

Hearing from God in Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren,
I do not want you to be ignorant.

1. Prophecy, what it is and what it is not.

Some of the dictionaries define it as an utterance inspired by God, or as speaking forth of the mind of God.

Prophecy is not inspired preaching, it is the Holy Spirit making himself known in our midst by revealing a portion of the mind of God.

Prophecy is one of these gifts that are a revelation of the Holy Spirit. This is not said about exhortation. Exhortation can be done by all of us at our will. The following scriptures are an example of the use of the Greek word used for exhortation.

Acts 8:31

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And **he desired** Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Acts 16:40

40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia and when they had seen the brethren, **they comforted** them, and departed.

1 Thess 5:14

14 Now **we exhort** you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

Titus 1:9

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to **exhort** and to convince the gainsayers.

2 Cor 1:4

4 Who **comforted** us in all our tribulation, that we may be able **to comfort** them which are in many trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves **are comforted** of God.

Though the Spirit should be involved in exhortation and comfort, the above verses are not the gift of prophecy.

2. Prophecy, what is it?

1 Cor 12:1

1 Now concerning Spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. (Prophecy is listed as a Spiritual Gift)

1 Cor 12:4-6

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 There are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

1 Cor 12:8-11

8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of Spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Note: 1 Tim. 6:2 Teach and exhort these things (Instructed to do so)

Heb. 3:13 But exhort one another daily (Instructed to do so)

When it comes to prophecy and Spiritual Gifts (we must desire, and it must be Given by the Spirit of God). 1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, But especially that you may prophecy. 1 Cor. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

These gifts all come with a desire and proper motivation. 1 Cor. 12:7 But the Manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

3. Examples of Prophecy:

Acts 11:27-28

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Acts 21:4

4 In finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.

Acts 21:8-9

8 On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, he was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

Acts 21:10-11

10 And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down to Judea. 11 When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet and said, "Thus says The Holy Spirit, so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles (Acts 22:25).

Acts 2:17-18

(Peter quoting Joel the prophet) 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they shall prophecy.

Acts 19:6

6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Note: Vines Expository Dictionary of Bible words (prophecy prophesy, prophesying)

Signifies The speaking forth of the mind and council of God.

(Go down to the fourth paragraph) with the completion of the canon of scripture

Prophecy apparently passed away. 1 Cor. 13:8-9 **Not true!** They do not

Reference verse 10. But that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part

Will be done away with. Amp. But when the complete and perfect [total] comes,

The incomplete and imperfect will vanish away.

Knowledge is also mentioned in this passage and we know that, that has not

Passed away.

1 Cor. 1:6-7 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you

Come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ

Vines, (same paragraph) In his measure the teacher has taken the place of the

Prophet, cf. the significant change in 2 Peter 2:1 **Not true!** ????

What we do know:

Eph. 4:8-13 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men. 9 (Now this, " He ascended"- what does it mean

, but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth. 10 He who

Descended is also one who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might

Fill all things). 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets,

Some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (**Why**) for the equipping

Of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of

Christ, (**How long will these gifts be working in the church**)

13 Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
(Why) 14 That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried Away with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning Craftiness of deceitful plotting.

Note: 1 Cor. 12:28

1Cor. 2:16 (shows that these thing are not done away with)

John 16:13

4. Who may prophecy?

1 Cor. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all
1Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy
1 Cor. 14:39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy.....

5. Why prophecy?

1 Cor. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

1 Cor. 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks:

Edification- build up (cause to grow)

Exhortation- stir up (urged to pursue your course)

Comfort- cheer up (sooth and console)

1Cor. 14:24-25 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an unformed person Comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of His heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and Report that God is truly among you. (proof again that prophecy is from the Lord And not from a man's heart, because no man knows another man's thoughts)

6. Preparation to Prophecy

Acts 1:8 (Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit)

1Cor. 12:1 (Don't be ignorant of spiritual gifts)

1Cor. 12:7 (Let your motive be pure in wanting to build up the body)

James 4:8 (Worship and pray)

7. There are Exceptions Occasionally and God Will Not Be Put In A Box

Num. 22:27-28 And when the donkey saw the angle of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger is aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I Done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

Luke 9:49-50 Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out Demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." 50 But Jesus said to him, "do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our Side."

Luke 10:17-19 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons Are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like Lightning from heaven. 19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents And scorpions., and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means Hurt you. (they are not born again)

8. How Do You Know You Have A Prophecy To Give?

2 Peter 1:21 ...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God Spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (moved-NT 53426 phero: "to Bear, carry," is rendered "being moved" in 2 Peter 1:21, signifying that they were "Born along," or impelled, by the Holy Spirit's power, not acting according to their Own wills, or simply expressing their own thoughts, but expressing the mind of God In words provided and ministered by Him.

9. Final Comments

1Cor. 14:29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. (Prophecy is Not infallible. God uses vessels that are in the process of being renewed and Therefore can sometimes say things that are not influenced by the Spirit.
Note: Being judged on a word that you have been given , gives you bearing on Hearing from the Lord.