

**THE GIVER AND THE GIFTS**  
**WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES IN THE CHRISTIAN AND IN THE CHURCH**  
**Session 3: Prophecy and Tongues**  
03.02.08

**WHAT IS THE GIFT OF PROPHECY?**

“Declaring the current burden or heart of God to his people for the purpose of edification (build up), exhortation (stir up) and consolation (cheer up).”<sup>1</sup>

“The gift of prophecy... should be defined not as “predicting the future,” nor as “proclaiming a word from the Lord,” nor as “powerful preaching”—but rather as “telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.”<sup>2</sup>

“Prophecy is a report of a revelation.”<sup>3</sup>

Possible forms:

Possible settings:

**PROPHECY FOR THE CHURCH**

OBSERVATIONS FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 14:

1. Prophecy is highly desirable (14:1, 39).
2. Prophecy is for building up the church (14:3, 26)
3. Prophecy is not authoritative (14:29; cf. 1 Ths. 5:19-21)

“The presupposition is that any one [prophecy]... is expected to be *mixed* in quality, and the wheat must be separated from the chaff.”<sup>4</sup>

4. Everything must be done in order.

What we’re looking for at the prophecy mic:

- Clarity
- Specificity
- Brevity
- Thematic integrity
- A credible source

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<sup>1</sup> Brent Detwiler, *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, unpublished outline, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1049.

<sup>3</sup> Mark Prater.

<sup>4</sup> D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit*, 95.

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## PERSONAL PROPHECY

How to get started...

- Pray
- Be content with present gifts and eager for more
- Grow toward Christian maturity
- Have right motives
- Listen and share what you hear
- Start small, but be faithful. Use caregroup as a testing ground.

<b>WHAT IS THE GIFT OF TONGUES?</b>
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### Definition:

Tongues: prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.<sup>5</sup>

“The gift of tongues is simply the Spirit-energized ability to pray, worship, give thanks, or speak in a language other than your own or the one you might have learned in school.”<sup>6</sup>

## PERSONAL USE

### FOR THE CHURCH, WITH INTERPRETATION

### GETTING STARTED

- Pray and ask God for the gift of tongues
- As you pray to God, if you begin to think words that you do not understand, say them.

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<sup>5</sup> Grudem, p. 1070.

<sup>6</sup> Sam Storms, *The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, 119.

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<b>Tongues and Prophecy: A Comparison from 1 Cor. 14:1-25<sup>7</sup></b>		
	Tongues	Prophecy
Audience	God	People (i.e. church)
Person edified	Self	Church
Content	Mysteries	Words of upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation
Intelligible?	No (unless interpreted)	Yes
Description	Speak in tongues, pray, sing, give thanks	Prophecy
Type of sign	Negative for unbelievers	Positive for believers (and also for 'humble' unbelievers)

**BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today*, Wayne Grudem.

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<sup>7</sup> Created by Mark Mullery.