

Prophets & Seers

Living in the Spiritual Realm 3, Session 8

Three Levels of Prophesying

- The Prophet
 - One whom God uses frequently, who has a record of accuracy, who is acknowledged as a prophet by those in spiritual authority
- Gift of prophecy
 - 1 Co 12:8, 10, “To one there is given through the Spirit ... to another prophecy”
 - 1 Co 14:1, “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.”
 - 1 Co 14:37, “If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord’s command.”
- All may prophesy
 - 1 Co 14:5, “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.”
 - “prophesy” (Gk, *v, propheteuo*): to speak under the influence of divine inspiration
 - 1 Co 14:31, “For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.”
 - 1 Co 14:39, “Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.”
- The key to prophesying is becoming aware of God’s will, what he’s doing or what’s happening in the spiritual realm, whether that revelation comes by hearing, seeing images or some other way – visions, dreams, intuition, feeling, whatever
- These three levels also apply to those who experience spiritual sight
- 1 Sam 9:9, “Formerly in Israel, if a man went to inquire of God, he would say, ‘Come, let us go to the seer,’ because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.”
- A seer is one type or category of prophet
- All seers are prophets, but not all prophets are seers

Seers

- There are many expressions of seer gift; e.g., some primarily have visions, others primarily have dreams, others primarily have mental images
- Num 12:6, “When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.”
- Prophets, people with the gift of prophecy or anyone who prophesies may receive their revelation primarily through spiritual hearing, spiritual seeing or both
- Knowing God’s voice is essential to those who see spiritually, because they need God to explain what they see & what to do about it

Everyone

- God gave all of us spiritual senses; standard equipment on human spirits
- Acts 2:17-18
 - ¹⁷ In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
 - ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
- “prophesy” (Gk, v, *propheteuo*)
- I don’t think this passage categorizes who will prophesy, see visions or have dreams
 - Ps 135:8-9
He struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
the firstborn of men and animals.
He sent his signs and wonders into your midst, O Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.
 - Some poetic couplets say same things differently or related things
- Your age doesn’t determine which spiritual experiences you’ll have

Purposes of Spiritual Sight

- 1 Co 12:7, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”
 - “common good” (Gk, v, *symphero*): to be profitable, advantageous or appropriate to a particular end
 - Every spiritual gift or manifestation has a specific purpose
 - Godly character is based on humility & agape
 - Spiritual gifts primarily are for service to others as expressions of God’s love & nature
 - You may receive benefit from your spiritual gifts, but that’s not an acceptable motivation
- 1 Co 14:3-4, ³ “But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies [strengthens] himself, but he who prophesies edifies [strengthens] the church.”
 - “prophesy” (Gk, v, *propheteuo*): to speak under the influence of divine inspiration
 - I suggest: verbal or visual inspiration; either specific words to say or an image to describe; both can be inspired
 - “strengthens” or “edifies,” same Greek word (*oikodomeo*) translated differently
- Spiritual sight has the same purposes as prophesying: serving others by strengthening, encouraging, comforting them

Recommended Daily Activity

- Focus your attention on the spiritual realm – e.g., visualize Jesus – & pray with your spirit
- Use your spiritual authority & declare you will experience more of the spiritual realm
 - (example) “It is God’s will for me to see the spiritual realm, so in the authority Jesus gave me I declare I will see it.”
- With your eyes closed, ask Holy Spirit where you should look, then open your eyes & look
- Ask Holy Spirit to explain what you’re seeing

Closing

- God can reveal things to us through words, images, dreams or visions.