

## BBC - 10-week Study on "GIFTS of the SPIRIT" – 7/30/25 to 10/1/25

### Session #7 of 10 - 9/10/25 – 1 Cor. 12:10b "Prophecy"

- REVIEW:**
- 1) **Word of Knowledge** (supernaturally-given partial knowledge of some past or present fact/truth)
  - 2) **Word of Wisdom** (a supernaturally-given futuristic guidance/instruction/direction)
  - 3) **Faith** (a supernaturally-given surge of faith to believe above-ability for a specific time/purpose)
  - 4) **Healings** (Holy Spirit anointings to administer various Spirit-directed individual gifts of healings)
  - 5) **Miracles** (Miraculous acts of power displaying the override of natural & scientific laws of nature)

**New Testament "Gift of Prophecy"** (*whether verbal or documented*) can be stated as:

- A revelation from God expressed through the individual's understanding and interpretation of that revelation, expressed in their known language: It can be in "**forth-telling**" & "**fore-telling**" forms.

**Many Christians have been taught to reject prophecy in the fore-telling sense, because they:**

1. Believe all prophetic utterances **ceased** when the NT Scriptures were completed; and
  2. (*wrongly*) equate the Old Testament and New Testament prophetic to be the **same**.
- While God 'changes **not**,' and is "*the same, yesterday, today and forever*" (**Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8**), the role & function of the **OT ministry of the prophet** is very **different** than the **NT 'gift of prophecy'**.
  - The main reason for this difference is that the OT was the **incomplete** inspired written Word of God.
  - After the completion of the full OT/NT canon of Scripture, the prophetic gift changed in function & purpose
  - Besides the 'Gift of Prophecy,' the NT prophetic function can manifest through the other manifestational "**speaking**" gifts: i.e., 'Tongues' (*when interpreted*); also, Word of Knowledge/Wisdom (*when verbalized*).

**The OT and NT prophetic is different in three significant ways:**

- 1) **Not the same **experience** for the OT office of prophet, and the NT person operating in the prophetic 'gift'**
  - **OT prophets were often compelled to speak; NT 'prophets' (except for revealed NT Scripture) can refrain.**
  - **OT & NT prophets**, were at times in a 'wide-eyed **trance**' state, seeing through a vision, hearing God's words, and commanded to declare those words precisely, without any personal interpretation:
    - **Numbers 22:18,35,38; 23:5,12,16,26; 24:2-5,13,15-16** – **Balaam** experienced this trance state.
    - **1 Samuel 19:24** – **Saul** was **overcome** by a prophetic trance-state that lasted all day and all night.
    - **Jeremiah 20:9** – **Jeremiah**, was tired of being ridiculed, but could not **resist** the prophetic urge.
    - **2 Corinthians 12:1-7** – **Paul** (*likely speaking of himself*) told of transport & revelations in the **3<sup>rd</sup> heaven**.
    - **Revelation 1:10,19** – **John** was "*in the Spirit*" but, *unlike Paul*, was told to "**write**" the things shown to him.
  - **NT prophetic gift** – now are **NOT** overcome in the use of this gift, and retain full **control** of themselves:
    - **1 Corinthians 14:28-30, 32** – "*The spirits of prophets are **subject** to (the control of) the prophets.*"
- 2) **Not the same **infallibility**: OT (BEFORE full canon of Word); -and- NT (AFTER full canon of Word)**
  - **OT prophets** – the **test** for whether a prophecy was genuinely of God, was whether that prophecy actually came to pass! The words of the utterance had to be the words of God only, and no part of the prophecy could be flawed or based upon individual interpretation, (**Deuteronomy 18:21-22**).
    - **2 Peter 1:20-21** – "*No prophecy of the **Scripture** (OT & NT) is of any private interpretation.*"
    - **Deuteronomy 13:1-3** – If a prophet's prediction **did** come to pass, but the prophecy had urged God's people turn from the LORD & to go serve other gods, that was in itself proof of a false prophet.
    - **Ezekiel 13:9** – False prophets were rejected, and their words wouldn't endure writing (*Scripture*).
  - **NT prophetic gift** does **not** have the same strictness in its operation because the 'prophet's' ministry is now **NOT** without self-control, and because we now have the full Word of God to judge what's uttered.
  - In the "Gift of Prophecy," 'prophets' speak forth their impressions *from* God by their own individual interpretation & expressions, and do not necessarily speak forth with inspired words given by God.
    - **1 Corinthians 12:8; 13:9** – NT prophets "*prophecy in part.*" What is revealed to the them is a mere "word," or a **partial** glimpse (*not a full comprehensive revelation*) of the prophesied topic at hand.

