



## PROPHECY

**Finally, Prophecy — a quick-access guide to understanding the New Testament gift of prophecy and the role of the prophetic in the church.**

**If you believe prayer is a two-way communication with God, where His Spirit, active within you, can help guide you in accordance with His biblical truths – then prophecy is an aspect of prayer. It is, put most succinctly,**

- ✓ a gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10) that strengthens, encourages and comforts the church (1 Corinthians 14:3), such revelations are only partial (1 Corinthians 13:9 & 12), thus needing others in the fellowship to weigh and test their authenticity (1 Corinthians 14:29 & 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).
- ✓ The New Testament gift of prophecy never consists of ‘new revelation’ which can be added to or supersede God’s previous inspired Scriptures. The gift of prophecy serves to affirm individuals in their calling and decisions, larger organisations in their strategy, as well as to call to account behaviour inconsistent with Kingdom values and purposes.

**Now let’s expand these most basic of principles.**

- **Prophecy is a gift of the Spirit, not a mark of spiritual superiority.**

Its purpose is to edify, encourage, and comfort. It builds the church; it does not elevate the prophet.

- **The heart of prophecy is hearing God’s voice.**

Prophecy begins in communion with God—listening, discerning, and responding. It flows from intimacy, not methodology.

- **Prophecy should always align with Scripture.**

The Bible is the unchanging authoritative Words of God; prophetic impressions are subordinate. The Spirit never contradicts what He has already inspired (2 Timothy 3:16).

- **Prophecy is for building up, not tearing down.**

Its tone is redemptive, not condemning. Even challenging words should aim at restoration, not humiliation. The New Testament gift of prophecy should always carry hope.

- **Can all prophesy?**

Some are especially gifted (Romans 12:6), but all believers can learn to listen, discern, and encourage others 'prophetically'. Paul urges the whole church to "eagerly desire" this gift. 1 Corinthians 14:1

- **Prophecy requires humility.**

We "prophesy in part," (1 Corinthians 13:9 & 12) meaning our hearing is imperfect. Our prophecies will always be a mix of perceived revelation and our own interpretation. Healthy prophetic ministry needs humility and spiritual maturity and our willingness to be wrong and to receive correction.

- **Prophetic words should be weighed.**

Leaders and mature believers test prophetic contributions through Scripture, character, spiritual discernment, and the wider witness of the church. 1 Corinthians 14:29 & 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

- **The prophetic operates safely within healthy community.**

Isolation makes prophecy vulnerable to error; community provides protection, discernment, and accountability. Prophets need pastors, and pastors need prophets. All of Christ's ministry gifts need to be present for the church to mature. Ephesians 4:11-12 & 1 Corinthians 12:14ff

- **Prophetic ministry needs safeguarding guidelines**

Like any ministry where people can be vulnerable, healthy agreed guidelines need to be in operation. All ministry carries pastoral responsibilities. Both prophets and leaders need to safely and wisely administrate God's gracious gifts for His church.

- **Prophetic ministry needs rhythm, not randomness.**

Churches should establish clear structures for how 'words' are given, shared, weighed and processed. Good order releases greater freedom.

- **The prophetic partners with other ministries.**

Prophecy enriches preaching, worship leading, pastoral care, and mission. It's an essential ingredient in our prayers. Prophecy does not compete with other gifts but complements them.

- **Prophecy is not fortune-telling.**

It is revelation for the purpose of transformation. It calls us closer to God, not to curiosity or speculation.

- **The tone matters as much as the accuracy.**

Prophecy delivered harshly, proudly, or manipulatively may be technically accurate but spiritually harmful. Where love is not detected, the gift is rendered invalid. 1 Corinthians 13:2

- **The prophetic encourages responsiveness.**

A word from God calls for action: repentance, obedience, faith, or fresh vision. Prophecy invites movement, not passive admiration.

- **Prophecy should shine light on Jesus.**

The Spirit testifies to Christ. Authentic prophecy magnifies Jesus, not the messenger. John 16:14 & Revelation 19:10b

- **The prophetic is safest when rooted in Scripture.**

Regular immersion in the Bible matures discernment, protects from error, and trains the heart to recognise God's voice.

- **Prophecy blesses when it protects, warns, and prepares.**

At times the Spirit gives corrective or preventative warnings. These should be shared with great care, clarity, and accountability.

- **Personal prophecy must never override personal responsibility.**

Prophetic words confirm, not control. They illuminate the path but do not replace wisdom, counsel, or Scripture.

- **The prophetic thrives in purity of heart.**

Unresolved bitterness, ambition, or hurt can distort what we hear. The cleaner the vessel, the clearer the voice.

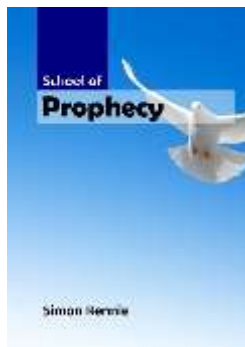
- **Prophetic ministry grows through practice.**

Listening, discerning, and speaking develop over time. Humble learners become trustworthy prophets.

- **Prophecy reveals God's intimate involvement.**

When a prophetic word lands, people often feel seen, known, and loved by God. It reminds the church that God is actively speaking and moving among His people.

## Further resources



Obviously, I strongly recommend my own book, [School of Prophecy](#). This relatively short publication offers a biblical and practical explanation to the New Testament gift of prophecy, including *prophetic etiquette*, a step-by-step guide to prophetic activation, dealing with frequently asked questions, and how spiritual maturity supports and shapes the use of prophecy. The [School of Prophecy](#) serves as an informed and accessible guide to contemporary prophetic ministry.