

The Baptism in The Holy Spirit Spring Bible Study Series

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit”
Ephesians 5:18

Week Focus: The Holy Spirit and His Gifts-Part 2-Motivational Gifts

Text: Romans 12

Resource: <https://iblp.org/questions/what-are-seven-motivational-gifts>

Objective:

1. To gain a greater understanding of the Holy Spirit and Me

Bellringer:

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

This week Introduction:

Today we look at the **seven motivational spiritual gifts**. Each Christian receives one at the time of salvation, and it is the tool through which God **works in us**.

Romans 12:3–8 describes “basic motivations,” which are characterized by inherent qualities or abilities within a believer—the Creator’s unique workmanship in him or her.

Through the motivational gifts, **God makes believers aware of needs that He wants to meet through them**, for His glory. Then, believers can minister to others through the **ministry and manifestation gifts of the Spirit**, in ways beyond mere human capability and ingenuity, with maximum effectiveness and minimum weariness.

Okay, lets look at each of the seven motivational gifts, including Biblical examples of those who had the gifts, exhortations from Romans 12 about properly exercising the gifts, and the life principles that best complement the strengths and weaknesses of each gift.

1.Prophecy-

A person with the motivational gift of prophecy applies the Word of God to a situation so that sin is exposed and relationships are restored. He or she has a strong sense of right and wrong and speaks out against compromise and evil.

- **Biblical Example-** The Apostle Peter played a significant role in the establishment of the early Church. Through his preaching, ministry, and writing, Peter encouraged men and women to believe in Christ, repent, and live according to the truth of God’s Word. *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”*(Acts 3:19).
- **Guidelines in Romans 12-** The exhortation of Romans 12:9 particularly relates to the gift of prophecy: *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good”*(ESV).
- **Life Principle to Apply-** It is especially important for a prophet to apply the principle of responsibility and maintain a clear conscience. This discipline equips the prophet to speak the truth boldly with love.

General Characteristics

A prophet's **basic motivational drive is to apply the Word of God to a situation so that sin is exposed** and relationships are restored. Prophets might be considered the "trumpets" of the Body of Christ who sound the alarm in the face of sin and compromise.

- A prophet **calls attention to sin and wrong attitudes**.
- The prophet is passionate about exposing sin, but not primarily so that sinners can be punished. Rather, he is passionate about exposing sin *so that truth can be revealed and fellowship with God can be restored*.
- A prophet has a **God-given ability to sense when compromises are being made**, and his nature demands that action be taken. This action may take the form of a protest or confrontation, or a conversation or correspondence.
- For a prophet, any solution that involves compromise is unacceptable.
- For the prophet, **to observe or discern sin and say nothing is, of itself, sin**. Naturally, knowing that a prophet has this perspective tends to make some of us feel intimidated or uncomfortable around them—even when we are guiltless! The prophet's abhorrence of sin can easily be viewed as a judgmental spirit...
- The prophet often displays the spiritual gift of discerning of spirits; he is able to discern true motives as the Holy Spirit gives him divine insights. As a general rule, the prophet is more interested in whether or not the heart is pure than whether or not the activity in question is acceptable.
- Prophets are usually **outspoken, sometimes brash**; they tell it like it is.
- They tend to see issues as "black or white," not "gray."

A Prophet's Strengths

- A prophet is **confident in his use of Scripture**, because he regards Scripture as the only source of truth.
- A mature prophet easily discerns hypocrisy, because God has gifted him to discern Truth.
- He is **usually more teachable than others**, especially when discipline or correction is required. When a wise prophet is confronted with his sin, he sees it as God sees it and consequently is crushed (if he is walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh).
- The prophet accepts absolutes easily. The rest of us try to explain them away; prophets simply take God at His Word.
- He is **not easily swayed by emotions**.
- A prophet has a **deep capacity to trust God**, based on what God has promised. This is the prophet's attitude: "If it's right, do it. Trust God for the outcome—it's His responsibility."

A Prophet's Weaknesses

- A prophet's need to be "painfully truthful" may result in **insensitivity or harshness**.
- Prophets often have **little sympathy and patience with people** who do not respond objectively.
- A prophet's sense of conviction may tempt him or her to become **intolerant or prideful**.
- Because of the prophet's deep consciousness of sin, he sometimes seems to have a **negative, "gloomy" approach to life**.

The Common Traits of Prophets

Following are some traits commonly observed in those who have the [motivational spiritual gift of prophecy](#). These traits can be used to benefit others, or they can be misused and thereby cause discord in the Body of Christ.

When a believer walks according to the Spirit (see Galatians 5:25), his unique perspective (in this case, prophecy) is demonstrated through traits that reflect the character of Christ. However, when a believer walks in "the flesh," making choices that are determined by his sinful nature, his unique perspective is demonstrated through undesirable, ungodly traits. (See Galatians 5:16–17.)

Read these examples thoughtfully and prayerfully, and **ask God to help you discern if your motivational gift is prophecy**. If it is, be encouraged as you learn about the special virtue and wisdom that God has given you with this gift. Be warned of the temptation to misapply these Godly traits by failing to walk in the grace God gives you to use them righteously. (See Hebrews 12:15.)