3) Not the same **treatment**: (OT - *rejection & death*; -and- NT - *dissected, judged/evaluated*)

- True OT prophets had to be **infallible** because there was not yet a full canon of Scripture to test their proclamations. They only had the 5 books of Moses & some history/prophetic books of the Old Test.
- OT prophets – The remedy for lying OT prophets was the **death** penalty ([Deuteronomy 13:5](#); [18:20](#))
- NT writers (Apostles + [*Mark, Luke, James, Jude*]) were infallible in their NT Scripture contributions. Peter places the OT & NT Apostles' writings (w/*Paul's Epistles*) at the same level of **Scripture**, [2 Pet 3:2,16](#)
- NT prophetic gift – Utterances proceeding from a purported 'Gift of Prophecy' are not to be blindly believed, but rather tested ([1 John 4:1](#)), **discerned** & **judged** ([1 Corinthians 14:29](#)), using the **Word** as the standard of truth, and the "discerning of spirits" gift (*discussed next week*).
  - There's no rejection/death for 'imperfect' NT prophets ([Acts 21:11,30-33](#)).
  - [1 Corinthians 14:26-31](#) – The prophetic utterance is to be **governed** & **regulated**.
  - If there's more than one person sensing the urge to give forth an utterance, it should be done in order, and no more than three.
  - If the message has already come forth through another utterance, the latter should **refrain** himself.
  - If the prophetic utterance is prompted through tongues, but there is no interpretation or known person present with the gift of interpretation, the 'prophet' is to stay **silent** in the church.
- At times, one's own biased or preferred **interpretation** creeps into the exercise of the prophetic gift.
  - A 'prophet's' own wishful desires can get confused with what's declared as a "word from the Lord."
- When God was about to severely chastise Israel because of their stubbornly gross sin (*as it is today*), the vast majority of that day's prophets spoke messages of peace, prosperity and victory, which was what the people **wanted to hear** (*400 OT prophets* [1 Kings 22:6-28](#); *the Church Age* [2 Tim 4:3-5](#)).
  - Only the few OT prophets of the Bible were true (*such as* Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Micah, *etc*) – they referred to erroneous prophecies of comfort as "lying words" ([Jer 6:13-14](#); [7:4,8,28](#); [29:8-9](#); [Ezek ch. 13](#); [22:23-31](#)). (*See also examples in* [Micah ch. 3](#); [Zephaniah 3:1-5](#); [Zechariah 13:2-6](#))
- When self-inflicted errors in a prophetic utterance are minor or incidental, *as those of Agabus* were – [Acts 21:10-11](#) (*as compared with* [21:27-32](#)), they are to be understood as such, and **received**; (*such as: Trump 2020 prophecies of an immediate successive '2<sup>nd</sup> term'*).
- But when a prophecy should utterly fail, much **caution** needs to be exercised with that 'prophet' – especially if there's no self-correction.

The **purpose** of the NT "Gift of Prophecy" is **NOT** to replace, add, or alter to the written Word of God;

It is to... ([1 Corinthians 14:3](#)): **Edify**, **Exhort**, and **Comfort**.

- This "edification, exhortation & comfort" is not only a message of "peace & prosperity" (*as is often emphasized in 'charismatic' circles*), but an extraordinary call of God for the **heart** of His people:
  - **Edify** (Strong's #3618) = Not to make one *feel* better, or merely encourage one emotionally, but to build up and embolden in the Faith;
  - **Exhort** (Strong's #3874) = To implore and entreat; by grace to earnestly encourage & urge;
  - **Comfort** (Strong's #3890) = To console through counsel by the revelation of a purpose, intention, reason for a trial/difficulty.
- We are **edified** (*built up*) by realizing God loves us enough to speak to us (*bring to remembrance*).
- We may at times be **exhorted** by a very **hard** word... (*never a "harsh" word*)
  - [Luke 3:7-9,18](#) – John the Baptist didn't mince words with those who came to be baptized of him...
  - [Matt ch. 23](#) – Jesus didn't mince words with the corrupt religious leaders (*scribes & Pharisees*)...
  - [Rev 2:4-5](#) (*Ephesus*); [Rev 2:14-16](#) (*Smyrna*); [Rev 2:20-23](#) (*Thyatira*); [Rev 3:1-3](#) (*Sardis*); [Rev 3:15-17](#) (*Laodiceans*) – As Jesus exhorted 5 of the 7 churches of Revelation by *rebuking* and *chastening* them, He will do so again in our day for those He loves ([Rev 3:19-22](#); [Heb 12:5-11](#)).
- The edification and exhortation (*if heeded*) brings the end result of **comfort** (*consolation*) to His Church.

**Prophecy** – Why do we pray, if God doesn't 'speak' to us? ...God promises to always do so ([Amos 3:7](#)).