

Greetings! I'm Jim Taylor, thanks for joining me & IN Favor Resources in this video series titled **PROPHECY IS FOR YOU!** About you **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**:  
(Most memorable: *we don't stone you to death if you get it wrong!*)

The last post: **Results of prophecy? What good does it do?** *Strengthens, encourages, comforts.*  
**Why should I want it?** *This gift is for everyone, and it helps everyone! "especially prophecy"*  
And the importance of **testing the prophecies** to ensure they really are messages from God.

In today's teaching, we finish that discussion, again keeping the focus on *you, personally*:  
**"Can I prophesy even 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 gave someone a prophecy?**

Answering the first question: **Can I prophesy if I don't have the gift?** The answer? Yes, you can.  
Of course, people with the *gift* are able to do it easily, naturally, accurately, and often;  
but remember, in the **1 Cor 14** worship service, Paul said, *everyone is prophesying*;  
and he said later in the chapter that *you can all prophesy one by one (1 Cor. 14:31 NAS)*  
So *everyone* who has the Spirit can give and receive prophetic words. **INCLUDING YOU.**

Yes, we expect to regularly hear prophetic words from someone with the *gift* of prophecy,  
but we now live in an age where *it is normal for everyone to hear from the Holy Spirit*.  
When crowds of astonished people were questioning how uneducated and untraveled  
Galileans could be declaring the wonders of God in their own languages, Peter quoted  
the prophet Joel in **Acts 2:16-18**, and *applied Joel's prophecy to our age*:  
*"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will  
prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my  
servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."*  
According to this passage, we are now **"in the last days,"** when **everyone can prophesy**.  
Age, gender, and socio-economic status are no longer barriers to the Spirit's working.

The result? **Anyone can give a prophetic word in the service**: In fact, along with worship and  
apostolic instruction, **prophetic words were expected** in the meetings of the early church.  
When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he described a first-century worship service this way:  
*What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word  
of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the  
strengthening of the church ... Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh  
carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker  
should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.*  
You can read the entire passage in **1 Corinthians 14:26, 29-31**

So, what happened? **When did we lose this?** Why don't our services look more like this?

<p>This example comes from Steve Sampson in his book, <i>You Can Hear the Voice of God</i>: While speaking in a church in Kentucky, right at the very end of the meeting the Holy Spirit drew me to a couple on the front row. I did not know they were first-time visitors and that they had never been to this church (or any church like it). I was especially drawn</p>
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to the wife. Feeling great compassion, I prayed for her gently, telling her three words I saw: “No more disappointments.”

Tears began to stream down her face in response. After the meeting, the friend who had invited the couple told me their story. Recently, their one-year-old infant son, who was in perfect health, had contracted spinal meningitis and had died within a few days. That night I met them, they had come to church to seek answers.

(This story has a good ending.) God is so good. Nearly two years later when traveling to that city, I saw the couple again. The Lord had blessed them with another son.

I regret to say that, if the couple would have attended most other churches, *they would not have received any answers*, and certainly not such a direct, pin-pointed message from God.

We already learned that **God is speaking to us all the time**, but **we may not be listening**, we don't have our antennae up, expecting God to speak to someone else through us.

I want *you* to know: ***You could be the person who hears that message and passes it on.***

Which brings us to the next question: **What might this idea of prophecy look like in your life?**

“OK, I can see that this is biblical, that God wants me to do this; how do I get started?”

- Ever had your attention drawn to someone, been concerned, prayed for them? Ever had someone “highlighted” to you, but you weren't sure why?
- **Start with that.** Ask God, “Is there something you want me to do, or say?” Imagine Jesus walked in and went straight to them: What is he saying to them? Do you have strong feeling, “Oh, I wish they knew that \_\_\_\_\_”?

A woman is standing in front of you in the line at the grocery store. You are drawn to her, you find yourself praying, “Father, help her to know you love her & will take care of her.”

*You are hearing the message God wants her to hear ... he told you, so you could tell her.*

Politely and humbly, you say something like, “Excuse me, I feel like I should tell you,

*Your heavenly father loves you very much, and he will take care of you.”*

She might respond, “Get out of my face, you Bible-thumper, leave me alone!”

She might respond by turning away and ignoring you. Or, she might respond like this:

“You have no way of knowing this, but my father and I were very close. He died last week, and I'm on my way home from the funeral. I was just thinking, “I don't have anyone who will take care of me now,” and I felt like an orphan. Your words were such a **comfort**—thanks for the reminder that my heavenly Father will take care of me.”

- Don't you think she was **strengthened, encouraged, and comforted** by your words?
- Do you think you could do this? ***I know that you can.*** You just need some practice! (In a later post, we cover 7 steps to take if you're not sure it is God prompting you.)

You can see that **This gift is a blessing to the church and should not be quenched or despised**, as Paul warned in ***1 Thessalonians 5:20—do not treat prophecies with contempt.***

The tense of the command in the original language implies they already were doing that; so “**stop it, knock it off,**” quit mocking it, making fun of it, considering it unimportant.

Most translations read, ***do not despise prophecies.*** Tragically, many Christians do just that.

But this is too important to blow it off. These **messages from God** come to human minds, and are put into human words and **given to other** human beings who test it, weigh it, evaluate it ... and are **strengthened, encouraged, and comforted** and sometimes, just absolutely amazed.

**Coming posts:** 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, *infaresources.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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