

PROPHECY

The Bible is clear that spiritual gifts are distributed to each of us by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7

“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 12:11

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”

It is evident that the disciples, after going through the upper room experience, walked in a new dimension of the Spirit, including operating in the gifts of the Spirit, tongues, prophecy, miracles, etc. They set the pace for the first century Christians and us, as well. Paul even says in 1 Corinthians 14:1 that we are to earnestly desire spiritual gifts and especially to prophesy. Speaking specifically about prophecy, Acts clearly indicates it is for today and for all of us.

Acts 2:17-18

“‘And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

Even upon My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy.’”

Jezebel killed the prophets while many others suffered a similar fate as they tried to bring God’s Word to a stiff-necked people in different generations. Even today, the devil hates prophecy and doesn’t want the testimony of Jesus in the Church (Revelation 19:10). He especially doesn’t want Christians edified, exhorted, or consoled, which is why the Holy Spirit gives it.

1 Corinthians 14:3

“But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.”

1 Corinthians 14 gives the basic pattern to make sure order is maintained when prophecy does begin to flow in a body or assembly. For example, prophets or those prophesying are to maintain control of themselves and not burst forth with words whenever they want (verse 32); all prophecy is judged/examined for accuracy (verse 29); and all who prophesy are to do it in an orderly fashion, one by one (verse 31). Remember, God is a God of order, not of confusion (verse 33).