

03 – THE VOCAL & POWER GIFTS

How Do We Judge Prophecy?

1 Cor. 14:29 - “Let two or three prophets speak and **let the others judge.**”

- ✓ When it says, “let the others judge”, it’s not referring to “other prophets”. (I used to read it that way. “Let two or three prophets speak and let the other prophets judge.” That’s not right.)
- ✓ The Greek says, “let the others *present* judge”. **Everyone who hears the prophecy needs to judge it.** What are we judging? Primarily we’re asking ourselves, “**Is this really from God, and should I accept it?**” How do I determine that? I look at the tone, the content, and the fruit.

a.) What’s the Overall Tone of the Message?

- ✓ Is it encouraging? Or does it come across as harsh or judgmental? (We had a lady in one of our churches who always gave *angry* prophecies. Everything came out with a “bite”. Listening to her, you’d get the idea that God is *always* angry.)
- ✓ The first filter I put prophesy through is: “Does it sound like Jesus?” Her prophecies didn’t. The tone tells you a lot about the source.

b.) Judge the Content of the Message

- ✓ Does it line up with the Word? If it doesn’t, throw it out! (The Spirit and the Word agree.)
- ✓ Who does it draw attention to? It ought to exalt Christ! Not every prophecy is specifically *about* Jesus, but He’s always the One who should be exalted (Rev. 19:10).
- ✓ Does it serve anyone’s personal agenda? (If it does, that’s not hard to judge.) It’s unfortunate, but sometimes people use prophecy to give weight to their own ideas.

c.) Judge the Fruit

- ✓ Ask yourself, “What effect did the prophecy have?” Did it bring faith or fear to the people? Unity or division? Were people encouraged? (Remember, prophecy should build up, challenge, and comfort.)

Random Thoughts

◆ Prophecy Should Witness with What’s In Your Heart

- ✓ There should be an inward witness. (Sometimes, God’s already been speaking to you, and the prophecy just confirms what you already know.)

Acts 13:2 – “Separate Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I **have** (past tense) called them.”.

- ✓ This wasn’t the first time Paul and Barnabas were hearing about it. God had already spoken to them about their calling. The prophecy just confirmed God’s timing.
- ✓ If you get a prophecy, and it’s a brand-new idea, then “put it on the shelf” and pray about it. **If it’s God, it’s got a “shelf life”.** (God will never say, “You have to act on this RIGHT NOW”. Don’t act on a prophecy if there’s no “witness” in your heart.)

THE POWER GIFTS

4.) Working of Miracles –

- ✓ Miracle: A “miracle” is when God sets aside the laws of nature, just for you.
- ✓ See, according to the laws of nature” ...
 - Men don’t walk on water
 - Water doesn’t turn to wine

- Dead people don't come back to life
 - Axe heads don't float
 - Red Seas don't part, and
 - The sun doesn't stand still
- ✓ But, when God wills it, those things can (and do) happen.
- ✓ So, a "miracle" sets aside the laws of nature. With that definition, I want to correct something I've heard a lot of people say. Sometimes people call childbirth a miracle. ("A brand-new life! What a miracle!") That's not a miracle! That's natural. When a *virgin* has a baby, that's a miracle!

Look at the Name of This Gift

- ✓ It's called the "working" of miracles. Miracles don't just happen. They have to be "worked". (Ultimately, God is the miracle worker. But we have a part to play. We join Him in working a miracle.)
- ✓ What's our part? It's a 3-step process: (John 2:5)
- ◆ Hear from God.
 - ◆ Do what He says.
 - ◆ Stand back and watch.
- ✓ It starts with an instruction from God.
- ◆ "Stretch forth your rod".
 - ◆ "Go wash in the pool of Siloam".
 - ◆ "Fill the pots with water and take some to the governor of the feast".
- ✓ **Obedience brings the manifestation** of the miracle.
- 5.) Gifts of Healings – (Both words are plural in the Greek. See v. 28)
- ✓ Healing: A "healing" is **the renewing of a diseased condition**. In healing, God takes the part of the body that's not working and **He fixes it**.

- ✓ Healings can be instant, but they can also be a process that happens over time.
- ◆ The 10 lepers were healed "as they went" – (Lk. 17:14).
 - ◆ The nobleman's son "began to amend" – (John 4:52)
 - ◆ We lay hands on the sick and they "recover" – (Mk. 16:18)
- ✓ Every one of those describes a process.

Two Ways Healing Can Come

a.) Through the Individual's Faith

- ✓ When you pray for healing, your faith *does* play a part.
- "Be not afraid, only **believe** ..." – (Mk. 5:36)
 - "If you can **believe**, all things are possible." – (Mk. 9:23)
 - "According to your **faith**, be it unto you" – (Mt. 9:28)
 - "As you have **believed**, so be it done unto you" – (Mt. 8:13)
 - "Go your way, your **faith** has made you whole" – (Mk 10:52)
 - "Daughter, your **faith** has made you whole" – (Mk. 5:34)
- ✓ Jesus heals through the individual's faith. But that's not the only way He heals. He also heals ...

b.) By the Gifts of the Spirit

- ✓ When God heals through the gifts of the Spirit, **no faith is required on the part of the sick person**. None. God just does it on His own. (You'll find this operates most often when unbelievers are present. God uses it as a sign and a wonder.)

Look at the Name of This Gift

- ✓ It's not called "the Gift of Healing". That's how some people think of

it. They think God picks a person and gives them “the gift of healing”. (If you’re sick, you better ask Guiller to pray, because “he’s got the gift of healing”.) There’s no such thing as “the gift of healing”.

- ✓ These are “gifts” of “individual healings”. It might help you to think of it like this. It’s like the Holy Ghost has a “bag” of *healings*, and He’s “walking through the church” passing them out. (It’s like Oprah. “You get a car, and you get a car.”) “You get a healing, and you get a healing.” But with Gifts of Healings, not everyone gets healed. (God passes out a few “freebies” as a sign and a wonder.)
- ✓ Here’s the Thing: If you’re sick, you can’t count on being healed by this method. (Some people live and die and are never healed through the gifts of the Spirit.) But Here’s the Good News: If you don’t get a “freebie”, you can *still* pray and believe the Word.

6.) Special Faith – Weymouth

- ✓ It’s called “special” faith. This isn’t the *usual* faith that you use to receive from God. It’s a supernatural “burst” of faith, suddenly released in your heart by the Holy Ghost. (You couldn’t doubt if you *wanted* to!)
- ✓ God gives this “special faith” when there’s no promise to stand on. Your “regular” faith can be used to receive anything that’s promised in the Word. But some things, you *don’t* have a promise for. (Like Joshua *stopping the sun*. He didn’t *have* a promise for that. But God needed it done. So, God dropped the faith in his heart to do it.)
- ✓ Sometimes, in a burst of faith, you’ll just *do* something, and when the anointing lifts, you’re left thinking, “Oh God, what did I just do?” (But you know it was God because it produced results.)