

“THE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

- authority and over focus on it, neither do we dare reduce it to natural powers of man or do away with it altogether.
2. The spoken prophetic utterances today are to be judged by the written Word and subject to it.
 - a. In Deuteronomy 4:2 we are told: **“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it....”**.
 - b. In Proverbs 30:6 we are told: **“Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”**
 - c. In Revelation 22:18 we are told: **“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the Prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life....”**.

{LESSON 11B} {10/26/2008}

“THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY IN THE CHURCH”

- XXII. The Word of God plainly says that believers will prophesy, so there should be little argument about it in the Church today.
- A. In 1 Cor. 14:3 the Bible makes it plain that the purpose of prophecy is to encourage and comfort people: **“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”**
 1. We will now look at each of these special words from 1 Cor. 14:3 and learn of their meanings.
 - B. The purpose of prophecy – **Edification** – *This is an architectural word speaking of building, erecting, or putting stones into place.*
 1. This refers to a way God has provided to the Church that we may “edifi”, or build up the Church.
 2. It is vital that we build with quality materials (gifts, ministries) instead of wood, hay and stubble. (1 Cor. 3:10-15)

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- a. The idea of edification as a architectural term concerning our building with good quality materials is supported in 1 Cor. 3:10 AMP:
“According to the grace (the special endowment for my task) of God bestowed on me, like a skillful architect and master builder I laid [the] foundation, and now another [man] is building upon it. But let each [man] be careful how he builds upon it.”
 3. True edification can be built on only one foundation – Verse 11 warns us to remember: **“For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”**
 4. How we build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ is determined by the quality of materials we use: **V12, “But if anyone builds upon the foundation, whether it be with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, V13, The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done.”**
 - a. Certainly this building with quality materials includes prophecies that come from our lips.
 5. We must remember that in V14 Paul reminded us that: **“If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test], he will get his reward.”**
 - a. He continues in V15 to warn us about our work burning up: **“But if any person’s word is burned up [under the test], he will suffer the loss [of it all, losing his reward], though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire.”**
- C. The purpose of prophecy – **Exhortation** – The dictionary says that to exhort is to *“incite, encourage, to advise and warn earnestly”*.

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1. Many times prophecies contain strong urging and earnest admonition.
 - a. This often is the very “mood and attitude” of God being spoken to His people along a given line.
 - b. The mood revealed in prophecy makes a strong impression on those who have ears to hear.
2. This is strongly illustrated in Hosea 6:1-3 AMP: **“COME AND let us return to the Lord, for He has torn so that He may heal us; He has stricken so that He may bind us up, V2, After two days He will revive us (quicken us, give us life); on the third day He will raise us up that we may live before Him. V3, Yes, let us know (recognize, be acquainted with, and understand) Him; let us be zealous to know the Lord [to appreciate, give heed to, and cherish Him]. His going forth is prepared and certain as the dawn, and He will come to us as the [heavy] rain, as the latter rain that waters the earth.”**
 - a. The people were exhorted regarding their direction: **“COME AND let us return to the Lord.....”**.
 - (1) God’s urging is “strong” and the mood reveals that their return must be now.
 - b. They were told what their direction had produced: **“.....for He has torn so that He may heal us; He has stricken so that He may bind us up.....”**.
 - c. Next God’s voice is full of mercy in the prophecy: **“After two days He will revive us (quicken us, give us life); on the third day He will raise us up that we may live before Him.”**
 - d. They were then told what their responsibility was: **“Yes, let us know (recognize, be acquainted with, and understand) Him; let us be zealous to know the Lord [to appreciate, give heed to, and cherish Him].”**
 - e. Do this and He promises His blessing on His people: **“His going forth**

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is prepared and certain as the dawn, and He will come to us as the [heavy] rain, as the latter rain that waters the earth.”

- D. The purpose of prophecy is **Comfort** – Vines says this Greek word means “primarily a speaking closely to anyone, hence denotes consolation, comfort, with a greater degree of tenderness than the Greek word that means to call to ones side.
1. The prophetic word is Christ not only drawing near and speaking but speaking in great personal concern and tenderness and care.
 - (1) This is a great comfort.
 - (2) It not only makes us aware that He is there and speaking, but that He speaks with great intimacy and concern.

{LESSON 12A} {11/2/2008}

“THOSE WONDERFUL POWER MANIFESTATIONS”

“PROPHECY’S USE IN THE CHURCH”

- XXIII. The manifestation of prophecy can also reveal the secrets of people’s hearts so that they can be closer to God as seen in 1 Cor. 14:24-25: **“But if all prophecy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convicted of all, he is judged of all. V25, And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.”**
- A. The manifestation of prophecy is a “power manifestation” of the Holy Spirit.
1. Prophecy is part of the “power” of Almighty God, which is why God places prophecy in the “power group” of manifestations.
 2. Many Bible authorities place prophecy in the worship of vocal gift department.
 3. Prophecy is not worship, it is speaking a “message of power” from God to His people.
 4. Yes, it is used in a worship service, but that does not make it worship.