

The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy



**1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 14:1-5, 1
Peter 16-21**

- The more we learn and understand about the Holy Spirit and His Gifts the more effective we can become in these last days.
 - There are different spiritual gifts that have been distributed by the Holy Spirit to each member of the Body of Christ.
 1. Apostle Paul list Nine Spiritual Gifts in (1 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 2. Apostle Paul list Seven more Spiritual Gifts in (Romans 12:3-8)
 - Purpose: To teach us the importance of each spiritual gifts and how the Holy Spirit uses each of them to benefit the Body of Christ as a whole.
 - Goal: To mature us in our understanding of spiritual gifts so that our lives can be useful for the Kingdom of God.
 - Spiritual Principles: Authority, Agreement, Stewardship, Obedience, Faith, Grace, Prayer
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- Review Spiritual gifts in the (1st) Category: (1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Colossians 2:1-4)
 1. Revelation Gifts – “To Know.” (1 Corinthians 12:8, 10)
 - The Word of Wisdom
 - The Word of Knowledge
 - The Discerning of spirits
 - We have discussed and examined the Spiritual Gifts in the (2nd) Category: (1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Romans 12:6-8)
 2. Demonstration Gifts or Power Gifts – “To Do.” (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)
 - The Gift of Faith
 - The Gifts of Healings
 - The Gift of Miracles
 - Today we will be discussing and examining the Spiritual Gifts in the (3rd) Category: (1 Corinthians 12:10-11, 1 Corinthians 14:1-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)
 3. Inspirational Gifts or Vocal Gifts – “To Speak.”
 - The Gift of Prophecy
 - The Gift of Tongues
 - The Interpretation of Tongues

- The Gift of Prophecy is still beneficial and needed within the Body of Christ. (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:16-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)
- 1. God declared, “In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy...” (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:16-18)
- 2. Paul declared, “Do not quench the Holy Spirit. Do not despise prophecies.” (1Thessalonians 5:19-20)
 - The word “quench” means to suppress, extinguish, subdue, put out, stifle or grieve the Holy Spirit.
 - The word “despise” means to hold contempt against, to detest, disdain, to regard as worthless, minimize and depreciate the purpose it serves. (vs. 20)
- 3. Paul warns that all prophecy must be “tested”. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
 - The word “test” means to prove, examine, and discern its genuineness toward the truth of God’s Word.
- Statements About the Spiritual Gift of Prophecy. (1 Corinthians 12:10-11, 14:1-5)
- 1. The Gift of Prophecy is the inspired utterance, prophetic utterance and revelations or speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (2Peter 1:19-21)
- 2. The Gift of Prophecy is the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit which enables a believer to speak an inspired word, message or prophetic revelation to the church (a gathering of believers) or to an individual.
- 3. The Gift of Prophecy along with the other gifts, should never be viewed as a natural talent, human ability or something that can be obtained through education or special training.
- 4. The Gift of Prophecy will always operate divinely or supernaturally by the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Prophecy in both the Old and New Testament was used to by God to communicate His message, His will, His heart in order to exhort, comfort, strengthen and warn His people. (Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:26-35)
 - The word “prophecy” in the Old Testament means to speak (or sing) by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- The word “prophecy” in the New Testament means to foretell events, divine communication, inspired message, speak under inspiration, and exercise the prophetic office.
 - 6. The Gift of Prophecy is speaking forth the mind, will and counsel of God or to be His spokesman.
 - 7. The Gift of Prophecy includes both predictions and proclamations in the Bible.
 - Foretelling – means predicting or declaring future events before they happen through divine inspiration and spiritual guidance by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will give some believers a glimpse into future events in order to prepare God’s people for what is to come.
 - Forthtelling – means proclaiming or declaring God’s will in order to exhort, strengthen, and encourage His people. The God’s message may also come to expose, warn and judge the hearts of those who have turn away from the truth of His Word.
 - 8. The Gift of Prophecy is a functioning gift that is distributed by the Holy Spirit to believers, but that doesn’t mean they have been called to the office of a Prophet.
 - 9. The Gift of Prophecy is used by the Holy Spirit to serve a specific purpose and benefit to the church (gathering of believers) and individuals. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
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- 1) To Edify or Edification means to build up and strengthen believers in their faith in Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:29)
 - 2) To Exhort or Exhortation means to encourage, admonish, comfort, motivate, and stir up believers to remain faithful and steadfast to the message and ministry work of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 3:12-15)
 - 3) To Comfort means to give comfort, strength, hope, to cheer up or lift up a believer that is discouraged, under intense stress, pressure, or grief to not give up and continue to trust in God and His Word. (Proverbs 3:5-7, Galatians 6:9-10, Romans 8:28)
- Paul confronts the issue about Love and Spiritual Gifts. (1 Corinthians 14:1)

