

Second Baptist Church

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Understanding Spiritual Gifts (Part 4)

The Gift of Prophecy

I. What Is the Gift of Prophecy?

Definition:

The gift of prophecy is the Spirit-enabled ability to C_____ God's message to people in a specific situation for edification, encouragement, and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).

Prophecy is not primarily P_____ the future; it is D_____ God's truth in the present under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Emphasis

- **Edification** – B_____ up the church
- **Exhortation** – urges obedience or repentance
- **Comfort** – brings hope and assurance

1 Corinthians 14:3 — “But he who prophesies speaks edification, and exhortation, and comfort to men.”

II. Prophecy in the Old and New Testaments

Old Testament

- Prophets were called and C_____ by God (Jer. 1:5)
- They spoke with **divine authority**: “Thus says the Lord”

- Their messages often involved:
 - Covenant faithfulness
 - Social J_____
 - Repentance and warning

New Testament

- Prophecy is D_____ among believers (Acts 2:17)
- It functions within the body, not above it (1 Cor. 14:29)
- It operates under S_____, never replacing it

Acts 2:17 — “Your sons and daughters will prophesy...”

III. Purpose of the Gift of Prophecy

According to 1 Corinthians 14, prophecy is given to:

1. **Strengthen the church** (v. 3)
2. **Reveal God’s P_____** (vv. 24–25)
3. **Bring C_____** (v. 24)
4. **Maintain order in worship** (vv. 29–33)

IV. Prophecy vs. Teaching vs. Preaching

V. Guidelines for the Use of Prophecy

1. **Prophecy Must Be T_____** *1 Thessalonians 5:20–21*
2. **Prophecy Is Subject to Accountability** *1 Corinthians 14:29*
3. **Prophecy Operates in Love and O_____** *1 Corinthians 13:2*

VI. Common Misunderstandings About Prophecy

1. Prophecy always predicts the future
2. Prophecy is equal to S_____

3. Prophecy cannot be Q_____
4. Only “special” people can prophecy

VII. Prophecy and Church Leadership *Ephesians 4:11–13*

- Some are **called prophets** (office/function)
- Many may **operate in prophetic gifting**
- The goal is maturity, not S_____