecies are of God

"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' - which you have not known - 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst." **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

Does it lead me to God or away from Him?

6. Do the prophecies produce liberty or bondage?

"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba Father." **Romans 8:15**

So if prophecy produces bondage, it isn't right. The Word says, "... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." **2 Corinthians 3:17**

"For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face." **2 Corinthians 11:20**

God is not going to do any of those things. It's man who will do all that to you.

7. The Anointing Abideth in You

"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.... But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him"

1 John 2:20,27

When things are not right, something on the inside of you - an unction of the Lord, the anointing that abideth in you - tells you so. The Holy Spirit is there to inform you if things are not as they should be, and you will know immediately.

Excerpts from: Seven Steps for Judging Prophecy, Kenneth E. Hagin, 1982, Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Inc., Tulsa , OK

Prophetic Workshop

After the third class, each class will have a half hour of workshop time. In this way, the class participants are learning both academically and experientially about the gift of prophecy. This is a time to put into practice what we learn in class.

One member of the class is selected to be the center of attention. As a class we pray and ask God to give us revelation for the chosen class member. Another class member is asked to write down the prophetic words as they are given. All others prophesy to the chosen member. After prophetic words are given, we ask the person who received the prophetic words to judge the words and give feedback to the group about the accuracy of the words.

Each class member will have an opportunity to be the recipient of the prophetic ministry.



4 Levels of
Prophetic Ministry.p

Four Levels of Prophetic Ministry

I. Level I - Simple Prophecy

A. Distinguishing Characteristics

1. All believers can prophesy

Acts 2:17-18

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy."

2. All should seek this gift.

1 Corinthians 14:1

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

B. Function - To speak to men things God brings to mind (inspired thoughts) for specific situations and circumstances, that serve to:

1. Strengthen
2. Encourage
3. Comfort

C. Means of Revelation

1. Most often these are simply concepts, thoughts or ideas that God brings to mind.
2. These may well include words of knowledge while praying for someone (i.e. specific information regarding the physical, spiritual, and/or emotional status of the person or situation).
3. Occasionally people at this level receive visions, pictures, or prophetic dreams.

D. Influence and Authority

1. While these people have the potential to speak the very words of God, primarily they are speaking in their own words, an idea or concept God has brought to mind.
2. These words are to be tested (1 Cor. 14:29-33) and usually should first be attempted in a small group setting and not publicly in the church.

1 Corinthians 14:29-33

"Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."

II. Level II - Prophetic Gifting

A. Distinguishing Characteristics

1. Consistent and accurate reporting of things the Spirit brings to mind.
2. Regular dreams, visions, pictures, words with some interpretation and specific application accompanying the revelation.

B. Function - Still primarily limited to 1 Cor. 14:3 (strengthen, encourage, comfort), but beginning to receive words regarding correction and direction. On various occasions, these people are often very interested in and committed to intercessory prayer.

C. Means of Revelation

1. Regularly receive clear visions, words, pictures, dreams.
2. May have "open visions" in which the Lord speaks directly (audible voice, theophany).

D. Influence and Authority

1. These people should be allowed to minister publicly in the congregation in accordance with 1 Corinthians 14:29-33.
2. These people are gifted, in that they receive an unusual amount of revelation, but they must be trained (i.e. have maturity of character and wisdom of God's corporate purposes).
3. Words of direction or correction should not be spoken publicly but submitted to the eldership in writing first and may be delivered later when judged and deemed appropriate.
4. Each church will have a number of these people who will be recognized by members and leadership alike as having a prophetic gift.
5. Their words are consistently more accurate and edifying than those in Level I.

III. Level III - Prophetic Ministry

A. Distinguishing Characteristics

1. These people minister with authority (unlike those in Levels I and II) to direct, correct, and possibly rebuke.
2. They are proven people of mature character and wisdom regarding God's corporate purposes.
3. They operate in other "signs and wonders" gifts (healing, miracles, deliverance) at least occasionally.
4. They could be used to expose unconfessed sin (2 Sam. 12:1-7)

2 Samuel 12:1-7

"Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: 'There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him: but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.'

So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, 'As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.'

Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.' "

5. They often will be misunderstood, and appear weak, ministering in brokenness and humility. (2 Corinthians 13:7-9)

B. Function

1. To give direction and correction, and to fulfill other service in line with 1 Cor. 14:3.
2. To help illuminate and articulate specifically what particular truths or doctrines the Lord is seeking to emphasize.

C. Means of Revelation

1. Will receive words, dreams, visions – often daily, or at least very regularly.
2. Will have “open visions” at least occasionally (i.e. angelic visitations, theophanies, audible voice).
3. Often receive very detailed information such as names, faces, dates, future events.
4. Occasionally speaks in parables.

D. Influence and Authority

1. Recognized and commissioned by the local church to minister regularly.
2. May travel and minister outside of the local church.
3. Prophecies are to be confirmed by two witnesses and judged by other prophets and elders, but words are uncommonly accurate and edifying.

IV. Level IV - The Prophet

The New Testament office, though very powerful, has less authority than those who wrote Scripture.