- Paul gives us a follow-up from the previous Chapter 13, which is known as the “Love Chapter”. This was an ongoing issue in this church and Apostle Paul addresses it in his letter to them. (1 Corinthians 14:1)
- Paul shares Three important things with the Believers in Corinth. (1 Corinthians 14:1)
 1. To Eagerly “follow or pursue” love. (vs. 1)
 - The word “follow” means to pursue after, ensue, press forward, persist, continue on without hesitation until love reach and serve God’s eternal purpose in the hearts of others.
 2. To Earnestly “desire” spiritual gifts. (vs. 1)
 - The word “desire” means to covet earnestly, earnest seeking, be zealous, ambitious for and a passionate longing for.
 3. To Especially “prophecy”. (vs. 1)
 - The words “may prophecy” means to foretell events, speak divinely, speak under inspiration, and to exercise the prophetic office.
- Paul gives a clear message to these believers that the purpose and motivation behind each desired spiritual gift must be love. (vs. 1)
 1. When God’s love continually flows through us and is earnestly pursued by us as believers, the utilization of that spiritual gift will serve God’s eternal purpose both within and outside the church.
 2. Spiritual gifts are to be desired, but not pursued more than love.
 3. The danger when gifts are pursued and prioritized first and not love:
 - It can lead to the improper use and misunderstanding of that gift.
 - Self-exaltation and selfish behaviors.
 - Manipulation and abuse.
 - Envy and Jealousy.
 - Superiority complex and super-spirituality (religious).
- Important Things to Remember about the Gift of Prophecy.
 1. The Gift of Prophecy always operates under the divine influence of the Holy Spirit and not through human knowledge, wisdom, reasoning, intellect or emotions.

2. The Gift should come to confirm what God has already spoken through the Holy Spirit, prayer, study and meditation upon the Word of God.
3. The Gift can divinely operate in private devotion, public settings, church service (gathering of believers), during prayer service, or praise and worship, where the Holy Spirit may give you a prophetic message for the church or an individual.
4. The Gift is never used by the Holy Spirit during a church service to cause confusion, confrontation, disorder, and disruption within that service, especially when the Word is being preached.
 - God is not the author of confusion, but a God of order. (1 Corinthians 14:26-33, 40)
 - But we also must beware of false prophets that Satan uses to disrupt and cause confusion in the lives of God's people. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
5. When this Gift is divinely operating in a believer's life, they will sense the stirring, unction, or the anointing of the Holy Spirit's presence come upon them prompting them to speak.
6. When this Gift is operating you will have a witness in your spirit from the Holy Spirit whether to speak or when to pray it through.
 - A prophetic word given either falsely, in error or out of season can be harmful to the spiritual life of a person.
7. All prophecy should be judged, no matter the person, title or position to determine validity and truth according to the Word of God. (Deuteronomy 18:15-22, 1 John 4:1)
8. The Holy Spirit will never use this gift to destroy, discourage, condemn, embarrass, or humiliate, a believer's life in front of others.
9. When this Gift is in operation, the Holy Spirit may give a believer only part of the prophetic message to the church, and another believer may be given the other part of the message. (1 Corinthians 13:9)
10. When this Gift is operating in your life by the Holy Spirit, always walk in obedience and not fear. Just say what He tells you to say!
11. This Gift was never given by Holy Spirit to glorify you or to make your name great, but to glorify God and exalt the name of Jesus Christ. (John 12:32)

12. The Gift of Prophecy can be used (2) ways by the Holy Spirit to reach the hearts of an unbeliever or believer. (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)

- To “convince” them of Jesus Christ. (John 1:19-34)
- To “convict” them of sin, righteousness and judgment. (John 16:7-11, Jude 15)

○ The Wrongful Use and Abuse of the Spiritual Gift of Prophecy.

