

Misuse of Prophecy:

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy"

Prophecy is words spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They are words that will bring edification, exhortation and comfort. There can be a predicting element to prophecy, but primarily it is forth-telling God's will into your life. With the proper training and maturity prophecy can be a great asset to the Body of Christ and each of us individually.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 "He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men ... he who prophesies edifies the church"

1. Basing major life time decisions on a prophecy rather than hearing God for yourself

- People letting prophecies decide their marriage, ministry & personal direction.
- Putting too much faith in a prophet instead of God!

In the Church of the Lord Jesus we have Five-Fold Ministry Idolatry

Don't whine and complain if a prophet comes through and you didn't get a word. Pray for those less fortunate than you to get a word. Spend time with God and get your own word. Spend time with God and start giving words to others. It is time to grow up!

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

2. Using a prophecy to justify your pet peeve, obscure doctrine, or rebellion against those in authority.

3. Trying to win an argument with prophecy

In dealing with someone struggling with direction from pastoral care their response was "Didn't you hear the prophecies spoken over me? Your advice is contrary to my prophecy." Actually, the advice was contrary to what their flesh wanted to do. True prophecy won't feed a rebellious spirit. Rebellion is likened to a spirit of witchcraft.

4. Manipulation & Control: Don't prophesy out of your feelings & your knowledge of situation.

Charismatic witchcraft: prophesying tragedy upon others because they didn't do what the other wanted, or disagreed with. This amounts to a curse cloaked usually in spiritual language. It is used as a tool for manipulation and control.

5. Throwing wisdom and common sense out the door.

- Prophecies are no excuse for you to check your brain at the door. I am not bound to a prophecy but to God and His word!

6. Pride – Bragging & becoming puffed up over words spoken to you. Big prophecies mean humility and servant hood will be worked into your life before the word comes to pass, or I doubt it will come to pass.

How would you like Paul's apostolic prophecy?

Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

1 Timothy 3:6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.



Watch out for the big head:

The more grandiose your prophecy the greater the humility you will have to walk in

Luke 18:14 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

7. Making a prophecy say or mean something it doesn't. Don't make a novel when gives a sentence.

1 Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

8. Impatience: trying to fulfill in 6 months what God intended for 10 years.

Through faith and patience you inherit the promises.

Example Paul's ministry (17 years to fulfill prophecies over ministry). He ministered in local church, evangelized, itinerated, and was a market place minister, teacher, prophet, before being separated into the office of an apostle.

My ministry: Toilet bowl scrubber specialist, cleaned elderly peoples back yards, visitation ministry, and evangelism in concerts, door to door, youth & singles pastor, elder, campus ministry, traveling minister, market place minister, and pastor.

How to operate accurately in prophecy:

- **Don't be naive and assume everything is of God**
1 Thessalonian 5:21 "Test all things; hold fast what is good."
- **Don't overly exalt Prophecy - Give it a place, not the place**
1 Thessalonians 5:20 "Do not despise prophecies."
- **You don't have to understand everything;**

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

- **Spend adequate time in prayer**
- **Don't feel compelled to perform**
- **Operate in peace**

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.