A. Distinguishing Characteristics

1. Often have experiences which indicate they have been sovereignly chosen by God (miraculous birth, angelic visitation, etc....)
2. Have been proven in years of ministry.
3. Have often suffered rejection and misunderstanding.
4. Receive and unusual flow of revelatory information - "more at home in heaven than on earth".
5. Their words carry much authority as they regularly speak with great accuracy and power.
6. They minister frequently in "signs and wonders" gifts.

B. Function

1. To provide direction and correction to those in church government and often leaders in the secular world as well.
2. To establish, articulate and emphasize what the Spirit is wanting highlighted.
3. Predict future events with accuracy, to help the congregation master its position in the world. These events are also used to amaze leaders and the unconverted to "wake up" to a God who is alive and real.

C. Means of Revelation

1. A Constant flow of divine revelation
2. Many "open visions" ("I was there...")

3. Prediction of “un-spiritual”, natural events (i.e. weather patterns, international politics, etc....).

D. Influence and Authority

1. National / international recognition.
2. Words are confirmed through prediction of natural signs (i.e. earthquakes, storms, droughts).
3. They are used to address individuals, congregations, or entire streams in the Body of Christ, as well as, spheres of influence in the secular world and governmental leaders.

Called, Trained, Commissioned

As in any office or ministry gift, three principles apply: Called, Trained and Commissioned. These steps are not just a "one time" series of events, but are often repeated several times in the life of the individual. We will consider these progressive steps in reference to "nurturing the prophetic call".

I. The Prophetic Call

A. What is "The Prophetic Call"?

As you compare scriptural examples, as well as contemporary life experience, you find a variety of times, ways and styles that people have been called into prophetic ministry. Some seem to be "born with a gift". Others are "born-again with a gift" or "baptized-in-the- Spirit with a gift". Still other callings are gradual and emerge later in life even though the person was sovereignly called before he was ever born.

1. Samuel's call (as a child) - 1 Samuel 3:1-15
2. Elisha's call (as a man) while plowing a field - 1 Kings 19:19-21
3. Jeremiah's call (before he was conceived) - Jeremiah 1:5
4. Amos' call to prophesy (while he was a herdsman and grower of figs)
- Amos 1:1; Amos 7:12-14
5. John the Baptist's call (in the womb) - Luke 1:41

B. How do I Know if I am Called?

1. Supernatural events, visitation of angels / Jesus -
Isaiah 6:1; Jeremiah 1:4; 1 Samuel 3:1-14

2. People will begin to tell you -
1 Samuel 3:20
3. Leadership will recognize it
Proverbs 18:16
4. May receive an initial prophecy about the future -
i.e. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Samuel, or Zechariah
5. Gifts of the Spirit through others might be used to call you forth -
Acts 13:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:6
6. God will confirm His Word-
2 Corinthians 13:1
7. Fruit will begin to be born
Mark 16:20

II. The Prophetic Training

A. How Spiritual Gifts are Received.

It is often stated "gifts are given and fruit is grown". How are gifts given, received and how does increase come?

1. **Sovereignly** - God can move to give grace, ministries and offices entirely as He desires, dealing little or nothing with the condition of the person. This sovereign act of gifting has occurred often in Scripture and in church history.

The Elevator

- a. A sovereign gift; a person is born with it.
- b. Early operation even though the person may not necessarily be walking with God.

- c. Anointing is greater than training; great experiences and lack of wisdom cause hurts and make messes.
- d. Very sensitive.
- e. Doesn't understand people and the operation of the gift.
- f. Can suffer great isolation and rejection.
- g. Must avoid jealousy and comparison.
- h. Prone to think more highly of self; that he is "special" (pride).
- i. Should seek to develop gratefulness and humility.

2. Laying on of Hands

- a. Moses with Joshua - Deuteronomy 34:9
- b. Church at Antioch with Barnabas and Saul (Paul) - Acts 13:3
- c. The seven (Stephen, Phillip, etc...) - Acts 6:3-6
- d. "Do not be hasty..." - 1 Timothy 5:22
- e. Ananias and Paul - Acts 9:17

3. Mentoring relationships

- a. Elijah with Elisha
 - 1) God told Elijah to anoint Elisha - 1 Kings 19: 15-16
 - 2) Elijah did so by casting his mantle upon him - 1 Kings 19:19
 - 3) Elisha then became Elijah's servant - 1 Kings 19:21
 - 4) After years of training (show and tell), and tests of endurance, Elisha watched while Elijah went into heaven - 2 Kings 2:1-12
 - 5) Then Elisha took Elijah's mantle and began his own ministry - 2 Kings 2: 1-12
- b. Jesus and the Twelve
 - 1) Jesus called them and passed on His authority - Luke 10:1-11
 - 2) After their ministry they reported their success - Luke 10:17
 - 3) The process worked and was effective!
- c. The Church of Antioch with Barnabas and Saul (Paul)
 - 1) While the leaders were worshipping and fasting, God spoke... - Acts 13:1-2
 - 2) After fasting and more prayer, the church laid their hands on them and sent them off - Acts 13:3
- d. Paul with Timothy

- 1) 1 Timothy 4:14, "***Do not neglect your gift... given... when the ...elders laid their hands on you***"
- 2) 2 Timothy 1:6, "***...rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands....***"

4. Developing greater accuracy - Gifts come from God; however, we can develop maturity and sensitize them to greater accuracy over time. - Hebrews 5:14

a. This occurs through:

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Fasting
- 3) Self-restraint
- 4) Increasing Faith
- 5) Greater character
- 6) Accurate doctrine

b. The Staircase

- 1) Develops slowly and progressively, as a muscle develops.
- 2) One step at a time; the hill, the climb
- 3) Develops through faithfulness
- 4) Does not appear "overnight"; late -bloomers
- 5) Can suffer from intimidation and jealousy
- 6) Must avoid "if only..." thoughts.
- 7) Prone to "works" mentality and self-righteousness - "I deserve this"; "I earned it"
- 8) Should continue on in faithfulness and endurance.

