



## **The Gifts of the Spirit : The Gift of Prophecy (Part 2)** **March 09, 2008**

There are different aspects that must be understood when giving/receiving a prophecy:

- Revelation – receiving the content of the message
- Presentation – how the message is delivered
- Interpretation/understanding – what the message means to the recipient
- Application – what course of action is required
- Timing – when must this action be taken
- Confirmation – This is very important when the prophecy has correction, direction, prediction, elements in it.

### **Revelation : Receiving prophecy**

1 Chronicles 29:29

Now the acts of King David, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Samuel the seer (Heb. 'roeh'), in the book of Nathan the prophet (Heb. 'nabi'), and in the book of Gad the seer (Heb. 'hozeh').

Both the Hebrew words 'roeh' and 'hozeh' referring to "the seer", deal with visions, gazing at or seeing something in the spiritual realm.

The word 'nabi' translated prophet, and a similar Hebrew word 'naba' translated prophesy deal with the inspirational nature of prophetic reception. A common meaning of these words is to bubble-up or flow forth. These carry the idea that the words of the Lord are released through inspiration and they bubble up or come as drops – words, sentences, phrases – bubbling up from within the prophet, in contrast to the visual process of prophetic reception through visions.

- **visual process (seeing) : receive through what they see**
- **inspirational process (bubbling) : receive through what bubbles up from within**

Hosea 12:10

Numbers 12:5-8

God uses different "modes of communication" to convey His thoughts to His prophets. Visions and symbols are some of the methods He uses.

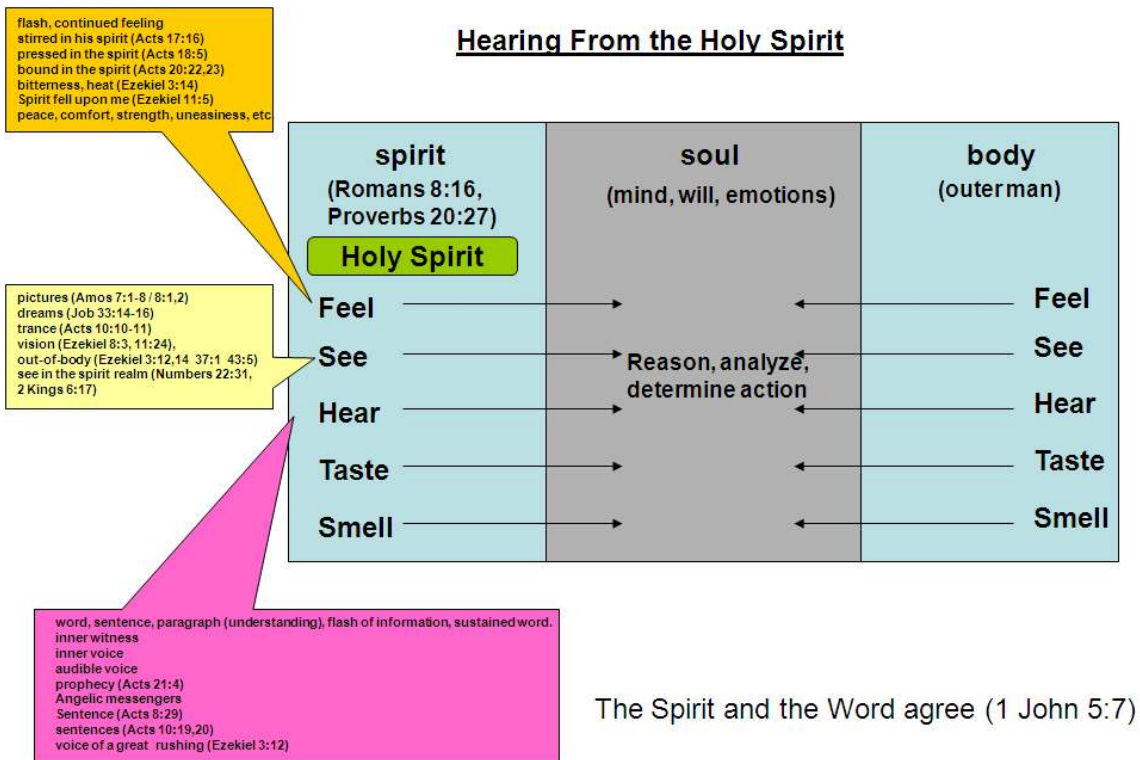
- **"Visions"** represents something that is "seen". This could be as in seeing into the spirit realm, seeing a picture that comes to the prophet's mind, etc. The picture could be presented to the physical eyes, or impressed on his imagination, or seen with the spiritual eyes. This could happen when awake, when in a trance, or when asleep through a dream.
- **"Symbols"** represents parables, similitudes, comparisons, riddles, or acts (drama, personifications which the Lord directed His prophets to do which portrayed the message).

Different ways that the Spirit might communicate with you:

- The still small inner witness (impression)
- A flash of information in your spirit



- A knowing on the inside
- Pictures
- A word, then a sentence, then a paragraph....
- Physical sensations
- Dreams, night visions



Getting Started:

- Pray
- Perceive
- Prophecy

Discern if the Holy Spirit is speaking. If He is not – just keep quiet.

Our greatest hindrances to moving in prophecy are our emotions, our opinions, and our reasoning.

### **Presentation : Delivering prophecy**

Prophecy can be delivered :

- To Individuals
- In small Group settings
- In large church gatherings



- By prophetic presbytery – a team of prophetic ministers ministering to individuals prophetically (1 Timothy 4:14)

#### Guidelines

- Use the gifts for edification, not for embarrassing people, or destruction or condemnation! 1 Corinthians 14:3, 5,12,16,17
- Let every one participate – possible in small groups 1 Corinthians 14:26
- Follow instructions 1 Corinthians 14:27,28
- Allow yourself to be judged and corrected. Similarly, if some one makes a mistake, correct in love. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
- Promote peace. Maintain order. 1 Corinthians 14:33,40

#### **Interpretation : Understanding what God is saying**

Wrong interpretation to a genuine prophetic word can cause chaos and result in a lot of problems!

Many times God uses words, sentences, pictures or actions in a symbolic way. They mean something other than their literal sense. Therefore, we need to be careful in interpreting them. A wrong interpretation of an accurate prophetic word, could lead to wrong application, resulting in disaster!

A symbol is some **object** (real or imagined) or **action** which depicts a meaning or conveys a message. A symbol may not always have a **self-contained meaning**. In some cases, the symbol is **assigned a meaning**. Example: An iron pillar representing Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:18) has a self-contained meaning of strength, and longevity/durability. Good figs representing Jewish captives (Jeremiah 24:3-5) is not a self-contained meaning but an assigned meaning. Symbols with self-contained meanings can be easily understood. For other symbols that do not have a self-contained meaning, we need to receive from God the meaning He is assigning to that symbol while communicating a message to us.

Some important guidelines in interpreting prophetic symbolism:

1. Always interpret using Biblical symbolism – what do those symbols mean in Scripture. Do not use New Age or other forms of symbolic interpretation.
2. There will be times when the symbols seen are not found in Scripture. In this case we need to receive the specific meaning the Spirit of God is conveying along with the symbols in the image (picture)/vision/dream that you are seeing.
3. In a picture/dream/vision some objects could be literal and some objects in the same picture could be symbolic. Identify what is literal and what is symbolic. Differentiate these. Do not assume that because some of the prophetic image contains symbols, that everything else is also symbolic.
4. Identify your **audience** – who is God speaking to: to you, to another person, to a gathering of people, etc.
5. Identify the **meaning or resemblance** between the symbol and the audience, that God is speaking about
6. If you are unable to receive immediately the meaning or resemblance between the symbol and the intended audience, try to discern the following: (a)What major characteristic(s) do the symbol and audience have in common. Find at least one major point of resemblance/commonality. Avoid unnecessarily drawing many parallels between the symbol and audience. (b)Be careful not to assign the wrong characteristics of the



symbol to the audience. Example a lion is both stealthy (prowls) and strong. The stealthy characteristic is assigned to the devil in 1 Peter 5:8,9 and the strength characteristic is assigned to the Lord Jesus (Revelation 5:5). A dove is both gentle and simple (easily tricked). The gentle nature is assigned to believers in Matthew 10:16, and their simple (easily misled, a silly dove without understanding) is used against Ephraim (Hosea 7:11).

### **Application : Doing something with what God has spoken**

All personal prophecy is conditional, partial, progressive.

CONDITIONAL, all personal prophecies are conditional whether or not conditions are stated in the prophecy.

PARTIAL, we know in part and we prophecy in part. Areas not addressed in a personal prophecy are equally important to God.

PROGRESSIVE, each personal prophecy will add to what God has already said.

Abraham received eleven personal prophecies over the span of his life. Each one progressed him on in his walk with the Lord. Each one expanded his vision and increased the details concerning Abraham's ministry and destiny. Abraham passed seven major tests of obedience and faith action. After each test God increased and reemphasized His prophetic promises to Abraham.

#### Your Responsibility to Seeing Your Personal Prophecy Fulfilled

1. Believe the prophetic word Isaiah 44:26 2 Chronicles 20:20 (e.g. Mary Luke 1:38)
2. Obey the prophetic word
3. Use the prophetic word in spiritual warfare 1 Timothy 1:18
4. Recognize and continue till God's "due time" for the fulfillment of the prophetic word
5. Pray for a fulfillment of the prophetic word
6. Go through the necessary preparation process for the fulfillment of the prophetic word
7. The areas that were not addressed are as important as the areas that were addressed in the prophetic word 1 Corinthians 13:9

### **Timing : Knowing when to act or expect fulfillment**

Psalm 90:4

Prophetic timeline varies according to whom God is addressing. When the word is for individuals, then God usually speaks with respect to a lifetime. When God speaks to a family or household, He speaks in terms of generations. When He speaks to nations the prophetic timeline spans centuries or several hundreds of years. When He speaks to His people at large—the Church or Israel, He speaks in terms of ages or thousands of years.

Think about this, Jesus, speaking to the Church said in Revelation 22:12, "behold I am coming quickly...." It has been about two thousand years since He spoke that Word to Apostle John and He is still yet to come.

#### Prophetic fore-shortening

In the same sentence, there could be parts of the prophetic word that have different time elements. For example Isaiah 9:6,7 The first part of this talks about the birth of Jesus and the



second part talks about His government. There is a gap of about 2000 years between the first part (His birth) and the second (His Rule), but both are presented in one sentence.

Understand the timing of what God has spoken. Be patient.

### **Confirmation**

2 Corinthians 13:1

- The inner witness : Does the Spirit bear witness? Is there a sense of peace and calmness about the prophetic word?
- The consistent versus the sudden : What has God been consistently speaking to you over the months/years? If this prophecy is a sudden alteration of what you know God has been consistently speaking, then be cautious in receiving it.
- The mouth of other witnesses

Understand the higher value of wisdom over revelation, because without wisdom, revelation can be misused.

Lets' prophesy!

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Prophetic Evangelism – a fresh move of God in evangelism that is transforming lives out on the streets!



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**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

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