

If you want to stir up some trouble among Christians, mention the word *prophecy* or *prophet*.

An argument will probably follow. Some will respond with “*We’re not comfortable with that.*” Others will say, “*That’s not for today, it just happened in Bible times.*” Some might threaten, “*If you say you’re a prophet, you’d better be right 100% of the time, or you’ll be stoned to death.*”

Still others might say, “As a matter of fact, I do know some prophets who hear from God, *and I have a word from the Lord FOR YOU!*” Spoiler alert: fisticuffs may soon follow.

Greetings! I’m Jim Taylor, thanks for joining me & IN Favor Resources in this video series titled **PROPHECY IS FOR YOU!** About **Understanding prophetic words**, about you **receiving them** from others, and about you **giving them** to others.

In the first post: **God speaks to us in many ways: in nature, in Scripture, thru conscience, etc.**

Our God is revealing God; **He is not a silent God, he is speaking to us all the time!**

In the second: **What is prophecy?** Hearing a message from God, and passing it on to others.

It may be **speaking for** God, or **forthtelling** with authority, or **foretelling** the future.

In this post: How **the prophetic gift in the NT** is different from **the office of the OT prophet**:

This matters; a lot of the confusion and suspicion about prophecy is *based on a mistake!*

Here is the difference in a nutshell:

Those with **the OT office of prophet** spoke the authoritative words of God *directly* from him.

Their words were recorded as *Scripture* as they proclaimed, “*THUS SAITH THE LORD!*”

Those who practice **the NT gift of prophecy** are speaking in *human* words something God has brought to their *human* mind, and therefore must be *TESTED* by other human beings.

Here it is in more detail:

When Jesus was resurrected and went into heaven, he sent the promised Holy Spirit to us.

And when he came, *he brought spiritual gifts*—what we call “gifts of the Spirit” described in:

1 Corinthians 12: ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. And later in v. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of administration, and of different kinds of tongues.

The lessons from these two passages are very important: 1) *these gifts come from the Spirit*; 2) *each one of us has (at least) one*; and 3) *they are given to us to use for the good of others*.

From the Spirit ... In us ... For others

THIS IS A DISTINCTLY NEW TESTAMENT IDEA, because the Spirit hadn’t come in the OT in the same way he came at Pentecost—which wasn’t until the book of Acts, in the days of the NT and the church ... the days in which we live, right now.

In OT times, **the prophetic ministry was an office**—they were called by God to be his prophet—read the first 10 verses of **Jeremiah**. God said he would “**put my words in your mouth**”

and they were required to repeat them faithfully; *and there was a penalty if they didn’t*.

If someone *claimed* to be a prophet of God, but their prophecies didn’t come true, *they were stoned to death*, because they were either disobedient (knew what God said but didn’t want to repeat it) or a false, lying prophet (never called by God in the first place).

That is why the punishment was so great (not because “Oops, they goofed!”)

But it is *different* for the person in NT times—we all have the Spirit in us, and we all have a *gift*. Those with *the gift of prophecy* are not operating in quite the same way as the OT prophets. Perhaps this will be more clear if we use another, less controversial gift as an example:

Take *the gift of teaching*, which I believe I have. Teachers don't get it right *all the time*. I remember someone showing me where I had misinterpreted a point, and she was right! Next Sunday I apologized, corrected what I'd said, thanked the person who showed me. But ***no one tried to stone me***. We understand that we grow with practice, with maturity, and, by falling on our face sometimes. *Prophecy is a gift*, like teaching or administration. You don't think administrators forget sometimes to dot their "i"s and cross their "t"s? They do! And it's a disaster! But it doesn't happen often, because *it's their gift*. They are good at it—the Spirit is helping them—and they get better at it with practice.

In NT times, in our day, *prophecy is being used as a gift*, just like all the other gifts of the Spirit. We are human, and *every human makes mistakes*, including those who have spiritual gifts: Pastors, teachers, evangelists, *anybody can mess up*, and eventually, *all of us do*. So don't panic, and please don't "throw out the baby with the bathwater."

And don't think, "If there's a chance I might get it wrong, I'm not even going to try."
(If you had this attitude as a baby, you would have never learned to walk, feed yourself with a spoon, tie your own shoes, drive a car, or use your smart phone! You still don't know lots of stuff on your phone, *but that doesn't stop you from using it!*)

One of the differences between *the OT office of prophet* and *the NT gift of prophecy* is, maybe most importantly, that ***we don't stone you to death if you get it wrong!***

If don't get this straight, you'll always be wary of or afraid of prophecy;
you'll always be fearful that you might "mess up" and get it wrong;
you'll distance yourself from something *God really, really wants you to have*.
Don't walk away from prophecy; don't relegate it to Bible times; ***Prophecy is for you!***

Two other helps for you: A chart comparing OT prophets, NT apostles, and NT prophets ⇨
And a word-by-word definition spelled out and supported by scriptures & explanations ⇨

In these videos, we have demonstrated that God is speaking to all of us all the time;
we have explained the meanings of the word "prophecy" and its uses;
we have compared *the OT office of prophet* with *the NT gift of prophecy*, & found them different.

Coming up:

What are the results of a legitimate prophecy? Why must it be tested? And how?
Can you prophesy if you don't have the *gift*? What NT prophecy might look like in *your* life?
And eventually, what you should do after *receiving* a word, guidelines on *giving* words to others, and some other stuff—examples and experiences we can learn from.

I'm so glad and grateful to be working with all of you to bring Indiana into her prophetic destiny!
You can keep up with us on our website, *infavorresources.com*, our "IN Favor" Facebook page, and our IN Favor Resources channel on YouTube.

Thanks for joining me today; signing off until next time, hope to see you then.



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