

More About Prophecy

Prophecy – the CONDUIT – Generally it denotes all “speaking by the Spirit in the language known to the speaker”, regardless of the content. In other words, words of wisdom and of knowledge, or tongues with interpretation could generally be classified as “prophetic” or “prophetic ministry”, because they all involve speaking by the Spirit in the known language (again, that is, if interpretation accompanies tongues). One could correctly say, “Prophecy went forth in that service today.” I Cor. 14:24-25

Prophecy – the CONDUCT - it is specifically communicating the message of God (usually verbally), by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, in a (verbal) language known to the speaker. It may be prosaic or poetic, monotonous or musical, however the Spirit wills. (Truly anointed preaching also carries a measure of the prophetic – see “forthtelling” below.) Acts 19:6

Prophecy – the CONTENT –

Forthtelling - This is expressing what God is saying to the audience at (and/ or for) a given moment, communicating the heart and mind of God to the listener(s), usually verbally, but possibly through other means such as the theatrical, etc. The one who brings this prophetic content is “prophesying”, even if there is no futuristic element involved. Utterances that basically mean that the Lord is saying, “I love you.” “I am with you.” “I am preparing you.” “I am refining you.” “I am warning you.” It is designed to “exhort, edify, and comfort”. I Corinthians 14:3

Foretelling – This is communicating what will take place at some time in the future, by means of the Holy Spirit giving the speaker some limited portion of God’s own foreknowledge. The one who brings this prophetic content is “prophesying”; the content has a futuristic element, but it can, and should, still bring present edification to those who hear and believe. John 16:13

And Forthtelling and Foretelling may occur together, and often do. II Chronicles 20: 14-17, Isaiah 37:21-35

Any believer who is indwelt by the Spirit and is under His influence may be used to manifest any of the Spirit’s works at a given time, including prophesying. We refer to this as “**the spirit of prophecy**”. This may occur through an individual or through a **group** of believers as well. I Cor. 14:24-25

A believer who exhibits increasing consistency and maturity in a certain area of the Spirit’s manifestation, in this case prophecy, is referred to as having a “**gift of... (in this case, prophecy)**”.

A prophet is a fivefold minister (Ephesians 4:11, I Corinthians 12:28, an elder (I Peter 5:1), who minimally has several of the revelatory and inspirational gifts consistently and increasingly manifesting in him or her. Power gifts sometimes will manifest to confirm the revelatory and inspirational gifts as well. I Kings 13:1-6, Acts 11:28, Acts 21:10-11

Therefore,

TO Prophecy – can mean, basically, to speak spontaneously, prompted by the Spirit (by inspiration), in the known language of the speaker.

TO Prophecy – can also mean to speak what God is saying to the audience (even if that audience is God Himself) at (and/ or for) a given moment, communicating the heart and mind of God to the listener(s), usually verbally, but possibly through other means such as the theatrical, etc. It expresses a sentiment that is current. It is FORTH-telling.

TO Prophecy – can also mean to declare what will take place in the future, by means of the Holy Spirit imparting a measure of God’s own foreknowledge. It makes known information about the future. It is FORE-telling.

A (the) fundamental difference between the word of wisdom and a foretelling prophecy regards their CONTENT. Though both may have futuristic content, a word of wisdom tends to be more **instructional** and **conditional**, whereas the prophecy (again, if it is *foretelling*) is more of a direct prediction, with little **(no) room for variation or change**. Luke 22:10-12, Luke 22:33-34 To whom much is given, much is required. Grow in whatever grace God gives, II Peter 3:18, without fear and without presumption.