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5-8-2020

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

The first group of gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:8-10) are those which speak messages directly from the Lord as Holy spirit moves upon the “message bearer.” These gifts are prophecy, a message in tongues, and the interpretation of the message in tongues.

The gift of prophecy is a message spoken in one’s own language which the body of believers who are gathered can easily understand it. It often is a word of encouragement, or instruction from the Lord, possibly even a word of warning or correction. It is usually given at a time of brief pause so as not to disrupt anything. Many times, the person may be speaking out in a manner louder than they normally would speak. It may be during a time of quiet prayer and meditation or during praise and worship, but not in the middle of a sermon, unless the preacher has a lengthy pause, which could occur if he senses that the Spirit wants to do something.

Let’s talk about what the gift of prophecy is NOT. It is not “inspired preaching.” Many non-Pentecostal seminaries and bible colleges teach that it is simply the preaching of the word. That view was “thought up” as an explanation by those who know little or nothing about any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They try to “explain away” the gifts.

It is also not the function of the five-fold ministry gift to the Church of Prophet.” A prophet is a specific calling of God placed upon a person. God reveals things about His plans to them. Sometimes it may be through a vision, or a dream, or a trance, or just simply revealing it to their mind or heart. God’s revelation to a prophet comes various ways, and not the same way to all of them.

A prophetic message given through the Holy Spirit in this “gift of prophecy” comes to an ordinary believer, not to a prophet. The “gift of prophecy” is vastly different from the “office of a Prophet.” A Prophet or Prophetess walks in the anointing of that “office” seven days a week just as does one who is anointed in the “office” of Pastor or Evangelist, Teacher, or Apostle.

Tomorrow we will consider the companion gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues, so stay tuned. We are going through all nine gifts in this study.