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YOU WILL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUIT

The past few years we have seen the rise of those that call themselves prophets. The gift of a Prophet is mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 as part of the five-fold ministry given to the church as a gift. The main purpose of each of these five positions is to equip the saints so that they can mature.

In the New Testament we see many examples of prophets. Some foretold of famine. One told Paul he would become imprisoned if he went to Rome. Both men and women were used in this office. In I Corinthians 13 it talks about prophesying, but this is not the office of the prophet. Any Spirit-filled Christian can prophesy. But not everyone that prophesies is a prophet.

Remember, the gifting of a prophet is to equip or bring maturity to the saints. Their main job is to teach. They will bring truths from the word to bring maturity to believers. They were never intended to prophesy over every person and "give a word." Yes, I believe in prophesy, but prophesy can only come from God. No one can just "conjure" up a word and say it is from the Lord any time they want. This can lead to giving a word from the flesh, and not from God.

There have been many voices raised up in the past few years. Many supposedly gave a prophetic word that 2020 would be a year of vision and great things would happen. They didn't say anything about a pandemic and the deaths that would occur. These "prophets" did not bring a sound word to the body of Christ. Yes, there could have been 2020 vision, but it would have included that there were hard times coming. Prophets can miss it, but when they do, they should have repented and said they were wrong. A few did, but most did not.

In Matthew 7:15 it says, ***"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."*** This means they look like the real thing but inside they are wolves in sheep's clothing. They bring deception and often money is their motivation. Verses 16-20 goes on to say, ***"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit: but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."***

Jesus takes this very seriously my friends. We need to be careful who we listen to and what message is given. I was in a meeting and was "prophesied" over that I was to sell everything and move overseas. I knew this was not from the Lord and so did Russell. This person was prophesying out of her flesh. Never take a word given as being from God if it doesn't witness with your spirit. Remember, Satan pushes, but God leads. In this season that we are in, it is imperative that we listen to Holy Spirit and not just a prophet. We can hear from God himself, not through secondhand information. If a prophetic word is given, and the person is truthfully giving a word from God it will come to pass. You will know them by their fruit.