

HOLY SPIRIT POWER

November 18th, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

Part 24 – The Gift of Prophecy

Another one of the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit is the Gift of Prophecy. We're starting with the miraculous conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit and about Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist in **Luke 1: 39-45**; *"Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."*

Amazing to see how both John the Baptist and his mother Elizabeth were filled with the Holy Spirit while Jesus was still in his mother Mary's womb!

Luke 1:46-48 continues with the prophetic song of Mary after this encounter with Elizabeth. It says; *"And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever."*

At the onset of this story, two prophecies have already come forth by two mothers and now we'll see Zacharias, John's father, also filled with the Holy Spirit! The story continues in **Luke 1:62-80**; *"So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him. Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel."*

Amazing to read Zacharias who was filled with the Holy Spirit, is now prophesying about the gift of the Prophet on his son John who was just born!

We read in **Luke 2:25-35** about an elderly man by the name of Simeon, who was told by God that he would not die until he personally saw Jesus, the Messiah. He also gives a prophecy about Jesus and also to Jesus' parents.

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It says; “*And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”*”

Adoration and worship of the Christ Child are the **theme** of these prophecies. Jesus learned wisdom just like everyone else and was dependent on these gifts of the Holy Spirit in his ministry. We read this in **Luke 2:40**; “*And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.*” **Luke 2:52** also says; “*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*” Jesus grew in all things.

Jesus operated in prophecy along with, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, teaching, discerning of spirits and the rest of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We see the Gift of Prophecy operating through Jesus in **Matthew 11:21-27** where it says; “*Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.*” At that time Jesus answered and said, “*I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*”

This same prophecy could be spoken about many ‘Christian’ nations today couldn’t it. You look at the number of nations; Canada, USA, England, Europe and others where the gospel has been preached for centuries, and yet they continue to fall into sin and don’t have a repentant heart. Not only countries, but provinces, states, cities and towns could be called Chorazin.

Another prophecy in the New Testament is from the High Priest Caiaphas, who prophesies about the death of Jesus. Was Caiaphas a godly man? He thought he was, but was he really pleasing to God? Not so. He was bitterly jealous of Jesus and hated him, wanting to put him to death. And yet we read it in **John 11:49-52** that God uses him as a **mouthpiece to prophecy about Jesus. God can use whoever he wants to get his word out.**

It says; “*And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.*”

This is a good example of the Spirit of the Lord temporarily coming on an individual whose heart was not right with God to reveal the future.

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Jesus says this in **Matthew 7:21-23**; *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

This word applies to so many today, but it also would have applied to Caiaphas, right. He prophesied about Jesus’ future, while at the same time manipulating the Sanhedrin and the Romans to crucify Him.

Let’s read what the Apostle Paul says in **1 Corinthians 13:2**; *“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.”*

A prophet may perform miracles and prophesy, and yet lose his soul when judged by God. These manifestations and gifts are not the core of becoming a Christian or being born again. It’s how you live for Jesus and lay down your life for him, living righteously. Judas was a good example of that for he obtained a part of the ministry, and operated in signs and wonders, miracles, yet in the end lost his soul. It says in **Acts 1:17**; *“for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”* And also in **Acts 1:25**; *“to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.”*

Prophecy in the New Testament is for the edification of the Church, and prophecy that predicts the future in the New Testament, is known as revelation.

1 Corinthians 14:6 says; *“But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?”*

Revelation and edification prophecy are different and not identical.

Examples of **revelation gifts** are found here;

- ✓ **Acts 11:27-30**; *“And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”*

The Old Testament Prophets revealed future events that were to take place. In the New Testament they’re revealing things to come, but not only that.

- ✓ **Acts 16:9-10** says; *“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”*

Here we see a revelation prophetic gift in operation, giving the Apostle Paul clear direction.

- ✓ **Acts 20:23** says; *“except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.”*

The Holy Spirit was revealing something specific that was going to happen to Paul in the future.

- ✓ **Acts 21:10-13** says; *“And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him*

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into the hands of the Gentiles.” Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” Another prophecy revealing Paul’s future.

- ✓ **Acts 21:8-9** says; “On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.”
- ✓ Peter received revelation while in a trance as we read in **Acts 10:9-16**; “The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” This was done **three** times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.”

This revelation that Peter received in the trance went against all that he and the Jewish nation believed in. There was no association with the Gentiles – or non Jewish persons. This was a life changing revelation that all Jews and Gentiles still partake in today. Three times the Holy Spirit had to reiterate to Peter and his hard-headed mindset. It finally was a reality.

The Gift of Prophecy is to edify the church and is available to all, but it is to be practised by a few in an orderly manner as the Holy Spirit wills. This is the Gift of Prophecy for edification, not the Gift of Prophecy for revelation.

- ✓ **1 Corinthians 14:5** says; “I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; [a]for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 14:24** says; “But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.”
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 14:3** says; “But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

This shows that the gift is operating in the body of Christ as the Holy Spirit wills in an orderly way. These prophecies are not like the Old Testament prophets who prophesied hellfire and judgement. Outside of the book of Revelation in the New Testament, these kinds of prophecies of hellfire do not happen any longer.

In the church today, these revelation gifts occur like it did with Paul, giving him a warning that something could happen if he went to Jerusalem. The majority of prophecy in church is for edification, exhortation and comfort, and not revelation for predicting the future.

Any prophecy given in church is not meant to add to the Bible. You cannot build doctrine on prophecy. The full Canon of the Bible is the more sure word of prophecy and no prophetic voices must add to it.

