

Episode 007

Understand the Gift of Prophecy

1. What is Prophecy?

a. Prophecy contains either or all of:

1. A message of duty, warning or instruction concerning God's will.
2. A prediction of future events – a foretelling
3. Confirmation

b. God spoke prophetically through the prophetic community

Hebrews 1:1

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways

c. Prophecy is the mind of Christ poured forth

Revelations 19:10

....For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”

d. Prophecy is the will of God revealed

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

e. Prophecy is the intention of God to His people

John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.



2 Peter 1:19 - 20

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things.

2. Sources of Prophecy

a. The Holy Spirit

The true source by whom God speaks prophetically to His people.

1 Corinthians 12:7 - 10

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

b. The human spirit

Jeremiah 23:16

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

That is why prophecies need to be judged due to the mixture that may come in. When we are learning to move with the Holy Spirit, we need to discern what is of the Holy Spirit and what is of our own human spirit. Caution should be taken when dealing in highly emotional settings. The one prophesying must be careful to separate oneself unto the Lord.



c. An unholy or evil spirit

E.g., A seducing spirit can influence a person who is prophesying. Be careful not to allow oneself to accumulate anger, bitterness, wounding and other sinful habits/behaviours to permeate into one's life, as this would be a foothold for the enemy to influence our lives. We prophesy out of the fullness of our inner being as led by the Spirit of God.

1 Timothy 4:1 - 2

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

3. The Value of Prophecy

a. Builds up the church and individuals

Prophecy edifies, encourages and comforts the church:

Acts 27:21-26; 1 Cor 14:3; 2 Tim 1:6; Hos 6:1-3

1 Corinthians 14:3

But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort

Prophecy restores people's dignity and self-respect

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

b. Develops ministry effectiveness

Prophecy provides an agenda for prayer



Daniel 9:2 - 3

2 In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. 3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Prophecy can provide evangelistic breakthroughs

1 Corinthians 14:24 - 25

24 But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, 25 and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

Prophecy provides insight into counseling situations

Daniel 2, 4

Prophecy can bring correction and warning

Acts 21:10-14**Acts 11:28**

One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

Preparing the church or the people to be discerning of God's season.

c. Lifts us to the next level

Prophecy can provide direction and enhance our vision

Acts 13:2

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 9:10 - 17

Prophecy provides a spirit of thanksgiving and praise

Acts 27:33 - 36

33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. “For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven’t eaten anything. 34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.” 35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. 36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

Prophecy can inspire faith

Hebrews 11:30

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

Prophecy augments (gives courage towards) spiritual warfare

2 Chronicles 20:14 - 17

14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. 15 He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s. 16 Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. 17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.’”



4. The Gift of Prophecy

1 Corinthians 12:1 - 11

1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

- a) Given as a gift (v1)
- b) Given in variety (v4-6)
- c) Given for the common good (v7)
- d) Empowered by the Spirit (v11)

5. How Should Believers Respond to the Gift of Prophecy

See value in the gift of God

Desire earnestly the gift of prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:39 Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.



Desire spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

Steward God's gift

Stir up our spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.

2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands

Use our spiritual gifts

Using our spiritual gifts help to develop our spiritual senses in the Lord.
Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Our gifts require faithful stewardship

Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the talents (1, 2, 5)

Not to negate the gift

Don't be ignorant

1 Cor 12:1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Hosea 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

“Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

Do not neglect

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

Do not despise

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt.



Growing in the prophetic

Exercising spiritual gifts is part of body ministry

Every believer has a part

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Every believer is exhorted to minister to one another

1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Using our gifts grows you spiritually

Ephesians 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Discussion Questions

1. How eager are you to grow in the prophetic?
2. In what ways have you discovered the gift of prophecy valuable? Share a testimony or two.
3. What is an aspect the Lord is motivating you towards being more responsive to the prophetic? What small steps would you need to take to develop in the prophetic?



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