

The Relationship Between Prophecy, Exhortation & Teaching

First - we see these are three separate and distinct gifts (prophecy, teaching, exhortation)

- Rom 12:6-8 ESV Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his **teaching**; 8 the one who exhorts, in his **exhortation**; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Yet there is an interplay or interconnectedness between them

- 1Ti 4:13 ESV Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of **Scripture**, to **EXHORTATION**, to **TEACHING**.
- 1Co 14:3 ESV On the other hand, the one who **PROPHECIES** speaks to people for their upbuilding and **ENCOURAGEMENT** and consolation.

When you prophecy people are instructed (teaching) and encouraged (exhortation)

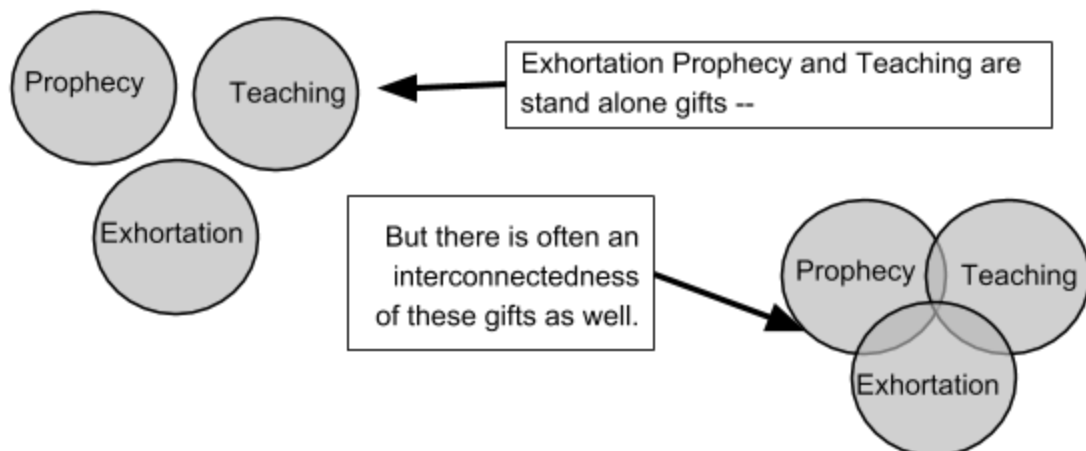
- 1Co 14:31 NIV For you can all **PROPHECY** in turn so that everyone may be **INSTRUCTED** and **ENCOURAGED**.

Exhortation linked to the preaching of the word

- 2Ti 4:2-3 NIV **Preach the word**; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and **encourage--with great patience and careful instruction**. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

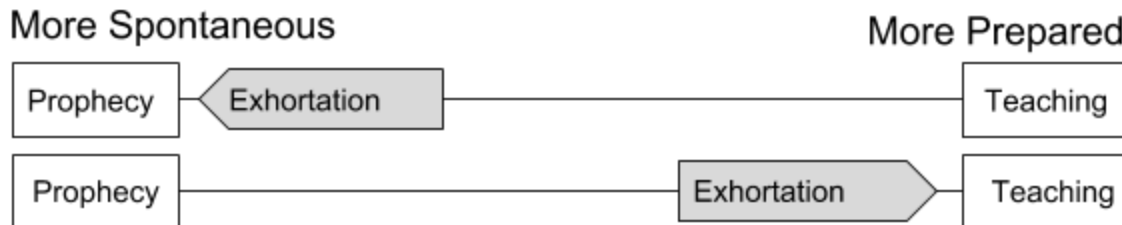
This interconnectedness of these three gifts makes weighing or judging prophecy a little more complex...i.e. what exactly is taking place? Is the person **exhorting** (and we received some instruction?) Is the person **teaching** (and we received some exhortation?) or was that a prophecy that both **instructed** and **exhorted** us?

Interrelated and Interconnected



Spontaneity Continuum

In terms of the spiritual gift of exhortation used at ACC I would prefer that it should flow more from the prophetic spontaneous side of the scale than from a teaching / more prepared side of the continuum.



Many times our exhortation pushes to the right of this continuum - which in my mind falls more into teaching, and less into a prophetic posture...I would like during the operation of the spiritual gifts to see those who are used in exhortation to pursue more of a left leaning spontaneous prophetic posture - than a right leaning teaching posture

Defining the prophetic posture

There is an element of inspiration

- Jer 20:9 NIV But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," **his word is in my heart like a fire**, a fire shut up in my bones. **I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.**

By default it is received by revelation

- 1Co 14:30 ESV **If a revelation** is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent.

There is a sense of a bubbling up similar to the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- Joh 7:38-39 ESV Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**" 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The content relies more on the Holy Spirit in the moment than on the thought processes ahead of time

- Luk 12:11-12 ESV And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, 12 **for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."**
- Psa 45:1 KJV To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, for the sons of Korah, Maschil, A Song of loves. My heart is **inditing [Heb "gushing"]** a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: ***my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.***
- Jer 1:9 ESV Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, **"Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.**