Need to Express Themselves

Prophets need to express their thoughts and ideas verbally, especially when matters of right and wrong are involved. In the written account of the Gospels, Peter (who clearly had the gift of prophecy) spoke more often than any other disciple. He also became the spokesman for the early Church. (See Acts 2:14, 3:12, 4:8, 11:4.)

Misuse of this trait: *Exposes without restoring*

*A prophet's primary concern about stopping the spread of evil tends to motivate him to expose a sinner rather than restore him. However, the Bible instructs us as follows: "If any man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"(Galatians 6:1). **The prophet believes that exposure of sin is the first step of restoration** and he should work to complete the process.*

Quick Impressions of People

Prophets tend to make quick judgments about what they see and hear. They also tend to express their views before others speak. In the Gospels, Peter spoke first more than any other disciple did. (See Matthew 14:28; 15:15; 16:16, 22; 17:4; 19:27; John 6:68, 13:6.)

Misuse of this trait: *Jumps to conclusions*

*Prophets tend to draw conclusions from a few known facts. **Once a hasty conclusion has been made, prophets tend to look for confirming evidence**. This action can result in their taking words and actions of the accused out of context in order to prove their points.*

Alertness to Dishonesty

Prophets have an amazing ability to sense when someone or something is not what it appears to be. **They react strongly to any form of deception or dishonesty.** Peter may have sensed deception in Ananias and Sapphira, because he was prompted to question them about it. His condemnation resulted in their deaths. (See Acts 5:3–10.)

Misuse of this trait: *Reacts harshly to sinners*

When a prophet sees sin, he tends to denounce it so strongly that it can appear to others as "overkill." After exposing the sin, the prophet tends to expect immediate repentance regardless of whether his rebuke was given in love or was even fully accurate. His motive in magnifying sin is to promote repentance.

Desire for Justice

Prophets tend to cut off those who sin so that justice will be done, others will be warned, and evil will not spread. Peter desired to cut off his offenders, and he asked Jesus how often he would have to forgive them. (See Matthew 18:21.)

Misuse of this trait: *Being unforgiving and ending relationships with those who fail. It is difficult for a prophet separate the sin from the sinner. Therefore, he tends to reject them both with equal vigor. Those who hear his harshness interpret his denunciations as angry tirades and proud reactions.* Peter's epistles provide a balance of truth and love.

Open About Personal Faults

Prophets are as open about their own failures as they want others to be about theirs. When Christ appeared to the disciples, Peter fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8).

Misuse of this trait: *Condemn themselves*

The harsh judgments that prophets have for others, they also have for themselves.

They tend to be extremely self-critical and feel worthless when they fail. After Peter denied Jesus, the heavenly messenger who proclaimed the Lord's resurrection knew Peter's need for extra reassurance of God's love and said, "Go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there you shall see him, as he said unto you" (Mark 16:7).

Wholehearted Involvement

Once prophets are committed to a cause, they are wholeheartedly involved in it. Within the context of their commitment, they are quick to respond to situations and opportunities. When Peter recognized Jesus walking on the water, he asked Jesus to bid him to come. (See Matthew 14:28.)

Misuse of this trait: *Being impetuous*

Because of his tendency to make quick decisions, a prophet can be impulsive and can vacillate between extremes. At first Peter refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet; then he asked Jesus to wash his whole body! (See John 13:6–10.)

Loyalty to Truth vs. People

Prophets are loyal to truth even if it means cutting off relationships. When Jesus asked the disciples if they were also going to leave Him, Peter replied that he would stay because Christ had the words of eternal life. (See John 6:67–69.)

Misuse of this trait: *Inappropriately speaking out*

Whenever prophets see or hear something that is wrong, they feel responsible to speak out against it. It usually does not occur to them to ask, Whose responsibility is this? Do I have all the facts? Would it be best for me to take action at this time? Their primary focus is on the sin that needs to be dealt with—not on whether or not it is their responsibility to deal with it.

Willingness to Suffer for Right

Prophets are eager to embrace suffering when it comes as a result of standing for the truth or doing what is right. When he was beaten for obeying God rather than men, Peter rejoiced that he was counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus. (See Acts 5:29–42.)

Misuse of this trait: *Lack tactfulness in rebuke*

Prophets tend to be painfully direct when correcting others, regardless of who they are. This bluntness can cause the prophet embarrassment, as when Peter rebuked Jesus. (See Mark 8:31–33.)

Persuasive in Defining Truth

Prophets have a special ability to be articulate in defining what is right and what is wrong. Great conviction was brought to thousands on the Day of Pentecost when Peter pointed out, "Ye have taken [Jesus], and by wicked hands have crucified and slain [Him]" (Acts 2:23).

Misuse of this trait: *Dwell on the negative*

Prophets tend to divide everything into two classes: right or wrong. Once they label a person or activity as evil or wrong, that judgment tends to be fixed in their minds, and they often feel compelled to persuade others to agree with them.

Are You a Prophet?

Do you recognize any of these positive characteristics or their misapplication as ones that *you* have demonstrated? **Do the motivations of a prophet guide your decisions and actions?** If so, rejoice, because God has given you a unique responsibility in the Body of Christ!

Activity: In your groups discuss each section then yield to the Spirit and pray. Pray for those with the gift, pray for its proper use in this local body and the Church at large, pray for the purifying of the prophetic, pray for openness to the gift, etc.

Next week: The Motivational Gifts (Administration, Operation, Manifestation)