

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #28:
Pneumatology, Part 6,
Spiritual Gifts, Part 4:
The Gift of Prophecy
Eph. 4:11-16
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

1. Ephesians 4:11-16, (11) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (15) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—(16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1. INTRODUCTION:

a. EX:

i. Jeanne Dixon

ii. Pat Robertson

iii. Matthew 24:36, “But of that day and hour [i.e., second coming] no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

b. What does the Bible say about a prophet who prophesies something that doesn't come to pass?

i. Dt. 18:20-22, (20) ‘But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ (21) "And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ —(22) "when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

c. Most people think that the gift of prophecy is the ability to be able to see the future

2. THE BIBLICAL GIFT OF PROPHECY

a. PROPHECY comes from the Greek word: *prophetes*

i. Is a combination of two Greek words

1. *pro*—meaning FORTH
2. *phemi*—meaning TO SAY

b. A prophet is a FORTH-TELLER

- i. Ex. 4:14-16, (14) So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. (15) "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. (16) "So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.
- ii. Exodus 7:1, "So the LORD said to Moses: 'See, I have made you [as] God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.'"

c. John the Baptist (an OT prophet, Lk. 16:16):

- i. Is called a prophet: Luke 7:28, "For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."
- ii. John's message: Mt. 3:1-2, (1) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, (2) and saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

d. PROPHETS IN THE NT:

i. Agabus was the first prophet mentioned in the NT:

1. Acts 11:27-28, (27) And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. (28) Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.
2. Acts 21:11, "When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his [own] hands and feet, and said, 'Thus says the Holy

Spirit, “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver [him] into the hands of the Gentiles.””

ii. Men named Judas and Silas were called prophets in the NT

1. Acts 15:32, “Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.”

iii. Acts 21:9 refers to Philip’s four daughters who were virgins and prophets

e. 1 Cor. 14:3-4, (3) But he who prophesies speaks EDIFICATION and EXHORTATION and COMFORT to men. (4) He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

f. Ephesians 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief [cornerstone]”

g. 1 Thessalonians 5:20, “Do not despise prophecies.”

3. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IN OUR DAY:

a. 2 Peter 1:19, “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”

b. Rev. 19:10, “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

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

d. Prophecy is very ranked high among the spiritual gifts. It is listed as #2 in both the LIST OF MINISTRIES and the LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

i. LIST OF MINISTRIES: Ephesians 4:11, “And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers”

ii. LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 1 Corinthians 12:28, “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”

e. Ephesians 2:20, “... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief [cornerstone]”

f. In the NT, women had the gift of prophecy:

