

## January 15<sup>th</sup>, 20167; Prophecy Class 3

### Paul puts a premium on demonstrations; Proof of who God is backing.

1Co 2:4, *Paul says, "and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in ^demonstration of the Spirit and of \*power,"*

*^demonstration is from the Greek word apodeixis; manifestation*

*\*power is from the Greek word dunamis; power (ie. dynamite)*

*Manifestations of the Spirit might be heard, smelled, tasted, seen, or felt.*

[1Cor. 2] "so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the \*power (*dynamite*) of God."

[Exo 34:10] And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do \*marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you." \*marvels = to separate, distinguish, miracles; to show distinction with miracles (works of power).

*{Reference 1Kings18:21-40 Elijah and the four-hundred and fifty prophets of Baal.}  
What demonstrates the difference between whether or not a prophet is from God, is the presence of power (ie. Holy Spirit manifestation).*

[1Sa 3:1] "Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was \*rare (valuable) in those days; there was no frequent (burst, break out) vision (sight, dream, revelation, oracle)."

*\*It was a highly valuable commodity, because there was so little of it. Why was there so little of it? Because of the disobedience and sin of God's people, and the leadership in particular.*

[1Co 4:19] "But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the \*power.

[1Co 4:20] "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in \*power.

*\*dynamite; The kingdom of God are the gifts of the Spirit functioning through us and motivated by love. Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if have love one for another."*

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So we see that the Spirit confirms what and who is of Him.

[1Jn 4:1] Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but <sup>^</sup>test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

<sup>^</sup>test = you examine by comparing to the Scriptures, by the Spirit speaking to you directly, or by the gift of discerning-of-spirits.

*Part of the test, are there manifestations of the Spirit? Mk.16:10, 17*

[1Co 2:10], “these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”

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The Spirit tells us what is of him and what is not.

*In John 14:26 Jesus says, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. The Holy Spirit will teach you! So, you need to know when the teacher is speaking to you!*

[Gal 1:11] “For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

[Gal 1:12] For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it [*by a man*], but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”

[1Jn 2:27] “But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.”

*Paul says in 1Co 11:23, “For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,”*

[1Jn 2:20] “But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.”

*The Holy Spirit teaches us by speaking to us, what is correct and what is of Him!*

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The Spirit not only confirms by demonstration, but also by speaking.

[Mark 16:15-20] And he said to them, Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall <sup>^</sup>take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

So then after the Lord had spoken to them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with \*signs following. Amen. {*\*an indication, esp. ceremonially or supernaturally*}.

*These were the last words Jesus spoke to us in the Book Of Mark.*

[<sup>^</sup>*'Snake handling' is not Biblical. This scripture was exemplified when Paul was accidentally bitten by a serpent and survived; Ac.28:1-5. Jesus also said in Luke 4:12, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."*]

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

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### Do you believe that Satan is for-or-against the gifts of the Spirit?

*Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

*Paul said in 2Cor. 3:6, God..."who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."*

*John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:11, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and \*fire.*

*\*fire = (literally or figuratively, specifically lightning): - fiery, fire. Do you feel the fire of the Spirit in you? Have you had a lightning experience?*

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## It Is All About The Spirit and Knowing His Voice

[1Co 2:10-16], "God has revealed to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes even the deep things of God.

"For what man knows the things of a man, except the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing (communicating) spiritual things by spiritual means.

"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (scrutinized, understood).

"But the spiritual judges (scrutinizes, understands) all things, yet he himself is judged (understood) by no man.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

*A Christian still uses his natural mind until he has been filled by the Holy Spirit. Continuing is this, he then is led and walks by the Holy Spirit. When he, or she, does not seek to have 'the mind of Christ' by the Spirit, then he, or she, is carnal (in sin).*

*Without the Spirit we are just carnal.*

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## Let's look at an example of prophetic manifestations.

