

PROPHECY: sermon notes

- First... What is prophecy?
Second... Do scriptures support the operation of prophecy in our time?
Third... Should every Christian have a complete understanding of prophecy?
Fourth... Are the gifts necessary in our time?

What is prophecy?

A *prophecy* is information from God that the Holy Spirit has or wants to convey through a vessel.

Prophesying is to say, or sing, or do what the Holy Spirit wishes to convey.

If something is said to be *prophetic*, it is expressing the thoughts of God that He wants known or revealed.

Logos and Rhema = WORD.

The written word, the Bible, is *logos*.

Rhema is a quickened (live, given now) word; G4487; rhema; an *utterance*; by implication a *matter* or *topic*.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the *word of God:" (**rhema*) This is the only offensive piece.

Rom 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the *word of God. (**rhema*)

Three Grades of Prophecy...

1st: to be prophetic; to hear and obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

2nd: the gift of *prophecy; **the declaration of that which cannot be known by natural means; it emanates from God and is the forth-telling of the will of God, whether reference to the past, present, or future; it signifies the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God.*

3rd: the *office of a prophet*; an authoritative leadership position among God's believers, found in both Old and New Testaments; though with differences.

Do scriptures support the operation of prophecy in our time?

Cessationism is the doctrine that the *spiritual gifts* (speaking in tongues, prophecy, and healing) were only for the original twelve apostles, for the founding of the Church.

Paul was an apostle, not one of the original twelve, yet he functioned in the gifts. In 1Cor.14:39, Paul encouraged all the brethren in Corinth to "covet to prophesy". He obviously did not believe the gifts to be for only the original twelve apostles. Matthias who replaced Judas was not of the original twelve, but was part of establishing the church; Ac2:23-26.

The demonstrative gifts are the ones targeted for cessation. These gifts are judged sensational, carnal, and are to be squelched.

Some cessationists believe that the gifts ceased when the Bible came into existence. Was that when the apostle John penned the Book Of Revelation on Patmos in 90 AD? Or was it when the first person put all books of the Bible into one binding? Was it a Bible with or without the Apocrypha? Perhaps Gutenberg's first printing in 1454.

The doctrine is fraught with problems.

Should every Christian have a complete understanding of prophecy?

Paul's opinion was YES; every Christian should understand.

[esv]1Co 12:1; ..."Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be *uninformed. *ignorant (KJV)

You should know if a person who is *prophesying* is following the Bible.

If you are given a prophecy through someone else, you want to know if it was from the Lord.

You need to know how to use the gift of prophecy properly if the Holy Spirit *prophesies* through you.

You should understand the gift of prophecy when you cove (earnestly desire) it; 1Cor.14:39.

Church members should desire all the offices of leadership the Lord established in the Body Of Christ to be part of their own local church.

Are the Gifts necessary in our time?

[Lay-out 1Corinthians chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14]

1Cor.11:17-34 is 'The Lord's Supper'. In v.18, "I hear that there are divisions among you". In v.23-26, it speaks of the body and blood of Jesus. In v.27-34, speaks of not partaking irreverently and how to prevent that, by judging yourself {clean heart}. This is his foundation for speaking of the gifts of the Spirit and the unity of the body. No gifts/no unity. No self-judging/no Spirit/no gifts/no unity.

In **1Cor. 12**, Paul explains the Spirit's governmental makeup and the tools to accomplish this unity.

1Cor.13 addresses the gifts only work when applied, directed by, with a heart of love.

1Cor.13:1, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal." *Love speaks louder than just words.*

2 "And if I have [the gift of] prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

1Cor.14:1, "Pursue love; burn with zeal after the spiritual [gifts], but 'more to a greater degree that you may 'speak forth by divine inspiration' {*prophecy*}.

1Corinthians 14 continues on to give instruction in the proper use of the gift of prophecy.

Paul Did Not Want Us Ingorant

1Cor.12: 1) Now concerning spirituals [*spiritual gifts*], brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

2) You know that you were Gentiles, led away to voiceless [*mute*] idols*, as you might be led.

**an anti-christ; instead of Christ; the things of/from God can become idols...*

3) Therefore I give you to know, that no one in [the] Spirit of God speaking says Jesus [is] accursed {*ie. abominable, detestable*}: and that no man can say Lord Jesus, except in [the] Holy Spirit.

4) Now there are varieties of gifts {*unmerited favor*}, but the same Spirit.

5) And there are varieties of administrations {*ministry servants or officials*}, but the same Lord.

6) And there are varieties of operations {*an effect; what is wrought*}, but it is the same God who operates all in all.

7) But to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for profit*.

*profit whom?

These gifts are supernatural, meaning, they supersede the natural way of things; they are Spirit over-riding the way things would naturally play out.

8) For to one by the Spirit is given a word of wisdom*; and to another a word of knowledge^, according to the same Spirit;

**supreme intelligence; the wisdom of God.*

^*general knowledge or information.*

9) 'To another' {and to a different one*} faith# in the same Spirit; and to another the gifts of healing^, in the same Spirit;

*heteros = 2087, denotes a class.

#*an inordinate conviction of the truth of something that God declares.*

^healing = 2386, iama, a means of healing, remedy, medicine; from 2390, iaomai, To make whole, ie. to free from errors and sins, to bring about salvation.