

PRAYER STUDY #116
ANOTHER LOOK AT PROPHECY

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See you do it not! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren that have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy>
Revelation 19:10

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.
Hebrews 13:8

And He gave some, apostles, and some, prophets, and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints [Are the saints perfected yet?], for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, [Are we in unity yet?] unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ [Has the Body of Christ come into a perfect man with the stature of the fullness of Christ?].

Ephesians 4:11-13

There is absolutely NOTHING that I see in the scriptures that says that the gift of prophecy or the Five fold Ministry Office of a Prophet has passed away. In fact, the Bible is full of scriptures that say just the exact opposite. Prophecy is not preaching as some would want you to believe, and indeed the same Greek words are not used when the Bible translators correctly translate *preaching* as opposed to translate *prophecy*. The Apostle Paul tells us to “covet to prophecy.” (1st Corinthians 13:31, 14:1, 39)

According to Don Van Hoosier, a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College and a Baptist pastor and studier of the Word of God for well over 50 years, “The Greek word means to “speak for another”, to let your mouth be used of His message. That is, the message is not figured out by your mind, for the message is from His mind through human lips. It is utterance given by the Holy Spirit through human lips in a known language. If it is of God, then it will have authority; it will be true; it will never be contrary to Scripture; IT WILL NOT CONDEMN BUT WILL MINISTER IN ONE OR ALL OF THREE AREAS: EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION, AND COMFORT.” Brother Don also writes what Prophecy is Not:

1. It is not preaching as some of the modern translations translate the word. Actually, there are a number of Greek words which are translated preach in the King James Version. These words, however, mean to make an authoritative declaration, to herald, to proclaim, to

set forth, etc. The thought is that of giving out the Scriptures clearly and with authority.

2. The gift of prophecy is open to all believers, and we are told to covet to prophesy(1st Corinthians 14:39) BUT the gift of prophecy does not set one in the apostolic office of a prophet(Ephesians 4:8, 11).
3. It is not to be used to condemn the “life style” (modes of dress, wearing of the hair, etc.) of those present. A prophet may conceivably sound forth a warning about such things and a pastor or teacher may set forth the Scriptures having to do with such, but the whole purpose of the gift of prophecy is edification, exhortation, and comfort.
4. It is not to be taken lightly but judged.
5. It never takes the place of the written WORD for prophecy will cease(1st Corinthians 13:8) but GOD’S WORD ABIDETH FOREVER(1st Peter 1:25). It is inconceivable that the Holy Spirit through the gift of prophecy will contradict the Word of the Living God. Whole movements have ship-wrecked because they have taken prophecy[i.e. false prophecy] above the Word of God.
6. Prophecy is NOT to be used to get guidance, for marriage, business ventures, missionary ventures, etc. This is not saying God may not use the Word of Wisdom to direct us at times, but the only safe procedure to follow is to ask the Lord to always confirm by His Spirit major moves by several witnesses to us.

Another Bible Scholar, William B. Young, says this: “God’s words to the prophet Jeremiah, ‘I have put My words in your mouth,’ is the best possible definition of the gift of prophecy(Jeremiah 1:9). The exercising of this gift is the speaking forth of a sudden revelation from God of information heretofore unknown or unlearned in natural ways. The inspired message is a prompting of the Holy Spirit and not the product of one’s own mind. It is the transmitting of that message which is called the gift of prophecy....There are those who claim that the gift of prophecy is not valid for today. They quote, “But whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away(1st Corinthians 13:8). It is their assumption that when the canon of Scripture was completed, the gift of prophecy was not longer needed in the church. That assumption is wrong. In Joel’s prophecy there is a description of the whole dispensation of the Holy Spirit for the entire church age from Pentecost to the Second Coming of Christ. Its commencement is, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh’; its characteristics, ‘Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy’(Joel 2:28.) In the book of Acts, we read

concerning this prophetic utterance in Joel, ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...’(Acts 2:17) This is conclusive proof that the gift of prophecy is valid in the church right up to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ-‘the last days.’ In this present dispensation of the Holy Spirit, He will continue to come upon and fill those Christians whose heart is yielded to His will. His blessed ministry of gifts to the church will continue throughout ‘the last days’ until the Lord Jesus returns for His Bride, the church.”

We know that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including prophecy, are for today. Paul writes to the Corinthians in 1st Corinthians 1:7, “So that ye come behind in no gift(charisma)waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” And he gives the Thessalonians an exhortation that we would do well to regard today: “Despise not prophesying.” 1st Thessalonians 5:20 Prophecy is open to every believer according to 1st Corinthians 11:4-5, “Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoreth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head.” The gift of prophecy is open to both males and females, and there are prophetesses in both the Old and New Testament(Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4, 2nd Kings 22:14, Luke 2:36, and Acts 21:9). The book of Joel and Acts 2:17 tell us that “...your sons and daughters shall prophesy.” Paul said the whole church could participate in prophesying, “For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.” (1st Corinthians 14:31)

THE PURPOSES OF PROPHECY(Don Van Hoosier)

1. To build up, encourage and edify believers(1st Corinthians 14:4)
2. To exhort meaning “a calling near” which makes us more aware of His unseen presence.
3. To comfort(1st Corinthians 14:3, 31)
4. To convict the unbeliever and make manifest the secrets of his heart(1st Corinthians 14:24-25)
5. That believers may learn in the mysterious realm of the spiritual what they cannot grasp with the natural mind(1st Corinthians 14:24-25)

ARE ALL WHO PROPHECY IN THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY OFFICE OF PROPHET? No, many in this house have the gift of prophecy to varying degrees. Most of these, however, are not in the office of Prophet.

There are many false prophets today, and many who are wolves in sheep's clothing. We must be aware and not take every word we receive from a "prophet" as a true word from the Lord without being assured that the prophet is walking in holiness and without taking certain safeguards.

My Own Safeguards

1. Any prophecy NEVER contradicts scripture(Rev. 22:18-19)
2. A prophecy does not condemn but edifies, exhorts, comforts(1st Corinthians 14:3)
3. A prophecy should witness to your spirit. You should also have a peace about the prophecy. (1st John 5:9-10)
4. Spirit-baptized pastors and those who have the spiritual oversight over you should witness to the prophecy. (Hebrews 13:7)
5. In the multitude of counselors, there is safety. (Proverbs 11:4, 15:22, 24:6)
6. You do not have to try to make a prophecy come to pass. We do not have to help the Holy Spirit. (2nd Peter 1:21)
7. Those who receive a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. (Matthew 10:41)
8. If there is an idol in your heart, the prophetic word will be false. (Ezekiel 14:1-4)