Prophecy merges the divine with the human. It says this in **1 Corinthians 14:32**; “And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.” The spirit of the prophet is subject to God and not the other way around.

Prophets may have different ways of delivering the word of the Lord, in that they are different in personality, but the divine work of the Holy Spirit is not subject to the personality.

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The Holy Spirit does not only have all power, but also has access to all the wisdom of God. The Holy Spirit has a reservoir of divine knowledge that He reveals in His time. That is what's available to us as He gives it through prophecy. **1 Corinthians 2:11-12** says; *“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 goes on to say; *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* The more you allow the Holy Spirit to fill you on a daily basis, the bigger the reservoir you have in you to be equipped.

The Gift of Prophecy unfolds truths that are needed for that time, it does not reveal new information that adds to the Bible. That's why we have the warning in **Revelation 22:18-19**; *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**”*

This is something to be seriously considered when you want to accommodate doctrines of man and incorporate them into or to take them away from not only the book of Revelation but the whole Bible. It would be like editing out the Book of Acts because your denomination doesn't believe in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit any more because according to them it all ceased with the Apostles. Erroneous. It would be a risky edit and risking eternity to cut out of the Bible things that don't suite you, by rejecting the Holy Spirit. You can't be selective and cherry pick what you believe or don't believe. It's all or nothing. Don't think that God is overlooking those who reject His Holy Spirit.

Anything that you choose to snip out, remove or discredit in the word of God to accommodate an ungodly lifestyle or to accommodate a denominational belief that is contrary to the Bible, will not be overlooked by God. Regardless if you believe it or not, the Word of God is infallible, unchangeable, irrefutable and indisputable. It stands alone unto itself and we'll all be judged by it.

A lot of secular humanism has crept into the church and made edits in the Bible while still maintaining a form of godliness with the religious privilege mentality instead of repenting of sin. Call sin, sin. What have you edited out of the Bible that doesn't apply to you today? How do you expect to not have God's judgement on you?

Prophecy that is true, is to center around Christ, and the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy. **Revelation 19:10** says; *“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.”*

All prophecy found in Old and New Testament are evolving around the person of Jesus Christ in one way or another. All prophecy's that don't relate directly to the person of Jesus Christ need to be called what they are, COUNTERFIET.

The Apostle John says this in **1 John 4:1-3**; *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”*

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The Old Testament is full of prophets who backslid and gave out false prophecies, some speaking out of their own heart and others with the work of evil spirits.

1 Corinthians 14:29-33 says; *“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”* All prophecies need to be judged.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 says; *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*

King Saul, who was numbered among the prophets, had evil spirits prophesy thru him as a result of his jealousy of David, which opened the door for the evil spirits. **1 Samuel 18:10-11** talks about it; *“And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul’s hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, “I will pin David to the wall!” But David escaped his presence twice.”*

Can you imagine that! He’s prophesying and at the same time trying to commit murder! You can see that happening today in churches where people are prophesying under the influence of the demonic while trying to pin the pastor, evangelist, pastor and anyone else in ministry, to the wall with their murderous tongues.

It got so bad for King Saul that in **1 Samuel 28:6** it says; *“And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.”* King Saul thought he was prophesying the word of the Lord, but the Lord had deserted him.

And this led King Saul to seek out direction from a witch! See the chain of events by Saul’s act of disobedience which he did not repent of! We continue reading in **1 Samuel 28:15-17**; *“Now Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” And Saul answered, “I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do.” Then Samuel said: “So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy? And the Lord has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.”*

We’ve talked about this before, that this spirit was not the Prophet Samuel, but a demon being manifested through a witch. A familiar spirit was conjured up, not the dead Prophet Samuel. So the end result is that an evil spirit posing to be Samuel the prophet, delivers a word to Saul that sets him up for failure before even going into battle and ensuring him of salvation in the end. It was a total lie. Many in the church are getting false prophecies by false prophets because they can’t hear the word of the Lord in their own lives any more. They’ve turned a deaf ear to the preacher and listen to the false prophet instead.

The Gift of Prophecy is not for the purpose of introducing new doctrines, but are for edification, exhortation, and comfort of the body of Christ. **2 Peter 1:16-21** says; *“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises*

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in your hearts; 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.”

In closing, check your heart today. What are you editing out of God’s word to suite your life and lifestyle? The Holy Spirit is grieved when we edit Him out of the scriptures, so have you edited Him out of your life? Just an illustration here, but what if you put on a feast of feasts for your spouse and family. You’ve laboured all day, spread the table with the finest and have prepared the most succulent, mouth-watering feast. But as your spouse and family show up, one says they’re not hungry, another says that they got something to eat on their way over, yet another smells of hamburgers from the fast food place up the road where they stopped before getting to your place. Tell me, how would you feel? None of them want to eat because they’re so full. It’s just a smidgen of how the Holy Spirit feels for the contempt shown the Word of God and church. They’ve filled themselves up with radio and TV preachers and teachers, the latest Christian book release, or meditated on false doctrines. Yet the table has been spread and prepared for them and they’re not hungry. Are you hungry for more of God and his Holy Spirit? Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit and let Him do the work in your life. He loves and cares for you, more than you can imagine. Even if you’re a smoldering wick, he won’t snuff you out, but he’s calling you with his love to receive ALL He has for you!

Please read this great script by Bob Snook entitled, [‘Endor’](#).