5. Gifts of Grace ! - Self-righteousness is a major hindrance to gift development. Gifts are gifts ! They do not prove how much God loves the prophet, but how much God loves and wants to bless the people !

B. Character Development - Fruit that is Grown

There are many excruciating lessons in character development. God does not want us to give a message only. He wants us to become a living word. Because the revelatory gifted person is extra-sensitive, the area of character development must be given special attention. The

cross of Christ will eventually become the love of any true prophetic person.

Some points to consider:

1. Seldom is character seen until pressures and trials come. At such times gifts may "dry up" and even disappear for a season as the pruning of the Lord takes place in the character of the gifted vessel.
2. As character matures, it greatly enhances the individual and their gift.
3. Because of its invisible nature, it can be harder to gauge the progress and growth of character than of a grace-gift from God.
4. Motives are the hardest to recognize. A true word can be given with an impure motive of self-promotion which is not detected by the one giving the word. Let's be kind and not judgmental with each other !
5. In time, you come to understand not to sacrifice long-term goals in order to achieve short-term success.
6. Learn to value, "Team Life". Realize that you need others to help "watch out" for you, your family and your priorities. Become accountable in motives, finances, morality and other major areas of natural and spiritual life.
7. In character development you learn to give honor to others and not want their position, title, function, prestige of gifting. You learn that "before honor comes humility."
8. You learn to overcome jealousy and wait on His timing in your life.
9. You learn to give mercy and grace to others as they, also, are "Christians under construction." This, in turn, sows a crop of mercy-understanding from others to you.
10. Give all glory, honor, and praise to the Lord. Your weaknesses will glare in front of you, driving you into greater intimacies with the

Lord. Embrace the Cross, refuse the temporal praises of men, and revel in His unconditional love!

III. Commissioned

In life and ministry there can be many progressive releases and commissioning. We are called, and we continue to be called. We are trained, and we continue to be trained. We are “sent out” and we are brought back again to be re-trained, re-tooled, and re-envisioned, so that we can be re-commissioned with fresh purpose and power all over again.

Signs of a Prophetic Commissioning

1. Only God can grant it.
2. God backs up the words - They do not fail.
3. People recognize His power, accuracy, and consistency.
4. The Lord appears to him in various means.
5. The word of the Lord come to him consistently.

Interpretation

The second component of a prophetic word is the interpretation. This is the understanding that God gives about the revelation we have received. Interpretation is the "What is God saying?" or "What does this mean?" portion of prophecy. There are often symbolic and mysterious elements to vision, dreams, spoken words, and so on. Because prophetic dreams and visions do involve symbolism, understanding symbolism is important to the gift of interpretation. There are biblical symbols that usually mean the same thing in prophetic revelation, but there are none that always mean the same thing.

Basically, there are eight categories of symbols in Scripture.

A. Symbolic Objects - God used inanimate objects, whether God-created or man-made, as symbols.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Cake | Symbol of worship, Divine food
Lev 7:12; Nu 15:20; Hos 7:8; Jer 7:18 |
| 2. Ring | Symbol of eternity, endlessness, speaks of authority
Gen 41:42; Est 1:6; Lk 15:22; Ex 25:12-27 |
| 3. Tower | Symbol of strength, protection, safety
Ps 61:3; Ps 144:2; Pr 18:10; Jer 6:27; Is 30:25 |
| 4. Rain
outpoured | Symbol of God's blessing, God's Word and Spirit

Is 55:10-11; Dt 32:2; Ps 78:24; Ex 16:4; Ac 14:27; Pr 28:3-4 |
| 5. Lamp | Symbol of spirit of man, Spirit of God, Word of God
Pr 20:27; Ps 119:105; Pr 6:23; Is 62:1; Rev 1:14; Ps 18:28 |

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 6. Hail | Symbol of Divine Judgment
Ps 78:47; Ex 9:18-34; Ps 18:13; Rev 8:7; Rev 11:19 |
|---------|---|

B. Symbolic Creatures - God used living creatures, whether plants or animals, as symbols.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Lamb
Lamb | Symbol of Christ our perfect sacrifice, Passover

Ex 12; 1Pe 1:19; John 1:29,36; Is 53:6-7; Rev 5:6; Ac 8:32 |
| 2. Dove | Symbol of gentleness, The Holy Spirit
Mt 3:16; John 1:32; Mk 1:10; Lk 3:22 |
| 3. Fox | Symbol of cunning, evil men
Lk 13:32; Ez 13:1-2; SS 2:15 |
| 4. Seed
offspring | Symbol of fruit or posterity, righteous or wicked

