

**Growing In Prophetic Ministry:
Learning to Hear and Speak the Word of the Lord**

1. Introduction: God wants to speak to us and fellowship with us!

For further study: John 10:27, Rev. 3:20; Rev. 21:3-4; Jer. 29:13

2. God Speaks Primarily Through His Word

For further study: Mark 13:31; Gal. 1:8

3. Does God ever speak apart from His Word?

Cessationism says that there is no more prophecy, only Scripture. That position cannot be supported from the Bible. (Acts 2:17-18)

4. How does God speak apart from His Word?

4A. The first principle: God is sovereign

4B. God gives a word from the Word: rhema vs. logos (see John 14:26)

4C. Dreams

4D. Visions: inner visions & open visions

4E. *Trances and Transports (see Acts 11:25, 22:7; Ezek. 8)*

4F. *Natural Signs*

4G. *Impressions and Prophetic Perception*

4H. *The Witness of the Spirit (see Romans 8:16, Colossians 3:5)*

4I. *Inner Voice*

4J. *God's Angelic Messengers*

4K. *Audible Voice*

4L. *Through the Ministry of the Gifts of the Spirit*

5. Who can hear God's Voice?

For further study: John 10:27; Acts 2; Acts 9:10-17; Acts 10:34; Psalm 25

6. Common Issues and Concerns

6A. *Recognize that the things of the Spirit are for all. (See John 14:12, 1 Cor. 12:7)*

6B. *You may all prophesy! (see 1 Cor. 14:31, also 12:31, 14:39, 14:1)*

6C. *The Definition of NT Prophecy*: simply reporting something that God has spontaneously brought to your mind. Forthtelling more than foretelling. “...he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.” (1 Cor. 14:3) This is the customary purpose of prophecy in the Church, to edify, exhort, and comfort – not necessarily to predict the future. See also 1 Cor. 13:9.

7. Channels and Levels of Prophetic Speech in the NT

7A. *The Spirit (or Anointing) of Prophecy (available to all)*

The most common and basic level of the prophetic is what the Bible calls the spirit (or anointing) of prophecy or the manifestation of prophecy. (1 Cor. 12:7-11, Rev. 19:10)

7B. *The prophetic ministry (given to some)*

On a higher level is prophetic speech that comes through people who can truly be said to have a prophetic ministry. For example, in Romans 12:6, Paul says, *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith...* In 1 Tim. 4:14, Paul tells Timothy not to “neglect the gift” God had given him. In 2 Tim. 1:14 he also told him to “watch over the deposit.” And in 2 Tim. 1:3-7, he tells him to “stir up” the “gift of God” which was in him. That means Timothy was responsible to recognize and develop the spiritual gifts God gave him!

7C. *The office of a prophet (given to a few) (See: 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4, Acts 15:32, Acts 21:10, Acts 13, Eph. 2:20)*

8. Beginning to Flow in the Prophetic

8A. *Prophetic protocols: examining our prophetic practices*

- *Humility*: how do we act when God uses us?
- *Tone of voice*: how should we speak?
- *Vocabulary*: what are people hearing when you speak?
- *Demeanor*: what are people seeing when you speak?
- *Packaging*: how do I convey a message? *"Thus saith the Lord!"* When should you use this phrase?
- *Atmosphere*: What is happening at the moment?
- *Self-control*: *"I just couldn't help myself!"* Really?

8B. *Growing in the exercise of the prophetic gifting. (1 Pet. 4:10)*

9. If God speaks apart from His Word, how will I know it is Him?

9A. *The danger of gullible Christians (1 John 4:1; Matt. 24:24; 1 Thess. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 14:29)*

9B. *Measuring against the Word*

9C. *Measuring against the Person of Christ*

9D. *Measuring against the move of the Spirit*

10. Stepping out into the water – beginning to prophesy!

10A. *Be at peace! (2 Kings 4:27)*

10B. *Revelation, Interpretation, Application*

10C. *Dialogue with the Holy Spirit*

10D. *Pray, Pray, Pray!*

10E. *Submission to authority and wise counsel*

10F. *Timing is everything; God will make a way*

10G. *Will I make mistakes?*

10H. *How can I know and hear the Lord better? (James 4:2; Psalms 27:4)*

Think about Jesus' circles of intimacy!

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