1. Whenever this gift is operating independent of the Holy Spirit, the results will be in the form of deception, manipulation, fear, abuse of power and control.

- They will use the gift of prophecy to disguise or conceal their motive by presenting themselves as being spiritual, deep, or one of God’s chosen in order to attract the attention of the individual or gathering of believers. (Psalm 5:4-6, Matthew 7:15-23)
- The Satan will use the gift of prophecy to lead believers away from the truth of Jesus Christ and God’s Word. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 2 Timothy 2:15)

2. Whenever this gift is operating and there is confusion, discord and disorder, the Holy Spirit is never involved in it. (1 Corinthians 14:31-33)

- There is a spirit that is operating and influencing them whether in the pulpit or within the pews either – “The Holy Spirit, Human spirit, or Demonic spirit.” (Acts 16:16-18)

3. Be careful who you allow to speak in your life because of the spiritual ramification that it can have on your spiritual health and development. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-15, Romans 16:17-20)

○ Apostle Paul’s urgent message to these believers in Thessalonica. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-14)

1) To know those who labor among you (vs. 12-13). “Recognize and acknowledge your spiritual leaders by loving and appreciating them for their commitment toward teaching, equipping, exhorting, loving, and serving God’s people.”

- Don’t allow people to sway or force you to give them prophetic word.

- 2) To exhort you and warn those who are unruly (vs. 14). “Be watchful and warn those who behave in a disorderly manner, refuse to submit to authority, who remain idle, always out of line or breaking rank.”
- 3) To comfort the fainthearted and the weak (vs. 14). “As Godly leaders, we must offer comfort and encourage those who are discouraged, those who may feel disregarded, unsupported, weary, lack courage, spiritually weak or timid.”

○ **Apostle Paul’s urgent message to these believers in Rome. (Romans 16:17-18)**

- 1) **To Mark the Divisive (vs. 17).** “Be on guard against those who cause division, hinder spiritual growth, who speak deceitfully, create obstacles or becomes a stumbling block, create opposition toward the truth about Jesus Christ and His teaching.
- 2) **To Avoid them (vs. 17).** “To keep away, shun, don’t keep company with, remove oneself from, turn away from and to have nothing to do with them because of their lack of love toward believer’s and destructive behavior within the church.
- 3) **Their Motives (vs. 18).** “To serve themselves and their carnal and fleshly desires. They have no desire to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ or God’s people. They will deceive the hearts of many with their smooth words and flattering speech.

- A divisive person will always talk and live contrary to the Word of God.
- A divisive person is filled with pride, arrogance, and selfishness.
- A divisive person seeks after title and position of leadership within the church in order to deceive and manipulate the immature believers.
- A divisive person opposes unity and peace within the church. They prey on the weak and the vulnerable in order to split and divide the church.
- A divisive person has no interest in living and Motives serving Jesus Christ, following Christ teaching or spreading Christ gospel message throughout the world.

- A divisive person will use deceitful and flattering words, false teaching, gifts, lies, gossip and criticism in order to weaken the church.
 - A divisive person objective is to cause believers to stray away from what they've learned through the teaching of God's Word.
 - A divisive person will use the gift of prophecy to serve themselves, and destroy the unity within the Body of Christ.
4. Every prophetic word that is spoken must be judged, examined, tested, and discerned by the Holy Spirit and according to the truth of God' Word. (1Thessalonians 5:21, 1 John 4:1)
- The gift of prophecy should never be given out of emotions, feelings, or personal opinions, but only by leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - This gift should never be used as a tool to control, manipulate and humiliate church leadership or other believers. (Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1)