

Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts

Prophecy /
Speaking
Truth

A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue shirt, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF PROPHECY" is overlaid on the image in white, bold, uppercase letters. The words "SPIRITUAL GIFT" are highlighted with a yellow brushstroke, and "OF PROPHECY" is highlighted with a blue brushstroke.

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT
OF PROPHECY

The Gift of Prophecy— Rom. 12

⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

ESV (NIV) - if **prophecy(ing)**, in proportion to (y)our faith;

MSG - If you **preach**, just **preach God's Message**, nothing else;

JBP - If our gift is **preaching**, let us **preach** to the limit of our vision.

NLV - If someone has the gift of **preaching** the Good News, he should **preach**.

Prophecying – from the Greek

- Προφητεύω – PROPHETEYO – Verb
 - Literally: PRO – forth; PHEMI – to speak; i.e. To speak forth or speak openly
 - Meanings:
 - a) telling forth the will of God – speaking God’s words and truths
 - b) foretelling the future
- Προφητεία – PROPHETEIA – Noun
 - Literally: That which is spoken forth
 - Meanings:
 - a) the speaking forth of the will of God
 - b) that which is prophesied



Prophets— from the Greek

- Προφήτης – PROPHETES – Noun

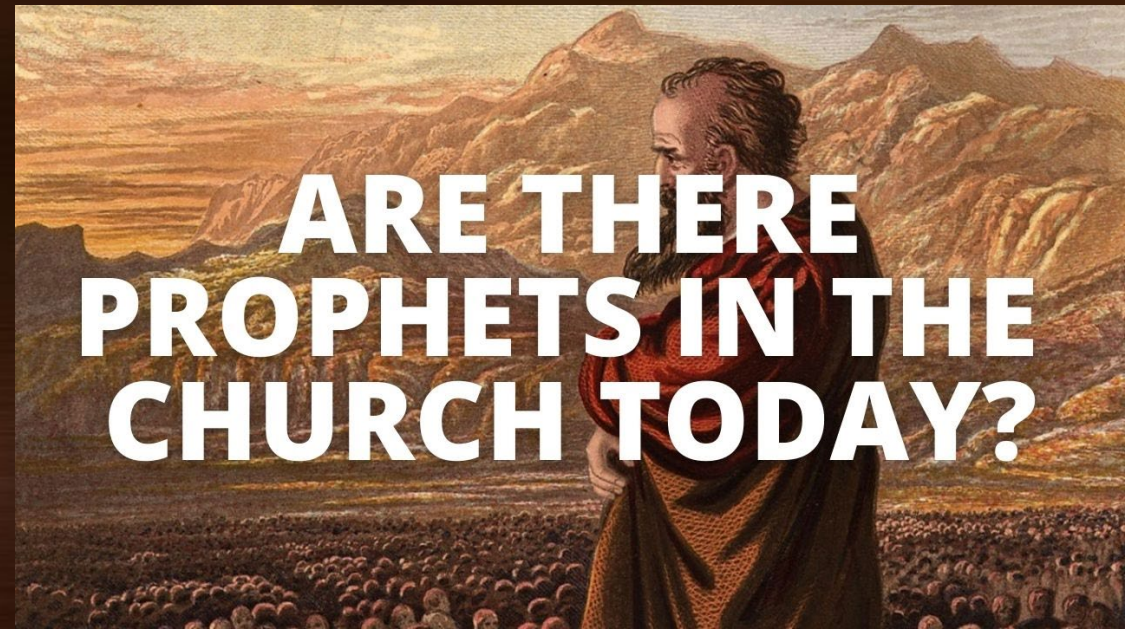
- Literally: One who speaks forth or openly

- Meanings:

- a) A proclaimer of a divine message

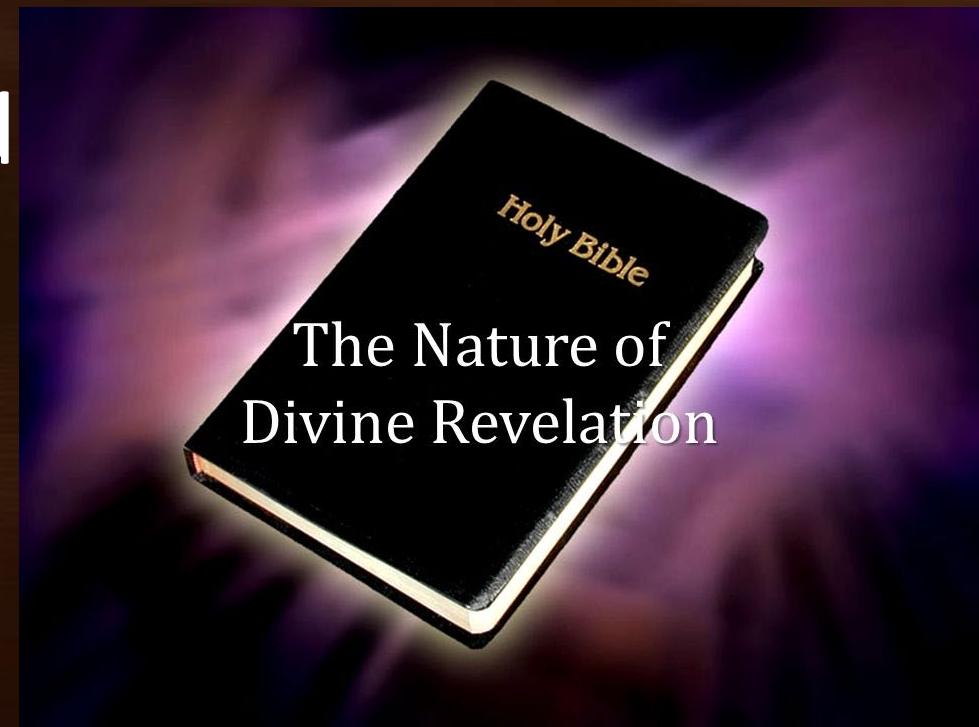
- b) One through whom God speaks

- c) One who preaches God's word



The Nature of Prophecy

- Prophecy was not necessarily or even primarily fore-telling; rather it was forth-telling of the will of God with reference to the past, the present, or the future.
- “Speaking from direct revelation ceased with the completion of the cannon (1 Cor. 13: 8,9) and was replaced with speaking from the completed revelation contained in the scriptures.”
- Vine’s Expository Dictionary



The Nature of the Gift of Prophecy

- Confrontation – The gift of prophecy leads people to confront evil, hypocrisy, error, and false conclusions.
- Defense – The gift of prophecy is often voiced as a defense of the church, God's people, God's programs, God's nature.
- Courage – The gift of prophecy functions without regard to personal consequences for the prophets.
- Revelation – The gift of prophecy reveals the character and motives of others, especially motives that are deceitful or hypocritical.



