

Prophecy

Andrew Allan-Johns May 2021

*1 Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may **prophecy**.² For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, those who prophesy speak to other people for their up-building and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ Those who speak in a tongue build up themselves, but those who prophesy build up the church. ⁵ Now I would like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to **prophecy**. One who **prophesies** is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. 1 Cor. 14:1-5*

*9 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another **prophecy**, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 1 Cor. 12:9-11*

*11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some **prophets**, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ Eph. 4:11-12*

What is prophecy?

Prophecy is when a believer conveys either how God sees a person, congregation or nation and/or reveals some information about what God is going to do.

Four levels of prophecy

Individual for “building and encouragement and consolation”, 1 Cor 14:3. Any believer can tune in to God to do this.

Congregational. From the Lord for a whole congregation. 1 Cor 12:10. Any believer may be given a gift of prophecy for a congregation. This must be offered to leadership and weighed.

An Office. One who has a recognized office of prophet in a local church or even a national movement. Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11

National Prophet. E.g., Elijah, John the Baptist.

Four uses of prophecy

1. Private building up
2. Prophetic praise and worship
3. Prophetic Prayer
4. Prophetic Evangelism.

Tuning in to God

Prophetic words arrive in one of several forms: **pictures, words in your mind, Bible verses, Impressions.**

Tune in to God. Reading the Bible first will help. Do not let your receiver drift off to mundane things. Ask God to reveal more. Let what is in your spirit bubble up into your mind. You will then get a clearer idea of what God is saying. Writing down what you have received can release a prophetic flow.

Giving a prophecy

Starting off by sharing what you received. Offer this humbly (e.g., “I can see...” or “I get...”). Avoid “thus saith the Lord.” Once you start to speak more will come and greater clarity will emerge.

Prophecy for a congregation

If possible, this should first be submitted to the leadership of the church so that it can be weighed and endorsed. If this is not possible it should still be checked by the leadership at the time it is given so that the congregation can be guided. People with the Ephesians 4:11 gift for congregational prophetic leadership need to be submitted to church leadership and carefully pastored.

Prophecy for a nation

Only God can appoint and recognise such a person. Such a person should be duly submitted and in proper fellowship with the church. Any prophecy received should be submitted to representative national church leaders to be weighed.

Testing a prophecy

Not all of what you bring will be accurate. It needs to be tested against scripture and against the reality of the situation you speak into. "We see through a glass dimly 1 Corinthians 13:12."

Living with a prophecy

Advise people to save written prophetic words. Take no action based on a single prophecy.

A Procedure for Personal Prophecy in a Group

1. Gather in groups of four with the people you know the least well.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to release the gift of prophecy.
3. Focus on an individual. The subject should close their eyes, for **FIVE MINUTES in SILENCE** the rest of the group look at the subject, asking prompts like:
 - a. How do you want to encourage or commend this person, God?
 - b. What do you want to say to this person, God?
 - c. Is there a bible verse for them?
4. Write down everything that has come to mind. Keep writing until nothing else comes.
5. Each in person in turn shares what they have noted down. Refrain from any comments or interpretation.
6. When everyone has shared ask the person if what they have heard means anything to them.
7. Praying out loud, pray into what has been revealed and speak blessing on the person.
8. Hand over the written notes.
9. Move onto the next person.

Healing Ministry

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Jesus gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases Luke 9:1

A Theology of Healing

- Jesus overcame sickness and disease on the cross. 1 Peter 2:4
- Jesus set aside his heavenly glory and power and largely ministered by using the power of the Holy Spirit received at his baptism. Luke 3:22
- Jesus gave his followers authority to heal using the same means. Luke 9:1
- All believers are given this authority and can grow in effectiveness. Some have a special gift 1 Cor. 12:9.
- Healing is one of the signs that the kingdom of God has come near. Healing the sick grows the kingdom.

Seven Myths about Healing

1. We should not expect the supernatural because the apostolic age is over. The miraculous is rare after the completion of the canon of scripture. Cessationism and Dispensationalism are 19th century ideas. Healing never went away, it is here, and it is real.
2. God may not want me to get well. "Please, Lord, if it is your will." God can make use of our sickness, but ultimately it results from the fall, it will not be present in the next age, and it is an affront to God's Kingdom
3. Of course, Jesus could heal the sick, he is the son of God. His miraculous ministry began after his filling with the Holy Spirit at his baptism.
4. We need to be worthy vessels for it to work. It helps, but the disciples were not very worthy. It is God's power, not our power.

5. We need to have a special spiritual gift for it to work. A gift help and can come when needed, but it is not necessary.
6. The recipient needs to have faith for it to work. Faith is required, but the minister's faith is sufficient.
7. God only has so much healing power to go around. This is an insult to God's omnipresence and omnipotence.

Four Barriers to Healing

Trespass leading to demonisation: Deut 18:10-12

- Sorcery/Magic - the attempt to control people or nature through supernatural means.
- Divination – fortune telling seeking supernatural guidance or knowledge apart from God or the means he has given.
- Necromancy – gaining secret knowledge or power through communication with the dead or other spirit beings.
- Idolatry – acknowledging other gods e.g., though eastern medicine.

Curses must be broken using the power of the cross.

Persistent sin must be specifically repented of, and absolution given.

Unforgiveness must be repented of. Ask, "is there any sin you need to repent from and is there anyone you need to forgive."

A Basic Healing Procedure

1. **Submit** yourself to God James 4:7, ask for the Holy Spirit to give you all the necessary gifts for the work at hand.
2. **Ask** the person's name and why they have come for healing.
3. **Seek** the reason why they are sick. Be open to the Holy Spirit to reveal a word of knowledge or word of wisdom that may be the key to healing. Ascertain and deal with any barriers to healing, as per above.
4. **Invite** the Holy Spirit to come onto the person.
5. **Wait** for the Holy Spirit to move and watch for physical signs of this. Be open to Words of Knowledge etc.
6. **Command** a healing in the name of Jesus. You may lay a hand on shoulder, head or specific part of the body. Do not repeat yourself. Wait for the Holy Spirit to work.

7. **Check** to see if there is any improvement.
8. **Give** thanks and praise to God for any healing received.
9. **Repeat** the three steps above until healing is completed, or no further progress is made.
10. **Counsel** the person to:
 - a. seek more healing until they are completely well.
 - b. declare that they are being healed (e.g., “by the power of the cross I am being healed”).
 - c. give testimony to their healing.
 - d. inform a spiritual elder or attend to any spiritual matters requiring attention.

Practical Tips

- Ask the person to stay quiet, with their eyes close and hands open. Stand, sit or kneel depending upon the condition.
- Keep your eyes open focussed on the person to see signs of the Holy Spirit on them.
- Command healing/ rebuke sickness/ and speak health over the person. You do not need to ask or pray to God for any of these things. They are biblical givens for those who minister in Jesus name. Simply command these things using the authority you have been given.
- Get them to test/move the area being healed. Healing often comes once they start working that area of the body.
- Ask at the beginning how severe any pain is on a score out of 10. Ask what it is after praying. Also get them to tell you when the pain has gone.
- If working in pairs, or more, have one person leading and doing all the speaking. Other team members are to quietly give any insights to the leader.
- Deal with any demons before commanding healing.
- Ensure that you are clean spiritually and physically, including your breath and body odours.

Improving Your Success Rate

God will always answer prayer for healing in some way. We can improve our success by attending to the following factors:

Holiness. The main difference for Jesus success in healing is that he was completely holy. We are becoming holier. If you grow in holiness, you will have greater success.

Faith. The more faith you have the more you can believe for. A special gift of faith will allow you to achieve more. You can wait until the atmosphere of faith is strong before you heal.

Skill. There are techniques (see above) that anyone can learn that will improve your success. E.g., for joints and limbs healing usually comes when they are moving.

Gift. Some will be given a gift to heal in a gathering when healing is required. Others may have a special gift that indicates healing is one of their ministries.