

The Gift of Prophecy: When & Why?

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Personal Notes

What is the broader purpose of the gift of prophecy?

1 Peter 1:9-11 - For people's _____ & _____ of salvation.

What specific purposes did the gift of prophecy serve in both the NT church & at the start of God's last day, remnant church?

- 1) Assisted in Founding the church (Ephesians 2:20-21)
- 2) Initiated the church's mission outreach (Acts 13:1,2; 16:6-10)
- 3) Edified the church (1 Corinthians 14:3-4; Ephesians 4:12)
- 4) United and protected the church (Ephesians 4:14)
- 5) Warned of future difficulties (Acts 11:27; 20:23; 21:4, 10-14)
- 6) Confirmed faith in times of controversy (Acts 15:32)

How long does the Bible say that the gift of prophecy would last?

Ephesians 4:11-13 - Until the _____ of Christ.

How do Jesus' words in Matthew 24:24 imply that there will be genuine prophets in the last days?

What other Biblical evidence is there for the gift of prophecy being active until the end of time?

Joel 2:28, 29

Revelation 12:17 → Revelation 19:10

The gift of prophecy is a defining characteristic of God's remnant, or last day, church!

What specific instruction does God give us in regard to prophecy in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21? _____

What are the tests of a prophet that the Lord has given us in His holy word?

The 4 Spiritual Tests of a Prophet

1) They must confess Jesus as the Christ

1 John 4:1-3 - This is more than just a vocal assent that Jesus is the Christ, for even the demons can do that! (Lk. 8:28)

This is an acknowledgment of the Biblical teaching of Jesus' incarnation, virgin birth, His deity, His pre-existence, His true humanity, His atoning sacrifice, resurrection, ascension, High Priestly ministry, and second coming!

2) They must agree with God's law and the Bible

Isaiah 8:20 - God uses His prophets as His spokesmen/spokeswomen. He cannot contradict what He has said, because He cannot lie. Therefore if a prophet speaks in contradiction to the Bible, they are not a genuine prophet of God.

3) Their messages must come to pass

Jeremiah 28:9, Deuteronomy 18:20-22 - God's warnings are to correct His children and direct them back to Him through confession and repentance. If the prophet's prophecies are not of a conditional nature, and do not come to pass, they are a false prophet.

4) Their lives must match up with God's word

Matthew 7:15-20 - While prophets are human (Jn 5:17) and can make mistakes, the general trend of their life should be unto holiness. By God's grace they will be living and practicing what they preach.

Does Ellen White Pass the Tests? A Few References

1) *Gospel Workers, p. 160.1*

2) *RH, Dec. 15, 1885; The Great Controversy p. 193.3*

3) *Counsels on Health, p. 84.3; Last Day Events, p. 114.1*

4) *The testimony of others (Prov. 27:2)*

TDG, p. 101.4

The 6 Physical Tests of a Prophet

* Important Note: The physical tests of a prophet while in vision occurred at times for the edification and establishment of the faith of those present. Although one or multiple of these physical phenomena accompanied those in prophetic vision, they did not always.

* Another thing to keep in mind is that these physical phenomena can be imitated by Satan since he can work miracles (Rev. 16:14). But a false prophet cannot pass all 4 spiritual tests of a prophet.

1) Loses all natural strength

Daniel 10:8, 16, 17

2) Is supernaturally strengthened

Daniel 10:18-19

3) Have their eyes open

Numbers 24:3

4) Does not breathe

Daniel 10:17

5) Tongue controlled by the Lord

2 Samuel 23:2

6) Unconscious of natural surroundings

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

Personal Notes