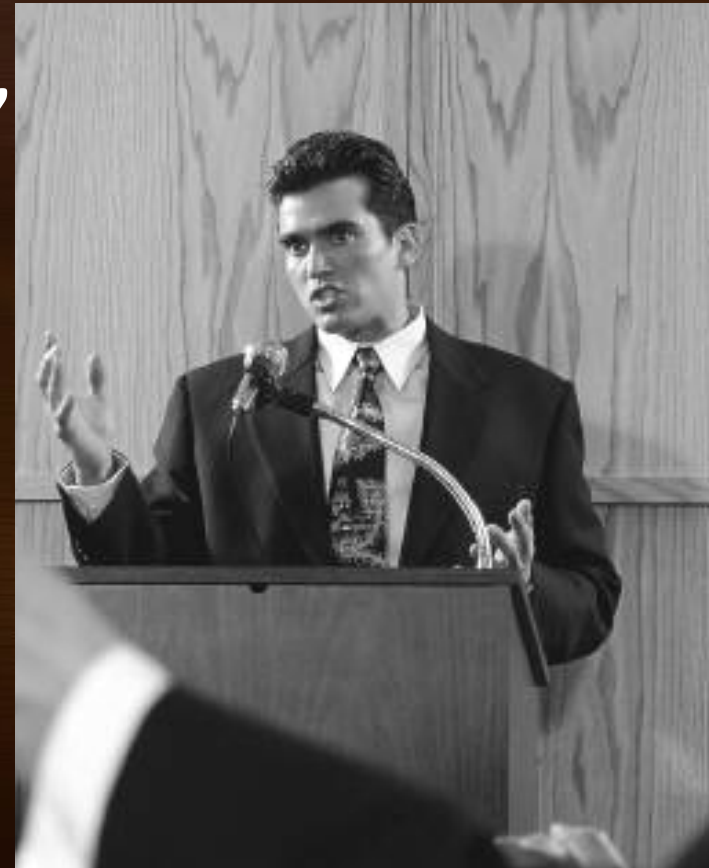
The Nature of Prophets

- A prophet's main task was not foretelling the future but calling people back to the original plan.
- Even in the Old Testament most of the prophets' lessons were reminding people of God's law, covenant and promises.
- Today the prophet is a gifted person who has an intense passion to learn and boldly proclaim the truth from God's Word.



The Role of Prophets in the Church Today

- To proclaim the principles of God that are true so that others may be taught and encouraged - 1 Corth. 14:31
- To encourage and strengthen with words - Acts 15:32
- To speak to people for their upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation
- 1 Corth. 14:3



Prophets

- Example – John the Baptist

- Matt. 11: 7-10



⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? **A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.** ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

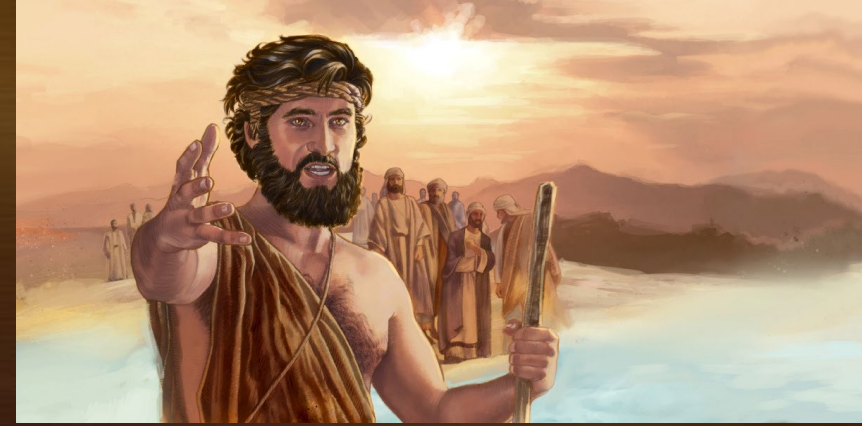
“Behold, I send **my messenger** before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

Prophets

- Example – John the Baptist

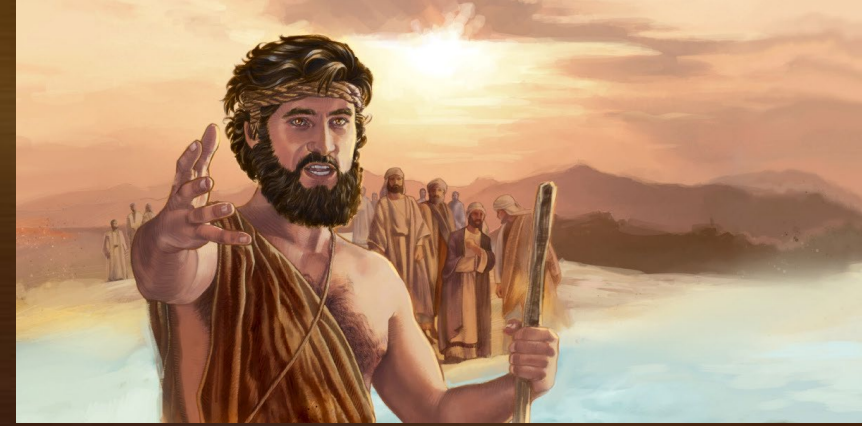
- Mark 1:4-8

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and **proclaiming a baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, **confessing their sins**. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he **preached**, saying, **“After me comes he who is mightier than I**, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