Ge 3:15; Ge 13:15; Jer 31:27; Job 4:8; Ro 4:16; Jn 12:24 |
| 5. Grass | Symbol of frailty of the flesh
Ps 9:5; Is 40:6-8; Job 5:25; Ps 37:2; 1 Pe 1:24 |
| 6. Apple | Symbol of fragrance, beauty, sweetness
Dt 32:10; Pr 25:11; Joel 1:12; SS 2:3; SS 7:8 |

C. Symbolic Actions - God used actions to be symbolic.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. Bathing | Symbol of cleansing, purification
Lev 15:15; Eph 5:26; Tit 3:5; John 3:3-5 |
|------------|---|

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 2. Chew | Symbol of meditation on God's Word
Rev 10:9; Lev 11:3; Pr 9:17; Ez 18:2; 1 Co 11:29 |
| 3. Dance | Symbol of joy, rejoicing, whirling
Ps 30:11; Job 21:11; Ps 149:3; Ecc 3:4; Jer 31:13 |
| 4. Grind | Symbol of oppression, servitude
Is 3:15; Job 31:10; Jdg 16:21; Lam 5:13 |
| 5. Standing position | Symbol of unfinished work, Uprightness, Holding

Amos 9:1; Eph 6:13; Zec 6:15; Ac 7:55; Heb 10:11 |
| 6. Shaving | Symbol of being shorn of strength, power
Jdg 16:19; Is 7:20; Job 1:20; 1 Co 11:5-6 |

D. Symbolic Numbers - God attributed symbolic significance to numbers.

1. Basic Principles of Interpretation of Numbers
 - a. The simple numbers of 1 – 13 often have spiritual significance.
 - b. Multiple of these numbers, or doubling, or tripling, carry basically the same meaning, only they intensify the truth.
 - c. The first use of the number in scripture generally conveys its spiritual meaning.
 - d. Consistency of interpretation. God is consistent, and what a number means in Genesis, it means through all scripture to Revelations.
 - e. The spiritual significance is not always stated, but may be veiled, or hidden, or seen by comparison with other scriptures.
 - f. Generally there are good and evil, true and counterfeit, godly and Satanic aspects in numbers.
2. Individual Numbers and Their Symbolic Meanings
 - a. One God, beginning, source
Gen 1:1; Mk 6:33

- b. Two Witness, testimony
John 8:17; Mt 18:16; Dt 17:6
- c. Three Godhead, divine completeness
Ez 14:14-18; Dan 3:23-24
- d. Four Earth, creation, winds, seasons
Gen 2:10; Mk 16:15; 1 Cor 15:39
- e. Five Cross, grace, atonement
Gen 1:20-23; Lv 1:5; Eph 4:11
- f. Six Man, beast, Satan
Gen 1:26-31; 1 Sam 17:4-7; Num 35: 15
- g. Seven Perfection, completeness
Heb 6:1-2; Jude 14; Josh 6
- h. Eight New beginning
Gen 17; 1Pe 3:20; 2 Pe 3:8
- i. Nine Finality, fullness
Mat 27:45; Gen 7:1-2; Gal 5:22; 1 Cor 12:1-12
- j. Ten Law, government
Gen 1; Dan 2; Ex 34:28
- k. Eleven Disorganization, lawlessness, Antichrist
Dan 7:24; Gen 32:22
- l. Twelve Divine gov't, apostolic fullness
Ex 28:21; Mt 10:2-5; Lv 24:5-6
- m. Thirteen Rebellion, backsliding, apostasy
Gen 14:4; Gen 10:10; 1 Ki 11:6
- n. Fourteen Symbol of Passover, of testing
Ex 12:6; Nu 9:5; Ge 31:41; Ac 27: 27-33; Mat 1:17

- o. Fifteen Symbol of the grace of the Godhead ($3 \times 5 = 15$)
2 Ki 20:6; Is 38:5; Gal 1:18; Lk 3:1-6
- p. 30 Symbol of age of maturity for ministry
Nu 4:3; Ge 41:46; Lk 3:23; Mt 26:15
- q. 40 Symbol of testing, trial, closing in victory or defeat
($10 \times 4 = 40$)
Gen 7:4,17; Ex 16:35; Ps 95:10; Mt 4:2; Lk 4:2; Ac 7:23,36
- r. 50 Symbol of liberty, freedom, Pentecost
1Ki 18:4; Hag 2:14-16; Ac 2:1-4; Lv 23,25
- s. 144 Symbol of God's ultimate in creation
Rev 7:1-3; Rev 14:1-4
- t. 300 Symbol of faithful remnant
Jdg 8:4; Jdg 15:4

E. Symbolic Names - In Scripture God used names to be symbolic both personally and nationally. In Scripture a name is generally significant of the nature, character, experience, or function of the person, place or nation.

