

Study on the Holy Spirit

Prophet

Last week we started to look at the gift of prophet and we saw that another name for a prophet in the Old Testament (**1 Sam 9:9**) was “*seer*”.

We saw the definition of what Prophecy is, and how the gift of Prophet is to be used in the church? **1 Cor 14:1-5**

In **1 Cor 14:29-33** we saw the following things:

Verse 29: It does not say that only 1 prophet should speak, but 2 or 3. There will be a confirmation from another in the church of what the Lord is telling us. We should always fast and pray, seeking the Lord and not our feelings.

Prayer: to keep in communication with God

Worship: to remember who He is.

And **Fasting:** to keep your mind clear.

Verse 33: when the Holy Spirit is in control of the church there will always be order; any disorder is not from the Lord.

There can also be those who claim to be prophets but only speak from their feelings and not from the Lord.

Prophecy is for ***Instruction and Encouragement***, not like we think of Old testament times when a prophet seemed to always proclaim doom and gloom.

It was a warning from the Lord to His people or other people, but that’s not the only thing that was prophesied, there are a lot of blessing from the Lord also as we saw in **Isaiah 40:1-5**

The Lord uses prophets to prepare the way for His people.

You don’t have to be any one special in the worlds eyes to be a prophet. Only special in God’s eyes, which we all are!

The gift of Prophet is not usually a very popular one. A lot of people feel that they want it, but when you speak the word of God in truth, it’s not always what people want to hear.

The prophet is not always a man.

Let’s start this week in:

- **1 Cor 14:1-5 & 37-40** *Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.*

If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

Last week we looked at this verse and saw that it is the bible's definition of prophecy. This week we will look at it more closely to help us understand what a prophet is and does.

Notice first that it says to pursue love.

- **1 Cor 13:2 & 13** *And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

As we talked about in the beginning of our study on the Holy Spirit, we must always remember that the gifts are useless if we don't have love. And Paul reminds us of that, even before he starts to talk about the gifts of prophecy.

But if he just told them previously about love and its importance, then why would he mention it again?

I think that it's because the gift of a prophet is a wonderful gift but it can also lead a person to be proud.

Think about it, God has just used you to be His spokesperson. And if you get in the flesh it would be so easy to get puffed up.

So remembering that love is more important, and without it the words we speak (even though they are the Lord's) will be very harsh to the people they are being spoken to unless they are spoken in love.

Remember when we were kids and our parents would yell at us? Sometimes it was hard to take, but we knew deep down inside that they loved us and we could accept their words.

But then if a stranger or someone that didn't care about you yelled at you, you felt a very uneasy feeling, not that loving feeling you got from your parents.

Or look at it from the other side, when your parents speak kindly to you versus when a stranger does. It's just not the same, and the thing that is missing is love.

It's the same with a prophet; it must be out of love and caring for the people.

Then there was Jonah, he was told by God to go warn the people of Ninevah about their wickedness, and that God had seen it.

But Jonah hated the people of Ninevah so he ran away not wanting to warn them.

But we all know the story and in the end Jonah did speak the words of God to Ninevah, and they repented.

Why? There was no love there in the voice of Jonah.

Sometimes it's not the love of the messenger, But the love of the one who sent the message, in this case God!

Continuing in verse 1 it says, "*especially that you may prophesy*" Why?

We find the answer in verse 3. *But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.*

Edification

Greek Word: *oikodome*

Usage Notes: denotes (a) "the act of building" (oikos, "a home," and demo, "to build"); this is used only figuratively in the NT, in the sense of edification, the promotion of spiritual growth

To build a home. As I read this, it immediately reminded me that the Holy Spirit dwells in us:

- **1 Cor 3:16** *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*
- **John 14:17** *The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*
- **1 Cor 6:19** *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

We are the home of the Holy Spirit, and as the Lord speaks to us through a prophet, He is building and strengthening that home.