*I was pastoring a church. Many of the congregants were involved in different ministries. I believed that Jesus wanted the church, as a whole, to have a reach-out ministry. I prayed accordingly.*

*I used to walk to the city's downtown area between 2 and 4 am, for prayer. As I passed a parking garage's glass stairwell, I saw a homeless person trying to sleep. Seeing the homeless was not uncommon to me, but as I was in prayer about a church ministry, the Holy Spirit said, "they are who I want you to go to." The Spirit overwhelmed me; I wept. He chose a ministry. I prayed and asked the Lord Jesus to confirm it through the congregation. They needed to hear it from Him first.*

*During our Sunday services, we had an open time for the brethren to share when they believed the Spirit was inspiring them. Our next service after the Spirit gave me direction was no different. One shared a verse about ministering to the homeless. Someone else had a vision of caring for the homeless. And still another had a dream of helping the homeless; all of this without me having told a soul. I then shared what the Lord Jesus told me.*

*We never had a shortage of volunteers for walking the streets every Saturday at 1 am. We gave the homeless fresh coffee and a paper bag meal, with a Christian tract in it. We carried blankets to hand out. When we saw someone in need of boots, we brought them the next time.*

*Saturday mornings at 8 am, we would set-up card tables from which we poured bowls of fresh soup and distributed sandwiches, coffee, and donuts. We also gave a ten-minute sermon. We closed down the 'kitchen' during the preaching, so as not to have distraction. The message was given away from the tables, because we did not want to infer that receiving the food was conditional upon hearing a message. People were not required to listen to the sermon.*

*The Lord Jesus Christ chose the ministry. We never had a shortage of volunteers all year round, even at 1 am, during the cold New England winters.*

*The sandwich bags, the coffee cups, the napkins, the bowls, and the spoons were all provided for, by a paper products company. All the agreements they made with other nonprofit-organizations were supplies priced at the company's cost. They would not sell us their products; they would only give them for free. And they were not Christians.*

*The business where we obtained our donuts and coffee from was a chain franchise. For nonprofit work, they would supply organizations hour-old donuts and coffee. They decided that they would only provide us with fresh coffee and donuts. They also were not Christians.*

*The mayor and the police chief were at our aid. They were not Christians. The story only gets grander.*

*We never had a shortage of volunteers, because He spoke to the individuals of the congregation. I, the pastor, never had to ask or beg for help. All the food, blankets, clothing, and supplies that the street ministry needed, the Lord Jesus Christ supplied. It was His ministry, not mine nor the congregation's idea for ministry.*

*He said, "They are who I want you to go to." He chose the ministry.*

[1Cor. 12:1], "to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues." *Prophecy is a tool that manifests in different ways and is often used in conjunction with other tools/gifts.*

[2Sa 5:23] "And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, 'You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees.

[2Sa 5:24] "And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." *The Spirit can allow you to hear the hosts of the armies of God.*

*Sometimes, more gifts than prophecy are needed in order to prophesy.*

*Example: I once had a woman congregant who had rejected a private prophetic word of correction. Then, at a church picnic she confronted me semi-publicly to take issue with the prophecy. She raised her voice in order to draw attention, believing that I would draw back, avoiding a public scene, knowing that I did not have knowledge of the details behind the prophetic correction. I spoke to her softly. She protested more loudly. As she rejected God's correction and intentionally making a scene, the Lord started telling me the details of her sin. He told me to match the volume of her voice. I started to speak the revealing details of her sin as the Holy Spirit directed me. She suddenly realized that the Lord was quite willing to communicate her sin to me, and that I had the ability to hear, and the willingness to obey Him. If she wanted to challenge His prophecy publicly, then He would oblige her. She changed her mind. (Here the Lord combined a prophetic word backed-up by words of knowledge.)*

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Prophecy is used for confirming ministries and callings.

*Now I already gave you the story of our street ministry. How the Lord spoke through vision and scripture and prophecy and dream to confirm a word he had given me, and to establish ministry. The proof was seen in the favor we received from the police department, the mayor, businesses, and churches.*

*In Ex.33:12-15, God's people are identified from others, by His manifested presence. Moses would not proceed without God's manifested presence.*

*"Moses said to the LORD, 'See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'"*

*"Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."*

*"And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

*"And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here."*

*Why do we, why do you, settle for less?*

We find in Act 15:32, a calling confirmed, "And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them".

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### Getting Started In Prophecy

[Amos 8:11] "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a \* famine on the land— not a \*famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of ^hearing the words of the LORD.

*\*famine, hunger     ^hearing, with understanding toward attention and obedience*

Know the voice of God: Jesus said in John10: 27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

The difference between sheep and lambs: *Sheep follow their shepherd, because they know their shepherd's voice. Lambs follow the sheep. Lambs learn to know the shepherd's voice well by staying with the sheep as they respond to their shepherd's voice. Lamb's learn the shepherd's voice the association and response.*

*When a lamb continues to stray, the shepherd carries the lamb on his shoulders. The lamb now being in such close proximity to the shepherd, learns his voice well.*

*You can receive the gift of prophecy through the laying on of hands by leaders in the body, and by the prayers of those who are filled with the Spirit, and just by the Spirit himself coming upon you.*

[1Ti 4:14] "Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given to you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you."

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### Let us go over some of the fundamentals.

*Beware of your shortcomings and tendencies interfering with prophesying. Examples: if you are too quick to speak, too willing to speak, too reserved, you hold back or are unwilling, verbose (wordy), etcetera...*

*Do not let any foreknowledge that you have about a situation influence you to prophesy.*

*Jesus says to use it or lose it; [Mat 25:14-29], "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.*

To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.

So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.

But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.'

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.'

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,

so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But his lord answered him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?

Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received that with interest.

So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

*It is sin to be filled with the Spirit and then not obey Him. It is sin to receive a gift of the Spirit and then do nothing with it. Pray for you and the gift to mature.*

*The Lord's prophecies that are corrective in nature, always end on a redemptive up-note. For example, a prophecy about consequences for a believer in continuing in sin, would end with something like, His forgiveness if the believer turns back.*

*Beginners in the prophetic gifting should operate in supervised settings. That is, supervised by others or someone, who knows God's voice and the gifts of the Spirit well and can guide, bring direction, correct, and give encouragement for the developing of the gift.*

*The Lord likes to deliver prophecies using your own particular personality. But, he can require something totally out of your normal mannerisms; but that usually does not occur in your early prophetic formative years.*

*Paul speaks in 1 Corinthians, chapter 14, laying out instruction for the proper use of prophesy. He starts with in verse 1 with, "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy."*

*He goes on to tell us that prophesying-in-tongues, or the gift of speaking-in-tongues, needs to be interpreted or it will have no value.*

*In verse 32 he says, "and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets." I've seen much disorder when prophecy is delivered out of order, and the 'prophet' claims the Spirit forced it.*

*[1Co 13:1] "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." Love always needs to be the motivating factor behind prophesy.*

*[Gal 5:22-23] "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

*"Gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

*The gift of prophecy will increase in you if you respond (obey) to what the Spirit tells you to do now. [John 3:21a] "... who ever does {or practices} truth comes to the light.."*

*[Gal.5: 16-17], "This I say then, walk in the Spirit [to make one's way], and you shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh.*

*"For the flesh desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another, so that you would not do the things that you would otherwise do."*

*First, you must be willing.*

*And second, you must be obedient. Remember verse 18 of Hebrews chapter 3, [Heb 3:18] And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest {abode}, but to those who were disobedient {disbelief/disobedience}?*

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*Now for some of the elements (basics) of prophesying...*

*In regards to prophesying, presumption is sin. Do not presume 'what to do with it', 'when to deliver it', 'who it applies to', 'that you have the whole word', etcetera...*

*When the Lord tells you something, do not do anything until you get your orders. You need to understand what He is telling you, and what He has not told you.*

*He may have you wear specific attire. He may even have you speak in a whisper or shout. Do not presume. It is not just the matter of you sinning (missing the mark), but the message may not be received.*

*Your goal, as the vessel, is to not taint the message. [You would not drink water from a gas can, because it would flavor the water.] The word might be offensive to a carnal man or woman. Let that be the Lord's decision, not your mistake. The vessel, you, is to not be offensive.*

*The prophecies you deliver could be words of discernment (judging) and not a judgement. Judgement type prophecies are rare and usually delivered by someone in the prophetic office. See the "To Judge or Not To Judge" handout from previous class.*

*As you mature in your prophetic gifting, the Spirit can start to give you a word that he will build on over time. He will tell you when it is completed and the instructions for delivering it.*

*Write down the details of a prophetic dream upon awakening. What feelings did you have within the dream? Did the Spirit speak to you in the dream? What feelings and thoughts are you having, now that you are awake and prayerful? What biblical typology (symbolism) was there? These questions also pertain when prophetically interpreting someone else's dream. **DO NOT** go to the world for interpretation of dreams!*