

Spiritual Gift: PROPHECY

Definition: to speak forth the message of God to His people

Scripture: Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10; Ephesians 4:11

Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God ('pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)

Scriptural Role Models to Study: John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12; 11:7-15)

Characteristics of Someone with this Gift:

- ___ able to sense the direction God desires for the body of Christ to move and shares it with others
- ___ speaks up for what is biblically right even when people think one is narrow-minded and oppose one's principles
- ___ compelled to communicate God's message from the Word so people know what God expects of them
- ___ not afraid to announce God's judgment on sin
- ___ speaks clearly, boldly, forcefully, fearlessly, and with conviction what one believes God wants people to know

Ministry Areas & Tasks Using This Gift:

Outreach Ministry:

those who speak out against social concerns in a variety of settings

Speaking Ministry:

sermons, other kinds of public speaking

Observations About This Gifting:

- The gift of prophecy is not necessarily, nor even primarily, fore-telling. The original Greek word indicates the gift of prophecy is forth-telling. The Old Testament prophets were often fore-tellers of what God was going to do but even then they were speaking forth the words of God as given to them. Revelation 22:18 makes it rather clear that there remains nothing more to be foretold that God wishes His people to know.
- There are those who believe that the gift of prophecy is an immediate message from God. However, since Scripture is complete and not to be added to, any form of the gift of prophecy today would have to be that of speaking forth what God has already said in Scripture such as a message from the Word that speaks out against the current state of the world today.

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- People with the gift of prophecy have a social consciousness as did many O.T. prophets. They tend to be sensitive to social trends. They use their energies in making pronouncements concerning public righteousness and usually are severely critical of contemporary culture.
- An inherent danger with the gift of prophecy is the tendency to become judgmental and negative when placed in a position of leadership.
- There are qualifications for prophecy as set forth in 1 Corinthians 14: done for purpose of edification, exhortation, and consolation.
- Prophets, whether fore-tellers or forth-tellers, need to be tested (1 Cor. 14:29-33; 1 Jn. 4:1; Matt. 24:24). We are to test their doctrine (1 Jn. 4:1-3), if what they say comes true or not (Deut. 18:21-22), and if it leads you to or away from the Lord (Deut. 13:1-5).