

# ***SIMPLE PROPHECY***

***BY ANTONIO BALDOVINOS***

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## **I. UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT GIFT OF PROPHECY**

*“For the Testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev. 19:10)*

A. A Working definition of prophecy:

**Prophecy is a supernatural ability to communicate of revelation of God’s Heart for an individual, group or circumstance that results in the edification (building up) of the body of Christ and the worship of Jesus.**

B. Paul teaches that the manifestation of the Spirit (including the gift of prophecy) is for everyone and not simply for a spiritual elite class of Christians.

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all” (1 Corin. 12:7)*

C. Paul exhorted the Church at Corinth to eagerly desire the gift of prophecy even though the Corinthian believers were immature in their faith, unspiritual in their lives, and divisive and destructive in their use of the spiritual gifts. It was their wrong understanding of the gifts that was creating many problems in the midst of that Church. Yet, it is the Corinthians that Paul exhorts more than any other group to pursue right understanding and use of the gift of prophecy.

D. Why is it important for us to prophesy?

1. The function of the gifts of the Spirit within the body is to prepare and equip us for works of service both corporately and individually. Paul tells us that the gift of prophecy is especially important for the edification (building up) and equipping of the Church.
2. This is a great opportunity to partner with the Holy Spirit and refresh others.
3. We all need encouragement and strengthening in our daily lives.

## **II. POWER OF PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT AND THE PROPHETIC SPIRIT**

A. Pray in tongues! If you commit to pray in the spirit as part of your daily routine, you will see an increase of faith and awareness of what God is doing around you. Praying in the spirit is one of the best tools God has given us to walk in the Spirit and do the works of the Spirit. Make this a regular habit in your life along with dialoging with the Holy Spirit about what He is doing and how He would like to use you in each circumstance in which you find yourself.

*“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.” (1 Cor. 14:4)*

*“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.” (1 Cor. 14:14)*

*“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 20)*

## **III. PROPHECY: THE MINISTRY OF SUPERNATURAL ENCOURAGEMENT**

*“And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:6)*

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***“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Corinthians 14:1)***

***“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.” (1 Corinthians 14:3)***

- A. It is easy to think of prophecy as a mysterious unveiling of a profound secret or metaphorical prediction of a distant future event. While sometimes prophecy does unveil secrets and predict future events, this is by far not the primary expression of prophecy.
- B. *Prophecy is supernatural encouragement.* Barnabas was called the “Son of Encouragement,” Do you have vision for pressing in for the spirit of prophecy that you may have the ministry of encouragement? The enemy accuses us and accuses God’s heart 24 hours a day. Prophecy is one of God’s mightiest weapons to keep us from quitting under difficulty or discouragement. We get to participate and join Jesus in this!

## **IV. THREE LEVELS OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

- A. **Simply prophesy:** any believer who speaks something God has brought to mind. We all are to earnestly seek to prophesy (*1 Corinthians 14:1, 39*). All men and women, old and young alike are to speak forth words from God (*Acts 2:17*). Yet, “not all are prophets” (*1 Corinthians 12:29*)
- B. **Prophetic gifting and ministry:** Believers whose gifting has been recognized for regular ministry in Churches or ministries. They will receive words and dreams on a regular basis and will have “open visions” on occasion (i.e. angelic visitations, audible voice etc.). They will sometimes receive detailed information such as names, faces, dates, and future events. They occasionally operate in other sign gifts (healing, miracles, deliverance, etc.). These people are “gifted” in that they receive an unusual amount of revelation, but are still being trained (have maturity of character and wisdom of God’s corporate purposes). They may receive words of correction and direction that they should write and submit to leadership.
- C. **Office of the Prophet:** believers whose ministry is like the prophets of the Old Testament. They give correction, direction and bring new emphases in the Church body. They minister in signs and wonders and regularly prophesy with great accuracy (Samuel, Elijah, etc.). They provide direction and correction to those in government in the church, marketplace or political arenas.

## **V. PRACTICAL TIPS FOR PROPHESYING in our homes, meetings, with the lost, in the prayer room, etc.**

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you an encouragement for friends, co-workers, family members, etc. Stay away from directional prophecy, marriage, babies, finances, etc. Focus in on encouraging the believer in their calling and in their position before God.
2. The Holy Spirit loves to speak to us about the lost. Ask Him.
3. Dial down, no Divine signatures needed. Pray the verse or impression that God gives you and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. Avoid having dramatic style and over physical movements and manifestations that cause the person receiving prayer to feel they “must” believe this is from God. Address the person with humility, remembering that they are the bride of Christ.

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4. Be faithful to follow the subtle nudges of the Holy Spirit. **Give expressions to impressions. We may hear what seems to be the faint whispers, but the faintest whisper from the Genesis 1 God can be life-changing, transforming and empowering to the hearer.**
5. As you pray for people, dialogue with the Holy Spirit asking what God is doing in the life of the believer. Pray what you hear, and ask God to give you a scripture for them.
6. Spend time in the Word of God. If we want to be prophetic people, it is imperative that we cultivate deep love and familiarity with the word of God above all else. There are limitless applications of the written (logos) Word of God to every time and situation of life. Scripture also teaches us about the many other ways that God may speak to His people.

***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*** (2 Timothy 16-17)