



Introduction

John Calvin: "We see how God, who could in a moment perfect his own, nevertheless desires them to grow up into manhood solely under the education of the Church. We see the way set for it: the preaching of the heavenly doctrine has been enjoined upon the pastors. . . . For neither the light and heat of the sun, nor food and drink, are so necessary to nourish and sustain the present life, as the apostolic and pastoral office is necessary to preserve the Church on earth."

I. Scripture is the only authoritative Word from God.

2 Timothy 3:16: *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

(a) We are commanded to test prophecy and other spirits.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21: *Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:19: *Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. God sovereignly ordained the cross.*

(b) We are allowed to disobey prophecy.

- Acts 21:4: *Through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go to Jerusalem.*

Luther: "The call is watch, study, attend to reading. In truth, you cannot read too much in Scripture and what you read you cannot read too carefully. And what you read carefully, you cannot understand too well. And what you understand well, you cannot teach too well. And what you teach well, you cannot live too well. The devil, the world, and our flesh are raging and raving against us. Therefore, dear sirs, and brothers, pastors and preachers, pray, read, study, be diligent. This evil, shameful time is not the season for being lazy, for sleeping and snoring."



II. Yet, God still speaks through divine guidance, prophecy, and other ways.

(a) Divine guidance

(b) Prophecy

- 1 Corinthians 14:1: *Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:3: *The one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.*
- What makes prophecy different than encouragement?
 - Sudden
 - Clear
 - Concise

II. Yet, God still speaks through divine guidance, prophecy, and other ways.

(1) Be assured personally that God still speaks through prophecy.

(2) Pray.

(3) Remember God loves to speak through ordinary people.

(4) Listen for revelations from the Spirit.

(5) Begin stepping out in small group meetings.

- Romans 12:6: *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith.*

Conclusion