

Theme: God gives His people the gift of prophecy, the ability to give a spontaneous word from God, which can edify, exhort and comfort believers and convict unbelievers.

I. Intro – Different Views on Prophecy

- A. Some - prophecy is teaching
- B. Others - prophecy was Scripture quality - ceased
- C. Some - wild gestures to prophesy
- D. What is prophecy in the NT?
- E. Is prophecy for today?

II. Prophecy in the NT Church

- A. Prophecy was very widespread in NT church
 - 1. v1,5; Rom 12:6; 1 Tim 1:18; 4:14;
 - 2. 1 Th 5:20; Acts 11:27-28; 21:8-9
- B. Prophecy available to all (Num 11:29; Joel 2:28-29)
 - 1. Moses' great prayer and desire (Num 11:29)
 - 2. Part of outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)
 - 3. Promise is to all God calls (Acts 2)
 - 4. This gift is available to all believers

III. What Is the NT Gift of Prophecy?

- A. What prophecy is not
 - 1. Prophecy is not teaching

- a. Always different in lists
 - b. Prophecy is spontaneous (vs 30)
- 2. Prophecy is not Scripture quality revelation
 - a. Prophecy must be judged (vs 29; 1 Th. 5:19-21)
 - b. We do not judge Scripture – it judges us!
 - c. Always has been lesser prophecy
 - 1. Old Testament – school of prophets
 - 2. New Testament – gift in churches
 - d. Like teaching in this respect
 - e. Of less authority than teaching (1Ti 2:11-12; 1Cor 11:5)
 - f. Close of canon nothing to do with prophecy!
- 3. Prophecy is not an “ecstatic utterance”
 - a. Speakers have control (1 Cor 14:29-33)
 - b. Speakers use their words
- 4. Prophecy is not just foretelling future
 - a. Only part of prophecy
 - b. Main part is forth-telling word of God
- B. What prophecy is
 - 1. A spontaneous word/revelation from God
 - a. Spontaneous - comes during meeting (v30)
 - b. 'r'evelation - God showing something (v30)

- c. Source believed to be God; aimed at people (v3)
 - d. Must be judged to see if valid!!! (v29)
2. Spoken to
- a. Strengthen, encourage, comfort believers (v3)
 - b. Convict unbelievers (vv 24-25)

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we understand the true nature of NT prophecy?
1. It is not Scripture or infallible words
 2. It is not some weird ecstatic frenzied speech
 3. It is a 'r'evelation God gives to share with person or group
 4. It is not some heavy rebuking word
 5. It is a positive encouraging word for believers
 6. Example with Darrell and Deb Ruff
 7. It can be used to open the heart of unbelievers
 8. Example with Butch Williams
- B. Do we have a proper stance to prophecies?
1. We are commanded to judge prophecies
 2. We are commanded to be open to prophecies
 3. We must have balance here - open but

discerning

4. We are commanded to pursue this specific gift
- C. Do we come ready to be used by God?
1. This is NT pattern of worship - 1 Corinthians 14:26
 2. This will bring health and vitality to the church
 3. Let the Spirit move in you - and receive from others

The Gift of Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:1-5; 29-33

March 22, 2009

?????

Romans 15:13

1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

1 Follow the way of love and **eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy...** 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would **rather have you prophesy.** 1 Corinthians 14:1, 5

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. **If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.** Romans 12:6

18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction **in keeping with the prophecies once made about you,** so that by following them you may fight the good fight, 1 Timothy 1:18

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

20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 1 Thessalonians 5:20

During this time **some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.** 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and **through the Spirit** predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. Acts 11:27-28

8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. 9 He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied. Acts 21:8-9

29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? **I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"** Numbers 11:29

28 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. **Your sons and daughters will prophesy,** your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29

19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 Test everything. Hold on to the good.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

11 A woman should learn in quietness and full **submission.** 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have **authority** over a man; she must be silent. 1 Timothy 2:11-12

5 And **every woman who prays or prophesies** with her head uncovered dishonors her head-- it is just as though her head were shaved. 1 Cor 11:5