

# Five Levels of Prophecy

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The Scripture teaches us five levels of prophecy:

## PROPHECY OF THE SCRIPTURE

The highest level of prophecy is the Scripture itself. The Bible declares about itself that the Word of God is a "more sure word of prophecy". II Peter 1:19-21 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy... no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy (scripture) came not in old time by the will of man..." In other words, the Scripture is infallible, inerrant, and is worthy of our undivided attention. The Scripture cannot fail; it is untainted by human error. Scripture is a more sure word to you than seeing a vision of Jesus, hearing His audible voice, or receiving a word from a prophet. Put the Word of God first place in your daily life and make it final authority over your attitudes and affairs. Become a "Bibleholic," a "Word addict" that requires an overdose every day.

## THE OFFICE OF NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET

The second level of prophecy is the office of prophet. Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord God will do nothing but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets." Ephesians 2:20 "And ye are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone." Ephesians 3:5 "...it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Ephesians 4:11 "And He gave some apostles; and some prophets and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers..." In the natural, every building has both a foundation underneath and a structure on top. Apostles and prophets are the foundation laying ministries. Evangelists, pastors, and teachers are the structure building ministries. When a recognized apostle or prophet speaks "Thus saith the Lord..." it carries enormous weight in the spirit realm. A prophet's prophetic word blesses, establishes, edifies, confirms, directs, corrects, comforts, roots out, destroys, plants and builds. I Samuel 3:19-20 "and all Israel knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord. And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground."

There are also five kinds of words from a prophet. Confirmational Prophecy. Creative Prophecy. Comforting Prophecy. Challenging Prophecy. And finally, Correctional or Cautioning Prophecy. The believer who is not genuinely called to this spiritual office should never attempt to copy this anointing or move in this office. Confirmational prophecy is when the prophet speaks a word over you that confirms what God has already been dealing with you personally. It serves as a double witness of God's leadings or dealings in your life and gives you faith to pursue His plans for your life. Creative prophecy is when the Spirit wants to do something for you or launch something into or through your life, and it otherwise would never have happened without a creative prophetic word released over your life and into your heart. Creative prophecy is the Amos 3:7 type of prophecy, setting in motion from scratch something God wants to do. Confirmational prophecy is the Acts 21:10-11 type of prophecy, confirming what you already know.

I must also briefly mention here that the New Testament Office of Prophet is different from the Old Testament Office of Prophet. Under the OT, only three people were anointed - the prophet, the priest, and the king. The prophet carried an enormous weight of authority and responsibility before God. Under the NT, however, all believers have anointings and the OT Office of Prophet has been divided up into five callings or offices - apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher (Eph 4:11). God no longer gives that much authority to a single office or a single man. Prophets today who think that they carry the same authority as OT prophets, set themselves up for a fall. For example, there are two brothers I know that in years gone by were greatly used by the Lord and were very accurate and detailed when they moved in their gifts. However, they formulated too

much of their beliefs about prophets from the Old Testament and got puffed up with pride. And pride leads to error. One of these brothers travels around the country now, telling everyone God has renamed him "Bar-Enoch" and the other tells everyone he is "Bar-Elijah." They actually believe they are the two witnesses spoken of in the book of Revelation. Such foolishness brings great reproach on the true office of prophet.

## **MOTIVATIONAL GIFT OF PROPHECY**

The next level of prophecy is found in Romans 12:6-8. This is not to be confused with the office of prophet, which is a person who is called and separated, as a five-fold minister of the Gospel, and then further separated to the anointing of a prophet. The motivational gift of prophecy is a believer who is motivated to move in the gift of "prophecy" and the "spirit of prophecy" more frequently than others. Phillip's daughters were "prophesiers" yet they weren't "prophets" like Agabus (Acts 21:8-11). In I Peter 4:10-11 we see some believers are talented by God to move in vocal expressions. Others are gifted to serve in more practical "hands-on" expressions. There are three vocal motivation gifts and four practical motivation gifts in Romans 12:6-8. One of those vocal gifts is prophesying.

## **PROPHECY**

The fourth level of prophecy is found in I Corinthians 14:3, "But every one who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement, and comfort." Some poor translations change the word "prophecy" to "preach". This is a blatant error for "preach" and "prophecy" are two entirely different Greek words. The difference between the words is two-fold: Source and Time-Element. The source of preaching is knowledge of God's Word. The source of prophecy is the Holy Spirit (of course, prophecy will never contradict God's Word). The time-element of preaching is accumulated knowledge over a period of time. The time-element of prophecy is "on the spot" instantaneous revelation. Prophecy is a spontaneous supernatural message from God to the believer that strengthens, encourages, and comforts. All Spirit-filled believers may move in the gift of prophecy from time to time as the Spirit wills. But note that there is no prediction, no announcement of future events, and no correction in the simple gift of prophecy. Again 1 Co 14:3 says that the simple gift of New Testament prophecy does only three things: strengthen, encourage, and comfort. The simple gift of NT prophecy is not given for prediction or correction, only edification. The believer should not attempt to speak correction or prediction over someone's life without a separation and call to the office of prophet; this is obnoxious, unscriptural, manipulative, and can be dabbling with familiar spirits.

## **SPIRIT OF PROPHECY**

The final level of prophecy is what I will coin the "spirit of prophecy" from Revelation 19:10. The "spirit of prophecy" is what comes on a preacher that gives his message extra "umph", fire, and freshness. The "spirit of prophecy" is that indefinable something that often comes on you while you're witnessing to a friend. Suddenly, you can tell you're sharing exactly what the other person needs to hear. The "spirit of prophecy" is what inspires you to tell another believer how much you appreciate them with more than just a "thank you". The "spirit of prophecy" is that indefinable something that comes on you while you're praying that causes you to "change gears". You notice that you're praying with more inspiration. The "spirit of prophecy" is what prompts you to pick up the phone and just encourage or comfort a brother or sister in the Lord. The "spirit of prophecy" is simply being inspired to speak for God! Whereas prophecy is from God to you, the "spirit of prophecy" may be from you to God, or from you to another. Unlike "prophecy" which is a direct "Thus saith the Lord to you", the "spirit of prophecy" is more like "Thus saith me with more inspiration from the Spirit than usual."