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# The Gift of the Prophet (The Voice of the Church)

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## The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of the Prophet (The Voice of the Church)***

***New Series Messages: “The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit”***

- Theme Scriptures:
  - Ephesians 4:11–12 (AV)<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
  - 2 Timothy 1:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
- Sermon: The Gift of the Apostle (Establishing The Church)
  - The Purpose of the Apostle is to Establish or Begin a Ministry of Church
  - The Work of the Apostle is to Produce the Spiritual Things for the Church
  - The Stirring of the Apostle is Accepting the Call, and being made for the Call

***Lesson Text***

Jeremiah 29:8–11 (AV)<sup>8</sup> For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD. <sup>10</sup> For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. <sup>5</sup> But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 2:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

***Introduction***

The Gifts of the Spirit are also divided into three categories:

- Foundation Gifts (Apostles, ***Prophets***, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers)
- Works Gifts (Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Discerning of Spirits, Helps, Administrations)
- Sign Gifts (Healings, Miracles, Tongues)

In our last sermon we looked at the Gift of the Apostle; whose purpose is to establish the church, whose work is to produce spiritual things, and whose gift is stirred by accepting and being made for the call.

Let's now look at the gift of the **Prophet**: It's an individual who is regarded as being in contact with a divine being and is said to speak on that entity's behalf, serving as an intermediary with humanity by delivering messages or teachings from the supernatural source to other people.

The challenge we have with prophets is that there are many false prophets:

- Jeremiah 29:8–9 (AV)<sup>8</sup> For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.
- 1 John 4:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Many people are deceived, fooled, tricked, misled all the time because of False Prophets.

- Matthew 24:11–12 (AV)<sup>11</sup> **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**
- 2 Timothy 4: <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Jesus says the reason so many people are being deceived by false prophets is because of sin. Paul then adds to the reason for the deception is because people rather believe a lie than accept the truth.

So not only must we learn how to discern true Prophets, those of us with the Gift of the Prophet must stir up the gift and not be seduced into becoming a false Prophet.

### ***Series and Sermon: The Foundation Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of the Prophet (The Voice of the Church)***

“The Purpose, Mission, and Stirring of the Prophet”

#### ***I. The Purpose of the Prophet (The Voice of God – In Season of Out)***

2 Timothy 4:2 (AV)<sup>2</sup> **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;** reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Although many Christians become enamored by prophets who give them a prophetic word, a word of knowledge, or a word of wisdom concerning their future; the true purpose of the prophet is to be the Voice of God to the church.

And though some prophets may do what is called foretelling; most of what God has to say to the church has already been written in the logos. So, the modern prophet should be seen not so much as a foreteller, but a forth-teller; one who brings forth or preaches the Word of God.

And his job is to preach in season or out of season!

Preaching **In season** means that everything is going your way: The ministry is flourishing, people are joining, the vision is becoming reality, people are speaking well of you.

But Preaching **Out of Season** is when everything and everyone turns on you: You're no longer the flavor of the month, people are walking away, nothing seems to be working, prayers not being answered.

The Prophet is the Voice of God who must preach the Word of God, regardless of whether the people want to hear it or not; in season or out!

## ***II. The Work of the Prophet (Preach the Truth of God – Enduring Affliction)***

2 Timothy 4:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

The reason why so many people are being deceived is because we have too many false foretellers, and not enough true forth-tellers preaching and bring forth the Word of God

2 Timothy 4: <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Many prophets have been seduced by money, wealth, or power telling people with itching ears what they wanted to hear.

1 Timothy 6:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The Work of the Prophet is to endure the afflictions that come from preaching the Word of God.

2 Timothy 4:2 (AV)<sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Preaching is to exhort, which means to encourage, inspire, support, and reassure. And as a preacher, we all love this part of our gifting and assignment.

But Preaching also means to reprove, which is to criticize; and to rebuke, which is to admonish or reprimand. And this is where the afflictions come in.

The false prophets of Jeremiah's day were telling the people what they wanted to hear; namely that they would be delivered from bondage immediately.

But Jeremiah reprovved and rebuked the people telling them that they were being deceived by false prophets who were telling them what they wanted to hear. He said will be in captivity for 70 years; but God has a word for you!

Jeremiah 29:<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

But they didn't want to hear the true Voice of God and ridiculed and afflicted Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 20:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Their constant ridicule made him into a joke. It got so bad that he wanted to quit.

Jeremiah 20:9 (AV)<sup>9</sup> Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

The work of the prophet is to endure afflictions and preach the word because it's like fire shut up in his bones.

### ***III. The Stirring of the Prophet (Study & Prove)***

2 Timothy 2:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Purpose of the Prophet is to Preach the Word of God, the Work of the Prophet is to Endure the Word of God, and finally the Stirring of the Prophet is to Study & Prove the Word of God.

Whereas the Apostle must accept the call and be made; the Prophet must study and be proved.

If we are going to do the Work of the Prophet, we must study and be proving.

Psalms 119:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 1:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

After the Prophet Studies, He's ready to be Proven; that is, He's ready to take and pass the test!

2 Timothy 2:<sup>15</sup> **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**

Too many profits fail the test because they don't study; which is why so many dread their tests.

But when you've studied for the test, you welcome them because you're ready to be proven, ready to move to the next grade, move to the next level, move to the next promotion.

James 1:2–4 (AV)<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; <sup>3</sup> Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Gift of the Prophet (The Voice of the Church))**

**Lesson Text**

- Jeremiah 29:8–11, 2 Timothy 4:1–5, 2 Timothy 2:15
- Book: [The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit](#): Read “Foundation Gifts, Prophets”

**Sermon Outline (Notes)**

**I. The Purpose of the Prophet**

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**II. The Work of the Prophet**

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**III. The Stirring of the Prophet**

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**Questions**

**I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What three words would your best friend use to describe you? Do you agree with those words?
2. Reflect on the sermons we have heard in 2019 about the Holy Spirit. Share how your thoughts, words and or actions have been impacted?

**II. Into the Bible**

1. The Apostle Paul wrote a warning to the church about “itching ears” in 2 Timothy 4:3. The Greek word translated “itching” literally means “to itch, rub, scratch or tickle.” What is the significance of “itching ears” as it relates to the church? What is the remedy for this?
2. According to 1 John 4:1, (NLT), “Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.” What are some ways to test to see if their message is truly from God? Give scriptural support.

**III. Life Application**

1. Have you ever shared God’s word when it wasn’t convenient? Now that you’ve heard this message, do you plan to be more intentional about sharing God’s word?
2. How do you plan to use the insights contained in this sermon to enrich your calling and gifting?