

## Prophecy according to your proportion of faith

(Being more accurate in prophesying)

1 Samuel 3:1-21... <sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." ... So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel *had been* established as a prophet of the LORD. <sup>21</sup> ... For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

### I. What to learn from Samuel:

1. Be persistent - It took him 3X to get it right.
2. Be teachable - Stay teachable: One person told their pastor, "I've never missed it" He replied, "You just did!"
3. Put yourself in a position to hear-Devotional life.
4. Be in a constant state of hearing.
5. We can grow and learn not to miss it - not perfection, but consistency.
6. Learning from mistakes.



### II. What to avoid:

1. Prophecy out of your anger hurt, sin, trials, frustration.
2. Feeling pressured to prophesy - I back off if I feel pressured.
3. Performing or trying to predict future - Our goal should be to minister (That is how major errors happen).
4. Being enamored by your prophecies (given or received). Go with God's word, overall leading and common sense.
5. Idolize prophets (Five-fold idolatry) - respect and receive them - They are vessels of clay and make mistakes.
6. Giving dates (Brother Hagin saw things in the spirit that looked like two years and it ended up taking five).  
1 Corinthians 13:9;12 For we know in part and we prophesy in part ... we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
7. Speaking out of your head.
  - o Opinion, Philosophy, Pet doctrine, Prejudice, Your desires (Witchcraft-Control-Word curses).
  - o Making stuff up!
  - o Prophesying marriages (some decisions people have to live with).
8. Being a later day prophet - Prophesying after something comes to pass.



### III. What to do:

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Proportion defined:

- Measure
- Right relationship to
- Corresponding to

The gift of prophecy must not be exercised assuming a measure of faith which the individual does not possess. There can be a temptation to exercise it without faith.

1. If I feel confidence and peace I give it; If I don't I won't - I liken it to walking out on a branch.
2. There are times where God gives me a gift of faith along with my normal faith of prophesying.
  - o I may have 5 ft faith, but when gift of faith comes alongside I have 10 feet faith.

Romans 12:6 (NLT) In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

Romans 12:6 (NCV) We all have different gifts, each of which came because of the grace God gave us. The person who has the gift of prophecy should use that gift in agreement with the faith.

Romans 12:6 (The Message) let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. <sup>6-8</sup> If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else;

3. Don't be intimidated to prophesy over people you know .
  - a. Be honest with what you know. I know this, but the Lord says this ...

### IV. How to operate:

1. Use the faith you have-It can grow. Prophecy begins with one word.
  - a. We have received measure of faith that can be exercised.
  - b. Don't despise the faith you have. Don't despise small prophecy you have!

Luke 17:6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

2. Placing a demand on the gift in yourself and others. Speakers feel the spiritual hunger when they come to a church. Jesus felt virtue come out of him when the woman with the issue of blood placed a demand on him by faith!
3. Overcome shyness or intimidation.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

4. Minister from an overflow. When I pray in tongues before a service I have greater faith to prophesy. Be careful when you are tired!

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

5. Look to the heart not the outward - It helps to close my eyes, look to my spirit, and lay hands on people

1 Samuel 16:6-7 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!"<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see as man sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

- a. One man shaved his beard and came back different the next night thinking he would get a different word - He got the same word.
  - c. Prophecy to the heart and potential of the individual.
6. Do not rely on outward responses: Don't be alarmed by Crying or deceived by Laughing.

Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, and the end of mirth *may be grief*.

## **V. Test the contents and spirit:**

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 Do not quench the Spirit.<sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies.<sup>21</sup> Test all things; hold fast what is good.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1. Is it accurate?

- a. Short term: 1 Corinthians 14:29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.
- b. Long term (some prophecies require longer judging cycle). If it doesn't cause harm leave it on the shelf.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

2. What spirit is it from?

- a. Human spirit - Points to self.
  - Pride - Big headed prophecies: Does this lift up man or God?
  - Man who prophesied publically someone was to be wife.
- b. Evil spirit - points away from Jesus (Acts 16:16-19).
- c. Holy Spirit - lifts up Jesus and the things of God.



Revelation 19:10 ... Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

3. Is it spoken from grace or judgment?

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

- a. Being Harsh and judgmental It is the opposite of Gentleness and grace.
- b. The spirit of humility is not spoken with hyper spiritual tones.
- c. One person tried to push me to prophesy correction. That is a wrong spirit.

Luke 9:51-56 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,<sup>52</sup> and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.<sup>53</sup> But they did not receive Him, because His face was *set* for the journey to Jerusalem.<sup>54</sup> And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"<sup>55</sup> But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.<sup>56</sup> For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village.

## **VI. How do you give a difficult word?**

1. With sensitivity, in private with accountability when possible.
2. Give godly counsel - it doesn't have to be given as a word.
3. When you have no direction just write it in a journal.
4. Sometimes don't. Some things are not yours to deal with. If I have personal issues with someone I am praying over I will never touch it or go negative.
5. Pray (Many words of knowledge are for intercession or you personally!).
6. Leave the big stuff to the big dogs:
  - a. One guy was told to get his house in order for in two days you will die ... You have split churches, caused division, etc. but God is giving you grace today." The man rejected the word and in two days he died.
  - b. Jim Jones as a young man was told publically in a large gathering by a prophet that if he did not repent he would lead many people astray.