Exhortation

Greek Word: *parakaleo*

Usage Notes: primarily, "to call to a person" (para, "to the side," kaleo, "to call"), denotes (a) "to call on, entreat;" (b) "to admonish, exhort, to urge" one to pursue some course of conduct (always prospective, looking to the future, in contrast to the meaning to comfort, which is retrospective, having to do with trial experienced),

Comfort

Greek Word: *paraklesis*

Usage Notes: means "a calling to one's side" (para, "beside," kaleo, "to call"); hence, either "an exhortation, or consolation, comfort,"

Greek Word: paramuthia

Usage Notes: primarily "a speaking closely to anyone" (para, "near," muthos, "speech"), hence denotes "consolation, comfort," with a greater degree of tenderness than the first meaning.

When you hear definition of the word "*paraklesis*" what do you think about? That's right, the Holy Spirit. Just as the Holy Spirit comes along side of us to comfort us, so does the prophet come along side of us with words of encouragement.

As I read the second definition, which mentioned "*with a greater degree of tenderness*" I have to think of verse 1 again that talks about love.

Now in verse 4 we see that the prophet speaks the word of God that "*edifies the church*". The word edification is to build a home or the promotion of spiritual growth.

It's God speaking through people to strengthen His church.

- **1 Cor 14:37** *If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.*

To apply it to us today, if someone proclaims to speak the word of God then we should check out what is being said and not be ignorant.

If you don't check it out and take their word for it, then you may be deceived by a false prophet or teacher.

Remember the little test we did the very first study (about Christmas) and how we are so used to hearing certain things that we believe that they are true when in fact they're not. But we were ignorant because we never checked it out, always assuming that they were right.

I always have urged you all to verify everything that I teach.

So many claim to be so religious, yet they are ignorant because they don't check things out, let alone read the word of God for themselves.

Finally verse 39-40

Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

"desire earnestly to prophesy" Why? So that the church will be built up, strengthened, and comforted. ***"Let all things be done decently and in order"***

- **Rev 19:10** *And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* Underlined for emphasis

The testimony of Jesus is the witness of Jesus.

All we say should point to Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy.

If we are witnessing or teaching and start pointing to something, or someone else, we are not speaking the word of God, only our words.

When you share what Jesus has done in your life, are you talking more about yourself, or Jesus?

- **2 Peter 1:20-21** *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

No private interpretation or no speaking our own words, but the speaking the words of Jesus and the prophecies in the Old Testament that point to Jesus.

- **1 Cor 14:22-25** *Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 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.*
- **Act 2:1-13** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, "Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."*
- **Matt 12:38-41** *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days*

and three nights in the heart of the earth. "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe He is the Son of God, and that He died and rose again from the dead?

Do you believe Jesus paid the price for your sins on the cross?

One purpose of this study is so that you will believe, and through believing you will have eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Yes, we will all die a physical death. But what about after the physical death, where do you go then?

Some say they will be in hell with their friends, partying forever. Some say there is no place after death, you just die and that's it.

Some say you will come back as someone, or something else.

I want to tell you that every one of those thoughts are a lie.

You may go to hell, but there won't be any partying. It's eternal punishment, separation from God.

What choice will you make?

If you want to party, then the place to go is heaven. There will be a tremendous party there. It's called the wedding party of the Lamb, which is Jesus.

No more tears, no more pain, no more worrying and no more death.

And the best part is we get to spend all eternity with the one who loved us first, Jesus!

You can have that right now. Just pray this simple prayer to accept Jesus as you Lord and Savior.

Jesus, I admit I am a sinner. I believe that You died for me on the cross. I believe You rose again and You are even now at the right hand of the Father.

Please forgive me for my sins. Thank You for Your forgiveness.

Come into my heart Jesus and create in me a clean heart to worship You with.

Help me to now tell others about You, that we may all worship You in heaven together.

I ask this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!

If you just prayed that prayer, you are now a child of God, and we will be in heaven together some day. Welcome to the family of God.

Now go tell someone what you just did, or let me know by sending me E-mail.

Next week we will look at the gift of discerning of spirits.