

Remnant Life Church
March 23, 2014
I Corinthians 12:10

“Prophecy - Not Fortune-Telling”

- **Four remaining gifts for us to look at together**
 - 2 will be taught together; tongues and interpretation of tongues
 - Discerning of Spirits will be the final one because it is the important filter from which all the others must pass through
 - This morning – Prophecy
- **Understand the difference between prophecy and satan’s attempt at perverting the gift:**
 - Fortune-teller
 - Divinator
 - Mystic
 - Oracle
 - Astrologer
 - Conjuror
 - Witchcraft
- **Each of these follows the same pattern of purpose and power**
 1. They rely on a power that is not of God
 2. Their purpose is often motivated out of personal gain
 3. They focus on the created and not the Creator
 - a. “Powers of the universe”
 - b. The stars and planets
 - c. Tea leaves, bones, blood...
 4. Because of that, they open the door of your life to every evil of the enemy – (Antique store in Gettysburg)
 5. There is an effort to minimize their harm and darkness by turning them into parlor and children’s games
 - a. Séances
 - b. Ouija boards
 - c. Magic 8 Ball
 - d. Harry Potter
 - e. Witches (TV shows aimed at teenagers)
 6. The Bible speaks often and powerfully against trying to communicate with the dead/familiar spirits, divination, astrology and other elements so closely associated with the occult.
 - a. **Dt. 18:9-12** – an abomination to God punishable by death
 - b. These were the practices of the pagan nations leading to idol worship
 - c. **Lev. 19:31; 20:6**
 7. Clearest example is Saul and the Witch of Endor
 - a. **I Samuel 28:4-14**
 - b. Saul does not hear from the Lord so he turns to the occult

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- i. If we don't hear from God in the time we want how do we respond?
 - ii. Those who "Wait upon the Lord" (**Isa. 40:31**)
- c. The spirit of Samuel, allowed to come by God, was not what the woman was expecting
- d. She was expecting the demonic spirit that worked through her
- e. Saul paid for this act with his life and the lives of his sons
- f. Any contact with a "ghost" is not the spirit of a deceased loved one but a lying, deceiving demonic spirit
- g. We must stay away from any element of this not in fear but in obedience.
- h. Over 30 versus in the OT regarding false prophets, fortune-tellers and mediums
- i. **Matt. 24:24** tells us that even Christians will be deceived in the end times. We must know the difference!

The Hebrew words for prophet in the Old Testament

1. Ro'eh – seer – a special ability to see into the spiritual realm through dreams, visions and vivid revelations
2. Nabi' – main word used over 300 times in the OT; literally a spokesperson
 - a. Man of God – **2 Kings 4:21**
 - b. Servant of God – **Isa. 20:3**
 - c. The Lord's Messenger – **Hag. 1:13**
 - d. Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel
3. Purpose of the prophet in the OT
 - a. Show the nature of God
 - b. Bring sin to light and call for repentance
 - c. Prediction of the Messianic hope
4. Jesus' ministry and the giving of the Holy Spirit changed the function of the prophet from the only voice of God to an instrument of encouragement for the church

What is the difference in a prophet and a fortune-teller?

- a. A person must have Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior to have legal access to the things of heaven including the gifts
- b. A fortune-teller may have a genuine prophetic gifting but it is illegal access (without Christ) and the only one who operates in the illegal aspects of the supernatural is satan.
 - i.e. No prophet of God needs to make use of taro cards to know and share a word from God
- c. A fortune-teller tells you only about your life and your future while a prophet tells you about things of God in your life

What is the nature and purpose of the prophetic word?

- A prophetic Word of God given to a person is given according to God's purpose and points people only to God
- It edifies, comforts, and exhorts
 - **Edification** – build up through moral improvement
 - **2 Samuel – 12:7-14**

- Prophet Nathan confronts David about his sin with Uriah and Bathsheba
- **Exhortation** – advice or encouragement toward an action or event
 - **Acts 21:10-11**
 - Prophet Agabus told Paul what would happen if he went to Jerusalem (Paul’s belt tied around his wrist)
 - He did not tell him to go or not to go
- **Comfort** – peace and hope in a difficult or “hopeless” situation
 - **Jeremiah 34:4** – Nebuchadnezzar is attacking the city the prophet tells Zedekiah king of Judah that he will not be killed by the sword
 - **Exodus 14:13-14** – Moses assures the Israelites they will escape the Egyptians through the Red Sea
- The prophetic word always points you to seek God through His Word, through other mature believers, through prayer
- It must ALWAYS be tested and confirmed by the Word

It does NOT...

- Give direction for what to do in your life
 - We go to the Word of God for guidance not to other people
 - That includes other believers as well as spiritual leaders
 - When a church leader or pastor attempts to dictate how you live your life it becomes a cult
- Serve in any way to benefit the person giving the word
 - Personal gain means that the focus is not on serving God
 - A gift given by God is never used for personal gain
 - Any blessing to the person is solely out of obedience
- Does not declare itself to be the Word of God
 - No person can present an unquestionable infallible word since it must go first through our sin-effected minds and spirits
 - **I Cor. 13:12** - *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*