- 1. Abraham Type of God the Father. Father of a great multitude.
Gen 22:1-10; Heb 11:17-19; John 3:16
- 2. Adam Type of Headship of Christ, the last Adam
Gen 2:19-20; 1 Co 15:45-47; Ro 5:11-21

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 3. Cain | Type of natural, unregenerate man, worship of self-will
Gen 4:1-8; Jude 11; Heb 11:4 |
| 4. Canaan | Symbol of inheritance gained by warfare
Josh 1:23; Heb 3,4 |
| 5. Eden | Symbol of pleasure, paradise, kingdom life
Ez 36:35; Gen 2:8-15; Joel 2:3 |
| 6. Melchizedek | King of Righteousness, King of Peace. Christ Jesus
Heb 6:20; Heb 5:6-10; Heb 7:1-21; Gen 14:17-20; Ps 110 |

F. Symbolic Colors - God attributed symbolic significance to colors.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Amber | Glory of God
Ez 1:4; Ez 8:2 |
| 2. Black | Sin, death, and famine
La 4:8; Rev 6:5; Jer 8:21 |
| 3. Blue | Heaven, Holy Spirit
Num 15:38 |
| 4. Crimson / Scarlet | Blood atonement, sacrifice
Is 1:18; Lev 14:52; Josh 2:18,21 |
| 5. Purple | Kingship, royalty
John 19:2; Jdg 8:26 |
| 6. Red | Bloodshed, war
Rev 6:4; Rev 12:3; 2 Ki 3:22 |
| 7. White | Purity, light, righteousness
Rev 6:2; Rev 7:9; Rev 19:8 |
| 8. Gold | Symbol of kingship, kingdom glory, God |

Rev 14:14; SS 5:11; Dan 3:1; Mt 2:11; Ac 17:29; Rev 4:4

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 9. Silver | Symbol of redemption, price of a soul
Lev 5:15; Ex 30:11-16; Ps 68:13; Mt 27: 3-9; 1 Pe 1:18-20 |
| 10. Green | Symbol of prosperity, growth, life
Ps 23:2; Gen 1:30; SS 2:13; Mk 6:39; Lk 23:31 |
| 11. Grey | Symbol of dignity, honor, age
Pr 16:31; Gen 42:38; 1 Sam 12:2; Ps 78:18; Pr 20:29 |

G. Symbolic Directions - God attributed symbolic significance to directions.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. East | Symbolic of sunrise, God's light and glory arising
Ps 103:12; Rev 7:21; Gen 3:24; Rev 16:12; Ex 43:1,2 |
| 2. West | Symbol of evening, going down of the sun, day closing
Ps 103:12; Ps 75:6; Ps 107:3; Mt 24:27 |
| 3. North | Symbol of power, majesty, judgment; God's throne
Job 37:9; Ps 48:2; Pr 25:23; Is 14:13; Jer 1:13-15 |
| 4. South | Symbol of quietness of earth. Opposite to North Wind
Job 37:17; Ps 126:4; Lk 12:55; Ac 27:13; Ac 28:13 |
| 5. Up | Symbol of spiritual direction, upwards to God, progression
Gen 13:1; Is 2:2-4 |
| 6. Down | Spiritual decension, backslide, falling away, or humility
Gen 12:10; Is 14:12-13; John 1:3,5; Lk 10:15,30; Rev 5:8 |
| 7. Crooked | Twisted, distorted in the spiritual
Is 40:3,4; Lk 3:4-5 |

H. Symbolic Places - God attributed symbolic significance to places, either specified or implied.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Egypt
works | House of bondage, the world system, house of Satan's

Ex 12: Dt 5:6; Ex 20:2 |
| 2. Jerusalem | City of God and Peace
Ps 116:19; Rev 21,22 |
| 3. Mt. Moriah | Sacrifice, substitution, the Temple site and foundation
Gen 22:2; 2 Ch 3:1 |
| 4. Red Sea | Separation, division, baptism in water
Ex 13:18; Ex 14:21-22; 1 Co 10:1,2 |
| 5. River | Symbol of life-giving flow, Rivers of the Holy Spirit
Ps 36:8; Is 32:2; John 7:38,39; Zec 10:11 |
| 6. Mountain
or man | Symbol of strength, majesty, stability, a kingdom of God

Is 2:2; Dan 2:35; Jer 51:25; Zec 4:7; Ps 72:3 |

Parts of the Body

A. Arm **Emblem of power & might**
Is 52:10; Is 53:1; Ez 4:7

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Gesture | active service, work, war |
| 2. Right | power & word, future, love |
| 3. Left | evangelism, Now |

B. Feet**Foundation of the body****Dominion, possession, ownership, Lordship**

1. Bare feet distress, reproach, slavery
Dt 25:10; 2 Sam 15:30; Is 20:2-4; Ez 24:17
2. Kissing of feet affection, reverence, subjection, worship
Luke 7:38
3. Foot washing sign of welcome, humility, honor
John 13:4-14
4. Feet with shoes with the gospel of peace, sending or going, freedom
Is 52:7; Eph 6

C. Beard**Symbol of manhood**

To shave was sign of ridicule, contempt, degradation
2 Sam 10:4; Is 21:13; Is 50:6

D. Eyes**Window of the soul****Sends and receives messages**

1. Uplifted eyes mark of respect, earnest attention, open to inspection
2. Dropped eyes unworthy, hiding, shows darkness
3. Closed eyes death, absence of what once was there, rest
Gen 46:4; Ex 1:1

E. Face

1. Covered Devotion, sign of reverence & respect
Not worthy to look upon

F. Hair**Source of pride, glory & vanity****Woman's glory**

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Plucked | Self affliction, mourning |
| 2. In Old Testament | shaved women' hair |

