

Gifts of The Spirit

Class 5 - Vocal Gifts Pt 1

Many aspects of this subject have already been covered in previous classes. For example, we have looked at the office of the prophet, as well as the revelation gifts that often accompany that office. We have also established that the simple gift of prophecy, by itself, contains no revelation. However, a revelation gift may operate through a prophetic utterance as the Spirit wills. To save time, this class will focus primarily on the practical operation of the gift of prophecy and how it is to function within the guidelines of Scripture.

Prophecy Defined: a supernatural utterance in a known language.

Tongues Defined: a supernatural utterance in a language unknown to the speaker.

Interpretation Defined: the supernatural giving forth of the meaning of that tongue.

Today we will primarily be looking at the gift of Prophecy following up with Tongues and Interpretation of tongues next week...

What Prophecy is not

Preaching: preaching normally involves preparation, study, Scripture, teaching, reasoning, etc.

Prophecy is a **spontaneous supernatural utterance**.

Prophecy often takes on a poetic quality: David's Spirit-inspired psalms are illustrations of this kind of inspired utterance.

Ephesians 5:18-19 NKJV "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**"

1. While this verse does not expressly reference prophecy it does show the poetic side of the spirit. The one who is filled with the Spirit will speak in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
2. This is not the rule, but you should notice a difference between the speaker's regular speech pattern when speaking a gift of prophecy. Why, because now what they're saying is inspired by heaven.

Why do we prophecy?

I Corinthians 14:1-5 NKJV "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but **especially that you may prophesy**. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But he who prophesies speaks

edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”

1. **Edification** — builds up.
2. **Exhortation** — encourages/calls people forward or near.
3. **Comfort** — ministers strength/healing/encouragement to the inner person.

The Operation of the Gift

Romans 12:4-6 NKJV “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: **if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;**”

1. These are Grace gifts meant to be used!
2. We prophecy in proportion to our faith. Why? Because **I Corinthians 13:9 NKJV** “For we know in part and we prophesy in part.”
 - a. When the Spirit comes upon us to prophesy we may not know the whole picture. It requires faith to step out into the unknown. We prophesy in proportion to the part we have received.

Howard Carter (Author of “*Questions and Answers on Spiritual Gifts*”)

Carter makes a fascinating practical observation: you shouldn’t necessarily wait until you feel an overwhelming anointing before yielding.

His *Questions & Answers* even says that sometimes the manifestation may be most needed when the meeting feels least powerful.

He also emphasizes restraint: feeling an anointing doesn’t automatically mean you must speak. The spirit of the prophet remains subject to the prophet.

Judging Prophecy

I Corinthians 14:29-33 NKJV “Let two or three prophets speak, and **let the others judge.** 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 **For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.** 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

1. Once someone goes beyond general edification/exhortation/comfort and begins making specific revelatory claims, those claims deserve careful examination.

2. Another reason for judging prophecy is to see if the Lord would like to say anything else. Remember, we individually prophecy in part.
 - a. **Acts 21:8-9 NKJV** “On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had **four virgin daughters who prophesied.**”
 - i. How many virgin daughters does it take to get over what God is saying? Evidently we all have a place at the table.

How to flow in Prophecy

I Corinthians 14:1 NKJV “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”

#1 Desire Spiritual Gifts

1. Paul doesn’t merely permit pursuit of spiritual gifts—he commands it. So begin with genuine spiritual hunger: **“Holy Spirit, I want You to use me to build people.”**

#2 Fill yourself with the word

1. Prophecy agrees with scripture. You can better judge whether what you're saying lines up with God's word when you know the word for yourself. Ask yourself... does this edify, exhort, or comfort in line with God's word.

#3 Pay attention to the inward prompting

1. The Holy Spirit may make you aware that He wants to speak or minister through you. You may sense an anointing, unction, stirring, sudden revelation, or something becoming clear in your spirit. When you discern that it is the appropriate time to respond, step out in faith and release what He has given you through words.

#4 Don't wait for the full picture

1. Very often we won't have the full picture of what God is leading us to say. If all you have is a portion, start there and expect God to give you the rest as you speak.

#5 Be willing to accept correction and the possibility of missing it

1. 1 Corinthians 14 is all about spiritual order in the church in regard to these manifestations. We have the capacity to miss it, to say the wrong thing, or at the wrong time. You must be willing to learn from the people God has set over the church and the meeting.
 - a. What if my pastor doesn't recognize my gifts, or doesn't allow me to speak.

- i. God has set them as the spiritual head. Even if you have a genuine anointing to prophecy God will honor your submission if they ask you to refrain.