

FOR SPIRITUAL WARRIORS ONLY

NT PROPHETIC OPERATIONS

*“Speaking God’s Mind
Through His People”*

*“Building God’s People
on a Firm Foundation”*

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Premise For This Lesson

1 Corinthians 14:1-4:

- 1: Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.
- 2: For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.
- 3: But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.
- 4: He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth **edifieth the church..**

1 Corinthians 4:26:

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. **Let all things be done unto edifying.**



The Purpose of Prophecy

To **edify** (build up, strengthen)

(1 Cor. 14:3, 1 Cor. 14:31)

To **exhort** (convince, convict, encourage)

(1 Cor. 14:3)

To **comfort** (reassure, encourage) *(1 Cor. 14:3)*



Four Prophetic Levels

- I. The prophecy of scripture (*2Pet. 1:20–21*)
- II. The spirit of prophecy (*1 Sam. 10:10–11, Rev. 19:10*)
- III. The gift of prophecy (*1 Cor. 12:10, 1 Cor. 14:21, 14:31*)
- IV. The ascension–gift (not “office”) of the Prophet
(*Eph.2:20, 4:11*)



Types of Prophecy

“Forthtelling”– speaking forth the “mind of God”– both preaching and personal prophecy can fall into this category.

“Foretelling”– Prediction of future events.



CLASS DISCUSSION

Who was the last OT prophet?
Why?

John the Baptist (*John 1:6–7*). *Because he was the last Old Covenant prophet to foretell the coming of the Messiah.*



Old vs New- What's the Difference?

In the **Old Testament**, prophets were servants of God who mostly operated alone and spoke the will of God for to His people. They generally spoke words of warning, judgment and encouragement to Israel and Judah, and answered only to God Himself.

In the **New Testament**, prophets are accountable to and are an integral part of the Body of Christ, and speak to bear witness of Christ in order to build up believers.



Old vs New- What's the Difference?

Are the criteria for authenticity of prophets, prophecies and/ or prophetic words the same in the NT as in the Old? What were they?

No, they are not the same, yet technically, they are.

According to Deut. 13:1–5, a prophet who led Israel to serve other gods was to be put to death, not because his prophecy did not come to pass, but because of whom he served, and his desire to lead the people away from God.

NT prophecy is judged by the criteria of **edification, exhortation and comfort**. Also, when speaking of “false prophets,” Jesus said that we would know them “by their fruit,” (*Matt. 7:15–16*) or *by the character of their lives, as opposed to man’s natural tendency to accept men by their giftings.*

Besides this, the surest way to test either a prophecy, or the one who prophesies is by the infallible **Word of God**.





Local Church Operations

Who? All (*1 Cor. 14:21, 14:31*)

How? (*1 Cor. 14:29, 14:40*)

Who Judges? (*1 Cor. 14:29, 2 Cor. 13:1*)



Local Church Operations

What does Paul mean when He says, “And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets?” (*1 Cor. 14:32*)

Although one’s unction to speak may be from the Holy Spirit, because “God is not the author of confusion,” He does not usurp our ability to exercise self-control, so that the meeting can be done in “decency and order.”



Local Church Operations

What does “try the spirit by the Spirit” mean? Is it found in Scripture? If so, where?

It means nothing. This saying is just one of many that is used in the church, yet has no biblical basis whatsoever. The correct biblical directive is from 1 John 4:1 –

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

We try, or test these spirits by Jesus’ admonition that we would know them by their “fruit,” or character. John goes on to state that “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God...” which means more than a verbal acknowledgement of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, but a lifestyle which exalts and exemplifies Christ.



Local Church Operations

Is it wrong to want to prophesy? Why or why not?

No. Paul said that we should “covet (or desire) to prophesy (*1 Cor. 14:26, 14:39*).



REMEMBER...

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

– 1 Cor. 14:40

“Let all things be done unto edifying.”

– 1 Cor. 14:26

**Of these two, which is most important?*

