

PRAYER STUDY #84
PROPHECY REVISITED

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See you do it not! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren that have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 19:10

And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ....

Ephesians 4:11-13

There is absolutely NOTHING that I see in the scriptures that says that the gift of prophecy or the Five fold Ministry Office of a Prophet has passed away. In fact, the Bible is full of scriptures that say just the exact opposite. Prophecy is not preaching as some would want you to believe, and indeed the same Greek words are not used when the Bible translators correctly translate *preaching* as opposed to translate *prophecy*.

The one who walked in all of the Five fold Ministry Offices without measure was Jesus. He left these 5 enablements as gifts to His Church. We must remember "**Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever**" (Hebrews 13:8)

There are false prophets, many who are wolves in sheep's clothing, and we must be aware and not take every word we receive from a "prophet" as a true word from the Lord without being assured that the prophet is walking in holiness and without taking certain safeguards.

My Own Safeguards are the following:

1. Any prophecy is NEVER contrary to scripture. (Revelation 22:18-19)
2. A prophecy does not condemn but does edify, exhort, or comfort. (1st Corinthians 14:3)
3. Judge the prophecy. A prophecy should witness to your spirit. You should also, in general have a peace about personal prophecy. (1st John 5:9-10)
4. Spirit-filled Pastors and those who have the rule over your spiritually should witness to the prophecy. (Hebrews 13:7)

5. In the multitude of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 24:6)
6. You do not have to try to make a prophecy come to pass. Put the prophecy on the shelf and let the Holy Spirit bring it to pass. You do, however, and this may sound like a contradiction, but it is not, **wage a good warfare.** Paul goes on to explain what he means: Have faith and keep a good conscience. For example, if someone prophesies to me that we are going to be given a building for the ministry, my responsibility is to begin, by faith, to praise the Lord for this blessing, to pray about it diligently, and to keep my conscience clear, in other words to have no idols in my heart. (1st Timothy 1:18) I do not have to help the Holy Spirit out by trying to make it come to pass, as Sarah did with the birth of Ishmael, but must wait on the Lord to see it come to pass.
7. Finally, those who receive a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. (Matthew 10:41)

The Purpose of Prophecy According to Don Van Hoosier of High Point

1. To edify the believers, that is to build them up (a far cry from tearing down and discouraging them)-1st Corinthians 14:4. It will be like a fresh breath from the risen Christ blowing new life into our tired spirits.
 2. To exhort, meaning "a calling near." We will sense a new awareness of His unseen presence with us-1st Corinthians 14:3.
 3. To comfort, console, and give solace to the sobbing spirit until it sobs its last heaving sigh and rests as a child on the breast of its understanding parent-1st Corinthians 14:3.
 4. To convict the unbeliever and make manifest the secrets of his heart-1st Corinthians 14:24-25.
 5. That believers may learn in the mysterious realm of the spiritual what they cannot grasp with the natural mind-1st Corinthians 14:24-25.
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A Few of the Many Verses Dealing with Prophecy, Prophesying, Prophets

For, as we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another, having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophecy according to the proportion of faith; or minister, let us wait on our ministering, or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with

liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:4-8,

(Has ministering passed away, has teaching, has exhortation, has giving, etc.? NEITHER HAS PROPHECY.)

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Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease: whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 1st Corinthians 13:8-10,

(Have tongues ceased? Has knowledge ceased? Has that which is perfect come since Paul wrote these words? Obviously he was talking about a future event, i.e. the Second Coming of Christ.)

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Despise not prophesyings.

1st Thessalonians 5:20

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Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants, the prophets.

Amos 3:7

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And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

Joel 2:28-32

(Both Joel and Amos are books that look to the Last Days. These prophecies are yet to be fully fulfilled. Yet in these books we still hear about prophets!)

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Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord, and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Malachi 4:5-6

(Obviously, this is a future event, and Elijah most likely is an Elijah company of believers. They will have a prophet mantle to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers.)

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

1st Corinthians 14:39-40

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Now, therefore, ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.

Ephesians 2:19-20

(“Paul told the Ephesians that they had been brought into the Church and were built upon the foundation of the apostle and prophet, with Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone from which the whole building of the Church is aligned. This was prototyped when Apostle Paul and Prophet Silas went to Ephesus and won many to Christ. They stayed there and established the Saints into the first New Testament church built upon the foundation of the apostle and the prophet. They exalted Christ Jesus as the sovereign Head of the Church, and its Chief Cornerstone. Apostles and prophets are a continuing ministry in the Church, just as Christ continues to be the Chief Cornerstone. Some theologians, however, improperly interpreted this Scripture to say that the Church and its whole age of activity were built upon the ministry of the original apostles and prophets. So they reasoned that as soon as the Church, as a whole, was established(sometimes within the first century), then the ministries of the apostle and prophet were no longer needed. Therefore, these theologians dispensationally deleted those ministries after that time. In this view the Bible then became the foundation of the Church as the complete revealed will of God, thereby eliminating the founding and revealing ministry of apostle and prophet.

This position is difficult to maintain because of the lack of scriptural support and historical proof. The Bible was not canonized and brought together as one book until the third century. In addition, not one Scripture in the Bible indicates that apostles and prophets were ever to be taken out of the Church.

If you are not completely convinced, then read all the New Testament word-for-word to find out what the Word of God has to say about apostles and prophets. Do not read with a mind-set of what tradition says the Scriptures mean, but be open to what the Scriptures actually say.”)

Bishop Bill Hamon in *The Day of the Saints* pp.173-176