G. Hand

Reveals power, strength, assistance

Mark of time, place, measurement

Symbol of the hand of God

Power & purpose (calling)

Healing

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Clapping of Hands | Coronation of King
Come, Come
Praise & approval |
| 2. Hanging by Hands | Punishment for slave |
| 3. Hands joined together | Something is sealed
Exchange of purpose
Pledge of security |
| 4. Hands stretched out | Show of power
Authority |
| 5. Hands bound | In front being led
In back restricted |
| 6. Hand washing | Cleansing from labor
No longer responsible |
| 7. Hands on the head | Commissioning
Blessing
Healing |

H. Head

Center for thought

Houses the senses

1. Dirt on Head Symbol of mourning
2. Covered Head Great distress

I. Breast

House of the lungs Center of life & love

1. Hitting breast Sign of grief

Practical Wisdom for Application

“Those who have received spiritual gifts, especially prophetic gifts, must remember several important things. First, there is a process of development that we must all endure. In order to mature our gifts, we must be subject to God’s time and seasons. While in this formative process, we must not become impatient and despise that which God has planted in us.

Second, when God is developing our gift, we must not minister beyond the level of our maturity. We must be willing to operate with the measure of grace God has given us – in simple ways and in obscure places. If we are not ready to stand before kings, then, like Joseph, we must continue to practice our gift at the bottom of the prison.

Third, if we learn to be patient while in the growth process, things will be much easier for us and for the Church. We will feel less compelled to minister in front of a congregation or to prophesy over notable people.

And, finally, if we use our prophetic gift to encourage people outside of a church setting, our ministries will begin to flourish on a daily basis”

Larry Randolph

A. Prophetic Integrity

1. Avoid prophesying your pet doctrine and favorite emphasis.
2. Do not give as your own someone else's revelation.
3. Distinguish what you know in the natural & what you know in the spirit.
4. If you have something in your heart that wants to be noticed, Root it out.
5. Recognize and admit if you were wrong.

B. Be in Submission

1. Recognize Authority. It is always better to submit to godly authority than to undermine authority.
2. Avoid publicly correcting leadership through prophecy.
3. Never rebuke an elder through prophecy.

C. As God to speak to you. When you don't ask you are leaning on the gift not on the Lord. Declare your dependence on Him.

D. Be careful with words concerning courtship, marriages & births.

E. If you receive words of direction or correction for someone, submit the revelation to the pastor. Do NOT speak the revelation. Take it to prayer.

F. Don't be problematic - speaking only from known problems, current circumstances...

G. Speak Clearly.

1. Do not whisper or mumble.
2. Do not scream. Neither God nor His Church is deaf.
3. Avoid speaking swiftly. Fast talkers are hard to understand.
4. Do not be lengthy. When you ramble on, people lose interest.
5. Avoid "preaching" for extended periods under the guise of prophesying. Know when to stop.
6. Avoid "Thus saith the Lord."
7. Avoid King James English.

H. Refrain from redundant and repetitive prophecies. When the mind of God has been clearly communicated by others, there is no need for another to jump in and say it over.

I. In a church service, submit your word to leadership. Do not go cross-current and frustrate the overall message of the Lord.

J. Be Encouraging.

1. Avoid yelling, whining, harshness, etc....
2. Refrain from scolding, lecturing or whipping people through prophecy.
3. Be governed by love. Let the love of Christ constrain you. (2 Corinthians 5:14)
4. Smile when you prophesy.
5. Walk away when you are angry.
6. The major principle is Edification. Does this sound like Jesus speaking?

K. Stick to the Word ! This is especially true for beginners.

1. Do not swim out too far from the shore until you are sure your vessel is well-established.
2. Do not stretch and manipulate.
3. Do Not be general if God has spoken specific.

L. Refrain from injecting self and personal problems into your words.

1. Moods, pressures, frustration, bitterness, hastiness, opinions, legalism, times when you are sick or on medication.
2. Avoid speaking on issues where you know you still have negative emotional involvement.
3. Prophecy out of a healed heart not a wounded heart.

M. Stay within your measure of faith. Romans 12:6 *"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;"*

N. Understand your level of authority and Let God raise it - NOT you.

O. You are still learning, No matter how prophetic you become. We will be in process till we see him face to face.

P. Do Not move in fear.

1. Move in Faith, Hope & Love.
2. Do Not subject yourself to the fear of man.

Q. Do Not compare yourself with someone else.

1. Compare yourself to Christ & His Word. Be yourself.
2. Do Not be intimidated by people who hear from God more frequently than you do.

R. Do Not think more highly of yourself than you should. Let God show you...

S. Have Character.

1. Keep Humble
2. Keep a Pure Heart. *"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God"*
(Mat. 5:8)

T. If God gives you a word, Do Not push it on people.

1. Ask permission before laying hands on someone.

**U. 2nd Heaven Revelation (the plans of the enemy to destroy a person)
SHOULD NEVER BE PROPHESED.**

1. These will come through dreams and impressions.
2. Take these revelations to prayer.
3. There are more angels than demons. If you are seeing only demons, something is wrong.

V. Submit Negative or Judgmental Words to Leadership.

When we give people negative words, we often release death over them. Our goal is to be a part of a ministry that releases life and calls out the best in people.

Old Testament Prophecy VS New Testament Prophecy

To begin, we must understand the difference between Old and New Testament Prophecy. A greater part of Old Testament prophecy is **revelation received**; whereas, much of New Testament prophecy is **revelation perceived**. Both are inspired by God, but each exists within a different dispensation of time. One is before Christ, the other is after Christ.

For example, Old Testament prophets declared, "Thus saith the Lord," over and over again. They seemed to repeat, word for word, audible statements spoken to them by God in their own language. However, there isn't one instance in the New Testament where believers said, "Thus saith the Lord." True, God did speak to many New Covenant prophets in the first century Church, but the absence of a "Thus saith the Lord" seemed to indicate a different kind of prophetic flow. Apparently, a measure of spiritual sensing and perception was involved in their lives and ministry. Expressions like, "and this I speak... and I think also that I have the Spirit of God," or "it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us," or "the Spirit speaketh expressly," and "I say the truth in Christ...my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost" appeared to be the rule for prophetic expression in the New Testament Church. (see 1 Cor 7:35,40; Acts 15:28; 1 Tim 4:1; Rom 9:1)

In light of these Scriptures, it is apparent that the New Testament "gift of prophecy" carries with it the privilege of interpreting the thought and intent of God's heart. It is not merely the act of repeating exact statements as dictated by God in the Old Testament (**revelation received**). Rather, it is the ability to perceive God's heart and articulate it (**revelation perceived**). Initially the thought will come from God, but through the process of translation it will be filtered through our culture, intellect, language, and personality.

Finally the most significant difference between **revelation received and revelation perceived** is that we, as believers under the New Covenant, have a greater latitude of expression than did our Old Testament counterparts. Even so, this freedom comes as a result of an intimate relationship with the Lord. And, if we fail to develop that intimacy, we run the risk of misinterpreting or misrepresenting His heart - in which case, it would be unwise to speak for God until we have become His friend.

On the other hand those of us who are friends with Jesus must believe that our thoughts, hearts, and tongues are inspired by the Spirit of God. As a result of this intimacy with the Lord, we are capable of imparting the prophetic in a manner that is independent of our own self-righteousness. Why? In spite of our inadequacies and sinful tendencies, we must remember that God has chosen to express Himself through the frailty of mankind, especially those who are joined to Him in relationship.

*"For it was not through any human whim that man prophesied of old; **men they were**, but impelled by the Holy Spirit, they spoke the words of God."* 2 Peter 1:21
NEB

Now, I know that I, too, am just a man, and I am also aware of the difficulty of expressing God's fullness with the human tongue. I know in part and I prophesy in part. However, in spite of all these limitations, I am still able to flow in a legitimate form of the prophetic. I prophesy not because I'm perfect, but because of His perfect word, which is within me.

Furthermore, I hardly ever attempt to speak a prophetic word to people without using words like, "I perceive, I sense, or I discern." Seldom do I say, "Thus saith the Lord", or repeat a preprogrammed word. I have learned that we are not prophetic puppets on a string. Instead, **we are the children of God, learning to interpret the heart of our Father and express it the best we can.** We are uniquely different from other prophetic figures and are original in our delivery. When prophesying, it may be our mouth, our voice, and our words, but the inspiration comes from God and is birthed out of intimacy with Him.

In view of this relationship with Christ, are we free to prophetically express ourselves as we choose? Absolutely Not! It would be a great mistake to presume that God would validate every word that we speak. Neither will He bless those who prophesy anything that pops into their heads. Occasionally, we may accidentally stumble onto the word of the Lord, but bear in mind, mature prophecy is a skill that is developed by those who spend time with God. So, get to know God and you will find that He is eager to reveal the hidden things of His heart to you.

From: User Friendly Prophecy, Larry Randolph, 1998, Destiny Image Publishers, Inc., Shippensburg, PA

Old Testament Prophets

There are various types of prophets found in the Old Testament. In theological terms, some of these men are given the title of **major** prophets, while others are designated as **minor** prophets. Some were well known for their ministry, while others seemed to be obscure. Yet one thing is certain: Like the colors of a rainbow, Old Testament prophets were diverse in temperament as they were in calling. Living in different environments and in different times of history, they were unique in every expression of their lives and ministries.

The historical background of these prophets varied from the poor to the rich, the ignorant to the educated, the weak to the strong, and the commoner to the aristocrat. In spite of this diversity, however, a common thread was woven throughout the tapestry of their lives. These prophets were all called by God and seemed to possess a willingness to fulfill that calling. Like Moses, the great prophet and deliverer, they were anointed by God to serve as His spokesmen to their generation.

Old Testament prophets were often called on to proclaim the pending judgment and wrath of God. They pointed out the sins and failures in the lives of national leaders and the nations they served. There was very little use of prophecy to build up and bless individuals.

(Restoring Foundations, James A. Durham)

Listed below, in chronological order, is a brief biographical sketch of these prophets.

- 1. ELIJAH** - Was led by birds and angels. He raised the dead and called fire down from heaven.
- 2. ELISHA** - Had a double portion of Elijah's spirit. He performed great miracles of healing and summoned angels.

