

PROPHETIC FAQ

What is prophecy?

Prophecy: calling is to who God created us to be

What is a prophet?

Prophet: a messenger or ambassador speaking on behalf of God

What does the Bible teach about prophecy?

Old Testament: individuals God called to speak on His behalf.

According to Scripture, the prophetic office originated with Moses in the events at Mount Sinai (Deut. 18:15–16; cf. Hos. 12:13).

True prophets never spoke on their own authority or shared their personal opinions, but rather delivered the message God himself gave them. Several texts make this explicit. God promised Moses, *“Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say”* (Exod. 4:12). *God assured Moses, “I will raise up for [my people] a prophet like you . . . and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him”* (Deut. 18:18). *The Lord said to Jeremiah, “I have put my words in your mouth”* (Jer 1:9). *God commissioned Ezekiel by saying, “You must speak my words to them”* (Ezek. 2:7). *And many of the OT prophetic books begin with the words, “The word of the LORD that came to . . .”* (Hos. 1:2; Joel 1:1; Micah 1:1; Zeph. 1:1; cf. Jonah 1:1). *Amos claimed, “This is what the LORD says”* (Amos 1:3).

New Testament: Jesus, His disciples, and other believers prophecy

The most prominent prophetic voice in the New Testament aside from Jesus himself, was John the Baptist (Matt. 11:9; Luke 1:76). On the day of Pentecost, Peter declared that unlike the more limited exercise of prophecy during the time of the Old Testament, God would pour out his Spirit “on all people” (Acts 2:17). Peter said the result would be a fulfillment of God words: *“Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy”* (Acts 2:17–18).

Today: All believers have access to hear the word of God, and prophecy (call each other back to who we were created to be)

1 Corinthians 14, Paul encourages everyone to pursue the gift of prophecy

1. Encourage each other
2. Empower each other

3. Edify each other

1 John 4:1

“test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world”

Is prophecy the authoritative word of God?

Read:

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 Cor 14:29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said -the gifts must be tested, can never contradict scripture!

Do people mess up prophecies?

Today Gods Holy Spirit operates one partnership with our human flesh so there is always room for error and always need for Grace

(1 Corinthians 13: 9 for we know in part and we prophesy in part)

Do both men and women prophesy?

Yes. This is clear in Acts 2:17–18, as Peter quotes from Joel 2:28–32:

“In the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”

Where do I start?

1. **Pray**- ask God questions & ask Him to show you how He wants to speak to you
2. **Prepare**-study scripture on prophecy and learn how God speaks to people
(1 Corinthians chapters 12–14)
3. **Practice**- the more you do it, the more natural it will become. Remember-we all have to start somewhere, but the sooner we start the more likely we are to grow in our ability to receive and respond

What if I'm scared?

Read:

1Thes 5:19-21 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 Test everything. Hold on to the good.

1 Cor 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

Is it an Uncontrollable "Out-of-Body" Experience?

Read:

1 Cor 14:32-33 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

There is a common misconception that in order to be used in a spiritual gift, a person must become momentarily incapacitated by a lightning bolt from heaven...

You don't lose control, but rather you surrender control to God to use you

How does God speak to me?

How Does It Happen? What Does It Feel Like? How Do I Know When God Is Trying To Use Me?

The experience is different for every believer, but here are a few examples of what others have reported when being moved by the Spirit:

- Strong impressions in the heart or mind
- Butterflies in the stomach
- Great desire to pray for someone.
- Unusual compassion toward an individual or group
- Simply being suddenly reminded of something previously read/studied/ or thought
- Song lyrics
- Thinking about things you usually wouldn't
- being reminded of bible verses
- Pictures, visions, dreams

What Do I Do When I Am Unsure?

1. PRAY: ask God questions- "Lord, are You just speaking to me - or is this something for someone else?" " **Receive, interpret, test, apply**

2. Seek Counsel from Spiritual Leadership - If you are unsure, simply find a leader and ask if they believe it is appropriate. They will generally tell you one of 3 things: 1- I don't believe that is appropriate 2- That sounds right, but this is not the right time. 3- That sounds like God - go for it.

3. Be Open to Correction. Listen to your leadership's evaluation of your gift. It is their job to exercise discernment concerning the gifts of the Spirit. Anything less than a completely humble attitude on your part should disqualify you from being used by God.