Prophets

- Example – John the Baptist
 - Matt. 3:7-10



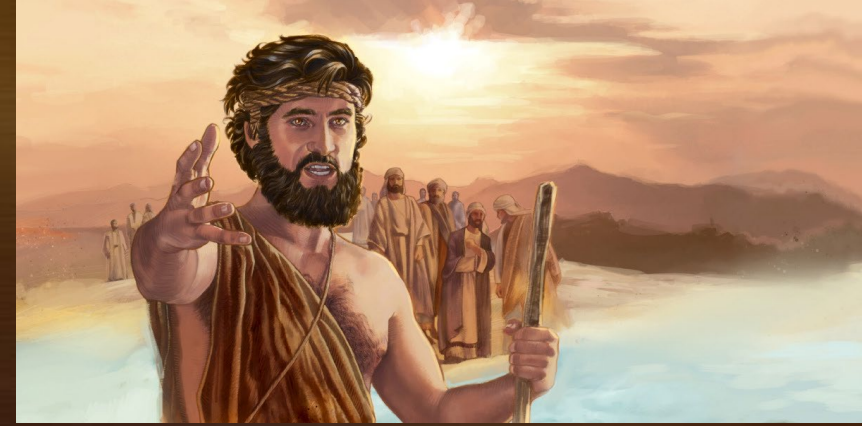
⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “**You brood of vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ **Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.** ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Prophets

- Example – John the Baptist

- Matt. 14:3-5

³ For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, ⁴ because John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” ⁵ And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet.

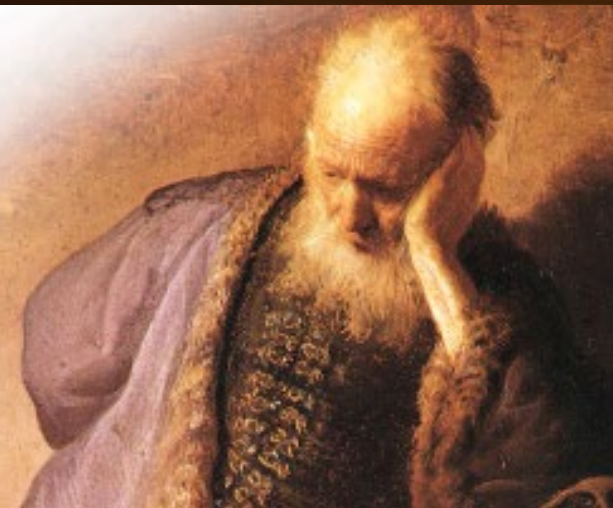


Prophets

- Other Examples

- Nathan when he told David of his sin (2 Sam. 12:1-10)
- Stephen who was killed when he preached Jesus to the Jewish Council (Acts 7:51-54)
- Jesus when He confronted and condemned the religious leaders (scribes and Pharisees) (Matt. 23)

**SPEAKING TRUTH
TO POWER:
THE PROPHETS**



General Characteristics of a Prophet

1. Knows and understands the Word of God
 - uses a strong dependance on scripture (Acts 2:15-17; 24-27; 34-35)
2. Clearly identifies right and wrong
3. Has very strong convictions; fanatical about integrity
4. Has concern and distress over all wrongdoing and sin
5. Speaks the truth at every opportunity; desires to obey God.
6. Offer answers that may seem simplistic
 - Everything is black or white – they cut to the bottom line (Acts 5:3-4)



General Characteristics of a Prophet

8. Has an opinion on everything
9. More than willing to share their conviction
 - often bold and direct (Acts 4:8-12)
10. Persuasive and do their utmost to evoke change
 - No problem speaking their mind - “in-your-face” (Acts 2:40)
11. Sees their own shortcomings and those of others
12. Have few friends – they tend to turn people off
13. They may expect or welcome persecution (Acts 4:18-20)



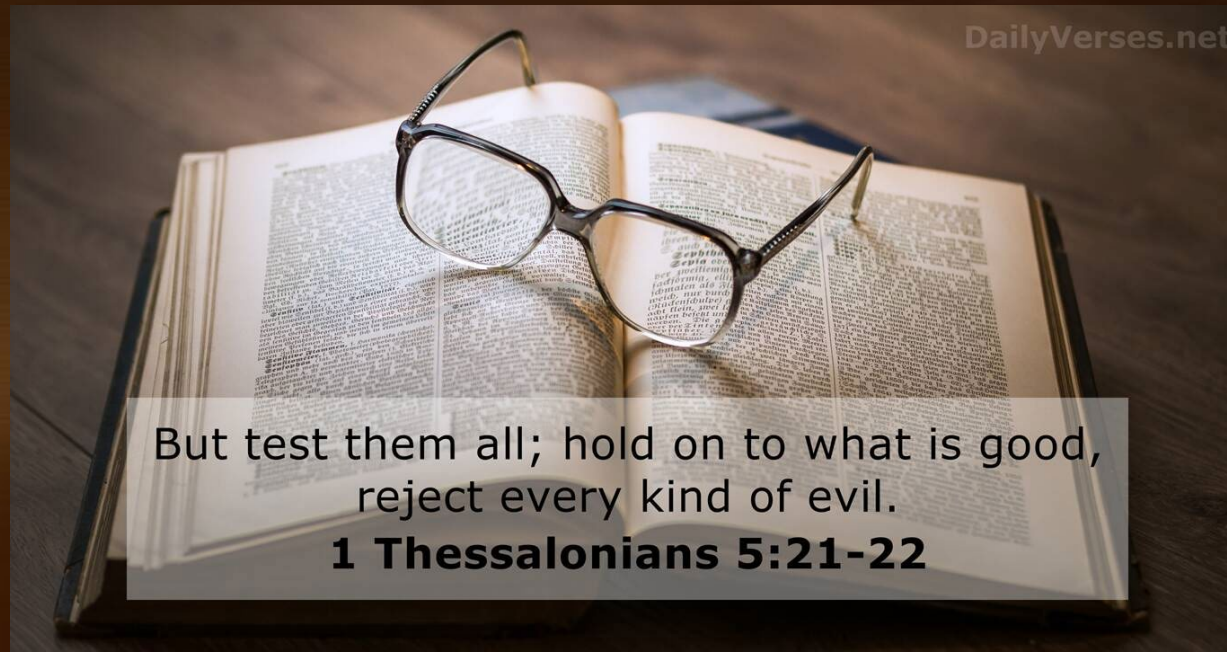
Cautions for the Prophet

1. Do not be judgmental in opinions.
2. Get all the facts before reaching a conclusion.
3. Choose your battles wisely.
4. Guard attitudes toward others.
5. Look for some good in everything.
6. Listen openly to others with opposing view points.
7. Be patient with progress, even if it is slow.
8. Make sure God is speaking through you .
(1 Pet. 4:10-11)
9. Remember love is the priority. (1 Corinthians 13)



Favorite Verses of Prophets

- Mark 11:15-19 - Jesus cleared the temple of swindlers
- Acts 5:1-11 - Peter confronts Ananias and Sapphira with their lie
- Gal. 2:11-21 - Paul rebuked Peter for his hypocrisy
- Matt. 10:16-24 - All men will hate you because of Me



But test them all; hold on to what is good,
reject every kind of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22