

## **WEDNESDAY SERMON**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: July 03, 2019**

**Scripture Reading: 1Co. 14:1-3**

**Text:** Multiple

**Subject: CONFESSION OF FAITH SERIES – Gift of Prophecy (Teaching and Expounding the Word)**

46. Gift of Prophecy (Teaching and Expounding the Word) \*

Those in the church to whom God hath given gifts may and ought to prophesy according to the proportion of faith and to teach publicly the word of God for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of the church.

*\*Formerly Article 45 of 1644 COF*

[Note: To prophecy is to expound the Holy Scriptures. It is true that some references to prophecy in the New Testament speaks of foretelling; the vast majority speaks of forthtelling.]

*1Co.14:3; Ro.12:6; 1Pe.4:10, 11; 1Co.12:7; 1Th.5:19.*

Here are two examples of foretelling by a prophet whose name was Agabus in the New Testament:

**Acts 11:27-28 (KJV)** *And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. **28** And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.*

**Acts 21:10-11 (KJV)** *And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. **11** And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall*

*the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.*

**1Co 14:1-3 (KJV)** *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. 2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

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1. These verses confirm our belief that prophesy is a spiritual gift.
2. Tongues (languages) speak mysteries in the spirit.
3. But, he that prophesies speaks unto men to edification, exhortation, and comfort.

Our English word "Prophesy" comes from the Greek word: "προφητεω propheteuo" – appears twenty-eight times in the New Testament and is always translated as "prophesy."

**Ro 12:5-6 (KJV)** *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

In the church which is the body of Christ (every single church is the body of Christ – as the Church of God at Corinth was) – we are members one of another. All of us have differing gifts according to the grace given us. Some have the gift of prophecy and are to prophesy according to the proportion of faith given them.

**1 Peter 4:10-11 (KJV)** *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in*

*all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

Again, this passage stresses that we are given gifts to minister one to another. If we speak, let us speak as the oracles of God. What does that mean? What does the word "oracle" mean? That English word comes from the Greek word: "λογιον logion." It is found four times in the NT and is always translated "oracle." *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* defines oracles as: "4. Among christians, oracles, in the plural, denotes the communications, revelations or messages delivered by God to prophets. In this sense it is rarely used in the singular; but we say, the oracles of God, divine oracles, meaning the Scriptures." *The Oxford English Dictionary* defines the noun "oracles" as: "Divine Revelation; a declaration or message expressed or delivered by divine inspiration; also, pl, the sacred scriptures, (From Romans iii.2)." This is worthy of our notice. Let's read Romans 3:1-2;

**Romans 3:1-2 (KJV)** *What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that **unto them were committed the oracles of God.***

In other words, the Jews (Israel) were the only people on earth to whom the words of God were committed. As a nation, Israel rejected Christ and the church became the pillar and ground of the truth. As such the church has passed down the scriptures through the ages. Baptist churches and their forefathers have been the custodians of the Holy Scriptures and remain so to this day. May I say a few words about the perfection of the Scriptures which we hold in our hands today?

During the days of the church in the first century, they knew in part and they prophesied in part. Why was that? The scripture was not

yet completed. The New Testament writers were then writing the New Testament. It was completed about the end of the first century. Consider 1 Corinthians 13:

**1 Corinthians 13:9-10 (KJV)** *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

At the time this was written, they knew in part (had partial knowledge); they prophesied in part (they spoke with the partial knowledge they had at that point). But, when THAT WHICH IS PERFECT (Complete) is come, then that which is in part (partial knowledge, partial prophecy) shall be done away. And it was.

During the days of the early church (1<sup>st</sup> century), the Lord had chosen the apostles and prophets. Paul, Silas, and Barnabas had founded churches during their missionary journeys and the churches has chosen (ordained) elders or pastors. Since the Scriptures have been completed, the churches choose their pastors who speak as prophets according to the objective criteria in the New Testament. One of the things that a pastor must have is the "ability to teach," which I believe to be the same as the gift of prophecy.

**1 Corinthians 12:7 (KJV)** *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

These spiritual gifts which include prophecy are for the profit of all in the church(es).

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 (KJV)** *Quench not the Spirit. **20** Despise not prophesyings.*

When one who prophesies speaks as the oracles of God unto edification, exhortation, and comfort of the church, let not one of us quench (extinguish, put out, repress) the Spirit who moves the man to deliver the message from God. Let us not despise these prophesyings which are rooted and founded in the Holy Scriptures. God forbid!

Let us consider the high place of fulfilling the gift of prophecy:

**1 Corinthians 14:1 (KJV)** *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, **but rather that ye may prophesy.***

**1 Corinthians 14:3 (KJV)** ***But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.***

**1 Corinthians 14:4 (KJV)** *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; **but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.***

**1 Corinthians 14:5 (KJV)** *I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye **prophesied**: for greater is he that **prophesieth** than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

**1 Corinthians 14:6 (KJV)** *Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, **or by prophesying**, or by doctrine?*

**1 Corinthians 14:22 (KJV)** *Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not*

*to them that believe, but to them that believe not: **but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.***

**1 Corinthians 14:23-24 (KJV)** *If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? 24 **But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:***

**1 Corinthians 14:31 (KJV)** *For ye may all **prophesy** one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.*

**1 Corinthians 14:39 (KJV)** *Wherefore, brethren, covet to **prophesy**, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*

Therefore, we clearly see that when one forthtells the Holy Scriptures, he prophesies. That is, he is using the gift of prophecy which is given him of the LORD. This man is apt to teach. Such a man, speaking as a prophet, is a gift to the church.