

The Holy Spirit The Promise, Person and Power

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I Corinthians 12

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The Declarative and the Dynamic Gifts

Discerning of spirits

Word of Knowledge
Discerning of Spirits
Word of Wisdom

Declarative gifts

Prophecy
Tongues
Interpretation of tongues

Dynamic gifts

Faith
Healing
Miracles

The declarative gifts are the gifts in which the HS speaks or declares. The declarative gifts involve three things, Prophecy, Tongues and the Interpretation of tongues.

Now when we hear the word prophecy, we think of a word pertaining to the future or something that is predicting the future. The prophetic word certainly can be future oriented but that's not always the case.

Biblical Definition of Prophecy

Prophecy is a message of encouragement from God delivered through a person to another person or persons.

I Corinthians 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

The apostle Paul is giving a threefold explanation of what prophecy should do. He said that the role of prophecy is to edify, exhort and comfort.

Edify - to instruct or benefit, especially morally or spiritually; uplift:

Exhort - to give urgent advice, recommendations, or warnings.

Comfort - to soothe, console, or reassure; bring cheer to:

Now there are a lot of people that have been hurt, verbally abused and accosted in the name of prophecy, and a lot of individuals who profess to prophesying are not prophesying - they are prophelying...they are lying, but saying..."thus said the Lord." And a lot of times they blame on God what they are really speaking out of their flesh.

Drop down to verse 29.

²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

How do you judge prophecy?

As we just learned, first and foremost real prophesy edifies, exhorts and comforts.

So if someone gives you a word of prophecy and it does not edify, exhort or comfort, cast it down,,,Throw it away. That is not real prophecy.

Verse 1 says . . . desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Prophecy is needed in the church more than the other spiritual gift because we all need a word of edification, exhortation and comfort.

Look at 2 Peter 1:19-21 ESV

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Oftentimes we go through dark seasons in our lives and we go through dark times, and the reason God wants the church to focus on prophecy more than any other of the gifts is because the prophetic word shines a light when you're going through a dark place. When you receive a prophetic word during a dark place, God is saying to you hang in there because I am taking you somewhere.

So whenever you get a word of prophecy you should get a recording of it, and write it on the tablets of your heart. It a light that shines in a dark place.