



**Antioch Fellowship Missionary
Baptist Church**

Lesson 3: Is There a Word from the Lord?

Introduction:

Today, we are continuing our series on the Holy Spirit and His work in the local church, and we are focusing on the gift of prophecy. It is one of those gifts that create some questions. I believe it starts with the following questions.

How and to whom does God speak?

Charismatic View: Prophecy is a word from the Lord that brings God's guidance to specific details of our lives, gives personal edification, and bring our times of worship to awareness of God's presence. The most extreme views hold the prophetic word in High authority, sometimes more important than the written.

Cessationist View: Prophecy is the ability to speak or write words directly from God with the authority of God and ended when the New Testament was completed. The idea of prophecy challenges the authority of the written word of God.

Define the genesis of prophecy and examine its Biblical evolution:

Old Testament Prophets

Messengers from God

Haggai 1:13
2 Samuel 12:25
2 Kings 20:4-6
Jeremiah 28:9

Speaking the Words of God

Exodus 4:12
Numbers 22:38
Jeremiah 1:9
Ezekiel 2:7

New Testament Apostles

Messengers of Christ Prophets

- John 20:21
- Matthew 28:19
- Acts 22:21

Connected to Old Testament

- 2 Peter 3:2
- Luke 11:49

Why “apostle” instead of prophet? It’s probably because of Joel’s declaration that prophesy was going to be accessible to everyone

Authoritative because:

- They were the primary recipients of the Gospel, directly from Jesus (Galatians 1:11-12)
- They were given the authority of God Himself (1 Thess. 2:13, 2 Thess. 3:6;14)

NOTE: The authority of the Old Testament Prophets and the New Testament apostles is without challenge or comparison. The idea of prophetic authority today cannot be considered, in the same way, as THE word of God. No prophetic word for today has the authority of scripture. While it will be consistent with scripture, it will not be authoritative. The evidence is New Testament Prophecy after the time of the apostles.

New Testament Prophets

- Agabus: Acts 11:27-30; Acts 21:10-11
- New Believers in Ephesus: Acts 19:6
- Believers in Tyre: Acts 21:4
- Phillip’s Daughters: Acts 21:9

What is New Testament Prophecy?

“Speaking merely human words to something God brings to mind”- Wayne Grudem

- Revelation from the Holy Spirit
 - Comes Spontaneously
 - Comes to an individual
 - Comes from God
 - Gives insight from God’s perspective
 - Is recognizable to the prophet

The Holy Spirit & the Local Church

- Report or declaration of that revelation

Other Notes Concerning Prophecy

- New Testament Prophets don't have all the answers or see everything (1 Corinthians 13: 9;12)
- Prophecy or any gift without love is useless (1 Corinthians 13:2)
- The intention of prophecy in the New Testament Church is to “wound, bind up and encourage” (1 Corinthians 14:3)

HOMEWORK: How should it look in the local church and why does it matter?
(1 Corinthians 12-14)

- It is impossible to deny the existence of prophecy and, next week's topic, tongues according to Paul. It is not a conversation of if it exists in the local church, but how it should function and be governed within the local church.
- A note about 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. Paul has already affirmed women and their ability to declare in the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 11:5. The context of 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 is rooted in the responsibility to judge the prophecy (v29). Paul is saying that women in the Corinthian church shouldn't have the authority to judge or determine prophecy, not that they aren't permitted to speak or declare. It is a conversation about authority not ability. Paul makes it clear that women can speak and declare. Paul is saying that they shouldn't have the authority to judge or make determinations from a doctrinal standpoint.
- The prophet was in submission to the apostle
- All gifts are valuable!