

“eDisciples Viewpoint
“The Weapons of Our Warfare”
Part Eight

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5/1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Intro: We now come to the last category of spiritual gifts that are found in 1 Corinthians 12- the Inspiration or verbal gifts. These gifts are: the gift of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These inspiration gifts are more directed to the church. In this lesson I want to talk about the gift of prophecy. Specifically, as with the other gifts, I want to define it, give some biblical examples of it, and finally, consider how to appropriate this gift into our lives and ministries.

- I. The definition of the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:3).
 - A. What the gift of prophecy is not:
 1. It is not foretelling the future.
 - a. The gift of prophecy is different from the office of a Prophet (Ephesians 4:11).
 - b. God has limited this gift to three specific exercises- edification or strengthening, exhortation or encouragement, and comfort.
 2. It is not to give guidance.
 3. It is not preaching.
 - a. Preaching is proclaiming the Good News.
 - b. This type of communication, though inspired and anointed by the Holy Spirit, comes from the natural mind.
 - c. Prophecy is the mind of the Holy Spirit and although some preaching may be infused with the gift of prophecy, preaching in and of itself is not.
 4. It is not used to rebuke. You will not find this in the three things that are listed in 1 Corinthians 14:3.
 5. It is not a ministry of criticism.
 - a. Prophecy is not one person’s opinion against another.
 - b. This gift operates under the anointing of God to warn people of sin or shortcomings, it can lift Christians out of depression, and can encourage them to move from a place of Luke warmth.
 - B. The gift of prophecy is a message from God given spontaneously in the language understood by the people who are listening. It is a message that God is giving to His people.
 1. The gift of prophecy build up or strengthens people in their faith.
 2. The gift of prophecy exhorts or encourages people.
 - a. For example- a person may prophecy saying that Jesus is coming soon, don’t give up the faith, don’t stop now.
 - b. A person may prophecy saying that God has not forsaken you. Your difficulty is for just a little while.
 3. The gift of prophecy often comforts people in times of sorrow, distress, suffering, and persecution.
- II. Biblical Examples of the gift of prophecy.
 - A. It brings life. Prophecy brought life to the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-4).
 - B. It encourages us and exhorts us by giving us a spiritual vision (Proverbs 29:13, 18).
 - C. Philip’s daughters prophesied (Acts 21:9).
 - D. Peter declared that in the last days men and women, men servants and man servants would prophecy (Acts 2:18)

- III. How to appropriate this gift.
 - A. This is a gift that requires the Holy Spirit to work with or through you.
 - B. Understand that you are in control of this gift (1 Corinthians 14:29-33).
 - C. We prophecy according to the proportion of our faith.
 - 1. Romans 12:6.
 - 2. 2 Timothy 1:6