

The Judging of Prophecy

It is Clear that Prophecy is to be Judged

We prophesy in “part”

1 Corinthians 13:9 KJV For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

We prophesy according to grace and in proportion to our faith

Romans 12:6 KJV Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

We are told specifically to judge

- 1 Corinthians 14:29 KJV (29) Let the prophets speak two or three, and **let the other judge**.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18-21 KJV (18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (19) Quench not the Spirit. (20) Despise not prophesyings. (21) **Prove all things**; hold fast that which is good.
- 1 John 4:1-3 KJV Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world**. (2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: (3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Criteria for Judging

The Source

The Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1-3 KJV (1) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. (2) Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. (3) Wherefore I give you to understand, that **no man speaking by the Spirit of God** calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

The Spirit of Man

Luke 6:45 KJV **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

The Lying Spirit

Acts 16:16-18 KJV And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, **a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us**, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: (17) The same **followed Paul and us, and cried, saying**, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. (18) And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

The Content

Does it glorify Jesus?

Revelation 19:10 KJV And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Does it edify the church?

1 Corinthians 14:3 KJV But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

- Sometimes God speaks to me and it is for JUST me

Does it line up with Scripture?

Isaiah 8:20 KJV To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Galatians 2:4-5 KJV And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: (5) To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

The Person Speaking

Matthew 7:15-16 KJV **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

- Are they saved?
- Are they spirit-filled?
- Are they surrendered to Christ - growing in the fruit of the spirit?
- Are they submitted to the word of God?
- Are they submitted to the local leaders?
- Are they humble enough to accept correction?

The Delivery

Is the message profitable clear and understandable?

1 Corinthians 14:6-9 KJV (6) Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I **profit** you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? (7) And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they **give a distinction in the sounds**, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? (8) For if the trumpet give **an uncertain sound**, who shall prepare himself to the battle? (9) So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue **words easy to be understood**, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

Is the message easily entreated?

James 3:17 KJV But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and **easy to be entreated**, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

- Entreated means [Gk good for persuasion]
- Sometimes the tone of the person or the delivery of the content can make it uncomfortable and difficult to receive
- Sometimes the PERSON delivering the message is LOUDER than the message

Does the message, content and timing fit with the flow of the service?

Revelation 2:29 KJV He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Proverbs 25:11 KJV A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Proverbs 15:23 KJV A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

Examples

- Don't prophesy during the time devoted to preaching the word
- If the general flow of prophecy is the love of God - you might want to "hold" a word that is about the judgment of God upon the wicked
- You should not interrupt the flow of beautiful worship to give a testimony about your lost dog that was found

Self Judgement

Be Yourself

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 KJV (7) But **the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal**. (8) For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; (9) To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; (10) To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the

interpretation of tongues: (11) But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Be spiritually healthy

Proverbs 4:23 KJV Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Luke 6:45 KJV A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

- **Be alert, sensitive and attentive to the flow of the service**
- **Evaluate**
 - Is this impression from the LORD or is it a matter of the heart?
 - Is this impression for the congregation or for me individually?
 - Is it biblical?
 - Is it prophetic or just true - "I love you my children" is true, but it CAN also be prophetic [God's word spoken at a particular time for a particular group of people]

Be a worshipper

2 Kings 3:15-16 KJV But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. (16) And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches.

- The hand of the LORD came upon him as the minstrel played

Who is to judge prophecy?

The local leadership assumes responsibility for any word spoken within its midst - prophetic or otherwise

1 Corinthians 14:29 KJV (29) Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

- Other prophets?
- Others in the congregation?
- Others?

While all these people will draw their conclusions about a spoken work, elders are responsible for guarding the flock

While these verses speak specifically about false doctrine, the intent is that the elders are responsible to guard the flock - I think this responsibility also flows into the judging of spiritual gifts since those gifts are spoken in the congregation to the flock

- Acts 20:28-30 KJV Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (29) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. (30) Also of your

own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

The role of the angelos

Our structure at ACC is a plurality of elders with one head. We think the angel of each of the churches mentioned in The Revelation is the man ultimately responsible and accountable to Jesus for what happens in each local church - i.e. "the lead pastor". When Jesus wrote a letter of commendation and correction it came to one person...the "angel of the church of _____"

- Revelation 2:1 KJV Unto the **angel** of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

In the Greek angel is angelos and can mean a man as well as an angel.

angel [angelos - messenger i.e. John the Baptist is called the **messenger "angelos"**]

- Mark 1:2 KJV As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

While this is not a biblical mandate it has been our practice to have the lead pastor bring closure to prophecy...Is there a summary? a clarification? a necessary response? a correction? This helps bring peace to the sheep and understanding of what pasture we are feeding in. This also helps bring instruction to those who are unlearned or unbelievers.