

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 fact, *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.  
In the third: How **the prophetic gift in the NT** is different from **the office of the OT prophet**:  
A lot of the confusion and suspicion about prophecy is based on a misunderstanding.  
(And, by the way, *we don't stone you to death if you get it wrong!*)

Today:

**What are the results of prophecy? What good does it do? Why should I be interested?**

How do you know if its *really* a message from God?

Let's answer those questions, and perhaps a few others, to de-mystify this and make it clear.

**What does a prophecy actually accomplish?** What are the results of a legitimate prophecy?

If **1 Corinthians 12** is the *spiritual gifts* chapter, chapter **14** is the one explaining *prophecy*.

<sup>3</sup> *But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.*

These three terms describe the *characteristics* of a legitimate prophecy (Is it a real one?

Does it come from God?) and its *results* (This is how the person who receives it will feel).

You will always know when you've heard a true prophecy because these 3 things are present.

*Who wouldn't want that?* Don't push this away, don't ignore it, you'll be missing something!

Joel Osteen tells about an incident in a worship service at Lakewood Church in Houston: His mother, Dodie, was on the platform reading a scripture and welcoming visitors as usual. Suddenly, she put her head down, and for no apparent reason, began to weep. People in the audience, including Joel, wondered what was going on. For another minute, she stood there silently. Then she lifted her head and said, "Don't do it. Don't do it. Somebody here is about to do something you shouldn't do. Please, don't do it!" People in the auditorium were stunned. The entire congregation spent a few minutes praying. Then a beautiful young lady began to walk from the back, crying as she came. She told the staff she was depressed because she was pregnant and not married. She felt her life wasn't worth living; she had already written a suicide note and left it at home. *But something told her to go to church once more.* She had not intended to change her mind, but the words, "Don't do it. Don't do it." supernaturally pierced her heart. She realized God loved her, he was concerned about her, and he had a future for her. That one moment—that *one prophetic word*—saved her life and totally turned her life around.

Do you see that it was a prophetic word from the Spirit? Dodie didn't know any of the details, but she **received a message** from the Lord, and she **passed on that message to others**.

Don't you think that the young woman went home **strengthened, encouraged, and comforted?**

And that every person in that service felt **strengthened, encouraged, and comforted?**

God wants us to know his heart, his plans for us, his love for us, that his presence is with us.

This gift of prophecy is for the benefit of both believers and unbelievers and it is a sign that God is truly present in his church: <sup>23</sup> *So if the whole church comes together ...* <sup>24</sup> *if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all,* <sup>25</sup> *as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"* exactly what happened at Lakewood!

**When was the last time you were in a worship service like that?** ("Last Sunday," I hope.)

*But I know that most worship services in most churches leave no room for prophecy.*

OK, but **what if she had been wrong?** What if she imagined it or she was just making it up?

That possibility is precisely why **prophecies must be tested**, weighed, evaluated.

Paul said, <sup>29</sup> *Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.* He told the Thessalonian church when he was speaking about prophecies, <sup>21</sup> *test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.* (1 Thessalonians 5:20-22)

You don't want to believe everything everyone says all the time; that would be naïve. (But isn't this also true of *all* the gifts of the Spirit when they are used by *human* believers?)

How do we **test**? You compare it with Scripture (like the Bereans tested Paul's words in *Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews ... received the message with great eagerness —good and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.* —better!

You check your own heart: "Does my spirit agree with this? Do I sense the Holy Spirit in it? Does it *sound like* something God would say? Does it **strengthen, encourage, comfort**? Would the outcome of this glorify God, or just call attention to the speaker?"

This process was designed and implemented by God to protect the church from error. (And if you are the one prophesying, you should be *willing* to have others weigh your words, and even *welcome* that kind of accountability, since it helps to keep *you* from error.)

"OK, but **Why would I want the gift of prophecy?** I'm happy with the gift(s) I already have."

Did you ever misplace something really valuable, and you went crazy trying to find it? You looked under the bed, in closets, in your car trunk, you tore through your drawers, You were in a frenzy—you *had to* have it! This is the way we are to seek this gift!

We are to seek it eagerly, and zealously, covet it *above all the other gifts!*

Paul said so: *14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.*

Pentecostals—please listen: this prophecy is more important than speaking in tongues!

Paul said so: <sup>4</sup> *Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.* <sup>5</sup> *I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy*

The spiritual gift of prophecy is an extraordinary/unique gift, to be **desired** above all other gifts: *1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.*

Out of all the (spectacular) gifts, **THIS IS THE ONE YOU SHOULD WANT AND ASK FOR!** Some of you already have this gift, and you know it; and we all benefit from it when you use it.

But some of you have this gift *and you don't know it yet.* God wants to give it to ALL of us!

So let's seek it, let's ask for it, let's pester God for it, let's **eagerly desire it.**

We will continue this discussion in **next post**: We'll continue to apply this *to you, personally*:

**"Can I prophesy if I don't have the gift?"** The answer may surprise you.

How would I know if I was supposed to? How will I know if I have a message to pass on?

**What would feel like/look like/sound like if I did?**

**After that:** 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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