3. **JONAH** - Had a prophetic ministry, which resulted in the entire population of Nineveh repenting and averting God's judgment.
4. **AMOS** - Was a colorful prophet who worked as a herdsman and rebuked Israel for idolatry.
5. **HOSEA** - Was a highly educated prophet with great spiritual vision, both allegorical and direct. God told him to marry a prostitute, named Gomer, as a sign.
6. **JOEL** - Prophesied the future outpouring of God's Spirit upon all flesh, cited by Peter in the Book of Acts.
7. **ISAIAH** - Was one of the most prolific prophets. He foretold the coming of the Messiah. He is referred to as the evangelist of the Old Testament.
8. **MICAH** - Prophetically spoke judgment as well as Messianic prophecy to Israel.
9. **OBADIAH** - Is commonly described as a minor prophet who predicted the destruction of Edom.
10. **NAHUM** - Is acknowledged as a poetic prophet whose book some call a literary masterpiece. He also predicted the destruction of Nineveh.
11. **JEREMIAH** - Was a compassionate prophet who is known as the "weeping prophet". His writings were known as a book of prophetic sermons.
12. **HABAKKUK** - Was possibly a Levitical musician. He prophesied utilizing a lyrical form.
13. **ZEPHANIAN** - Was a prophet of royal descent who held a prominent position within the nation.
14. **DANIEL** - Was endowed with great wisdom, understanding, and discernment. He received and interpreted dreams, and he had apocalyptic visions.
15. **EZEKIEL** - Was a powerful preacher who was both priest and prophet. He received many unusual visions and was commanded to dispense the prophetic in an equally unusual way. A great portion of his writings were prophecies relating to the restoration of the nation of Israel.
16. **ZECHARIAH** - Was a priest and prophet who prophesied the destruction and restoration of Jerusalem. His writings consisted of eight symbolic visions.

- 17. HAGGAI** - Prophesied the rebuilding of God's Temple, declaring that its latter glory would be far greater than its former glory.
- 18. MALACHI** - Was sent to correct the Levites, restore the Law, and declare that "Elijah" (John the Baptist) would come before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

The School of the Prophets

For the spiritual welfare of the nation, God raised up several companies, or "schools of the prophets". Not much is known about them, but it is assumed that this band of prophets spoke the word of God to the leaders of their day.

(see 1 Samuel 19:19-20; 2 Kings 2:3-5)

From: User Friendly Prophecy, Larry Randolph, 1998, Destiny Image Publishers, Inc., PA

New Testament Prophets

In the same way that prophets and prophecy thrived in the Old Testament era, they also flourished throughout the New Testament. In the Book of Luke, Zacharias prophesied that his son, John the Baptist, would be called a prophet, preparing the way of the Messiah. Years later, John would fulfill this prophecy and be recognized by his contemporaries as a **major** prophet. Jesus verified this claim by stating that John the Baptist was the greatest prophet who ever lived. Afterward, our Lord also declared Himself to be a prophet, fulfilling Moses' prediction that the Messiah would come in the office of a prophet to deliver Israel. (see Luke 1:76; Luke 7:26,28; Luke

13:33) From: User Friendly Prophecy, Larry Randolph, 1998, Destiny Image Publishers, Inc., PA

John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament Prophets. Jesus was the first of the New Testament Prophets. It is important to note that prophecy didn't end with John, it was changed from the time of Jesus forward.

In the New Testament, the focus shifts along with the release of the gift of prophecy. It is given to help individuals and churches to grow spiritually, overcome fear, look beyond failures, and to be comforted in times of suffering and loss.

New Testament prophecy reminds you constantly that God has a good word for you! The Father wants you to see the grace and love He has lavished on you and He wants you to know your calling and be supported in accomplishing it. So he sends people to minister to you, to build you up, encourage you and comfort you.

From: Restoring Foundations, James A. Durham

The New Testament church made mention of prophets that were sent, used, and operated in the early church. Below is a list of the prophets identified:

- 1. AGABUS** - Was a reputable prophet of God.
Acts 11:28 Acts 21:10-11
- 2. JUDAS and SILAS** - Were considered prophets
Acts 15:32
- 3. ANANIAS** - Was sent as a prophet to Saul, who later became the great apostle Paul.
Acts 9:11-15 Acts 22:10-15
- 4. PROPHETS stationed in Tyre**
Acts 21:4
- 5. PROPHETS sent from the city of Jerusalem**
Acts 11:27
- 6. PROPHETS were in the midst of the displaced churches.**

- 2 Peter 2:1-2 1 John 4:1-3
- 7. PROPHETS and teachers were a part of the leadership team at Antioch.**
Acts 13:1-4
- 8. PROPHETS at Corinth**
1 Corinthians 14:27,29 1 Corinthians 12:28-29
- 9. PROPHETS were in Ephesus.**
Ephesians 4:9-11
- 10. PROPHETESS ANNA,** an eighty-four year old woman of God who served in the temple. Luke 2:36-38
- 11. JEZEBEL** a self-appointed and self-acclaimed prophetess
Revelations 2:20
- 12. FALSE PROPHETS at Crete**
Titus 1:10-13

From: Born to Prophecy, Hakeem Collins, 2013, Creation House, Lake Mary, FL

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