



## How, When, Where, Why and Why Not of the Prophetic

The Apostle Paul gave us one of the most condensed, and thorough teachings on the gifts of the Spirit that begins in **1 Corinthians 12:1**. *“Now concerning spiritual gifts brethren, I would not have you to be ignorant”* and ends in **1 Corinthians 14:40** *“Let all things be done in decency and order.”* The chapter numbers and verses as we all know, were not in the original teaching, and were only put there by man as a point of reference. This was basically all one teaching. He wants us to be knowledgeable concerning the spiritual gifts, and in Chapter 12 He discussed the nine signature gifts of the Spirit, the diversity, the operations and administrations of the gifts. He gave us a wonderful analogy concerning the gifts, the human body, and the body of Christ. He also spoke of the five-fold ministry gifts. He ended that in verse 31, and told us to covet earnestly the best gifts. That word "covet," is a very, very strong word which in the World Book Dictionary says, *“To desire earnestly, to wish for especially, or to eagerly long for.”* I believe that he spent the entirety of Chapter 13, speaking of the value and need for love/charity to be used or applied to the use of your gift, and he referred to that in **Chapter 12:31** *“As a more excellent way.”*

Of all of these gifts that he spoke of, he now enters in to Chapter 14 and spends that entire chapter talking to us about the gift of prophecy. In verse 1 of Chapter 14, he tells us to follow after charity/love, desire/covet, spiritual gifts, but then he says, *“But rather that you might prophecy.”* He emphasizes this desire in his heart for you and I to prophecy. He gives us in **Chapter 14:3**, the New Testament model for prophecy, and then he ends it in verse 40 with *“Let all things be done in decency and in order.”* But he touched on many areas throughout the chapter that are so important, in understanding the how, the when, the where, the why, and the why not of the prophetic. I want to encourage you to read Chapter 14 with the understanding of his emphasis on this very important end time gift. Let’s talk about the how! In addition to **1 Corinthians 14:40**, where he emphasizes order and discipline, he also tells us **1 & 2 Chronicles**, that the house of the Lord needs to be set in order, and **2 Samuel 17**, that our house needs to be in order, and again in **2 Kings 20** and **Isaiah 38**, he exhorts us with *“Set thine house in order.”* Our God is a God of order and discipline. Everything He establishes is according to divine order in the universe. He is not the author of confusion, but rather the enemy is the author of confusion, and lack of order brings us to a place of chaos and anarchy which are the enemy of God. He has a thorough understanding of divine authority and divine order. When we are operating in the gifts of the Spirit, particularly the end time gifts such as the gift of prophecy, we must do so in proper alignment and proper order, and he detailed that proper

order in the teachings noted above. That can be generally applied to the gift of prophecy, wherever and whenever a member of the body is operating in their gifting.

Additionally, in every local church, fellowship or body, there is a local headship, a leader who will establish the protocol for that particular gathering. I need to always, when I feel led to operate in my gift, submit my gift to the established leadership of the body, and do it in the allotted time, and appropriate placement; and with the approval of that established leadership. Whenever possible, I try to have the prophetic words I release recorded, so that they may be judged and tested appropriately to **1 Corinthians 14:29**. If I bring to an individual a personal word, I like to record it so that he or she may bring it to their pastor or spiritual leader, for further discernment and direction; and also, so that the individual would clearly be able to sit down and review or record that word for future application.

I normally try to adhere to the following eight rules when I personally deliver a word:

1. Use a tape recorder.
2. Seek approval or permission from the governing authority.
3. Find the appropriate timing for an effective delivery.
4. Be sure the Word brings edification, comfort or encouragement.
5. I try not to bring unneeded attention to myself.
6. Don't pout if your word is not received.
7. I stand ready for the word to be judged.
8. I start when He starts and I stop when He stops.

### **When**

I like to deliver a word in the right timing of a service. A word should be given as we ascend from praise, to worship, to the glory. It is never to bring the service down. It should always be a word that brings the Body to a higher level of faith and expectancy. The word has to fit into the flow of the service, and never out of order. I bring the word forth when the Spirit of the Lord says to. I am not moved by my emotions or led by my soul; it is not by power, not by might, but by the Spirit.

### **Where**

In the sanctuary, not the parking lot! Parking lot prophets have done a great deal of harm in the body of Christ. I try to deliver my word in the right setting, and under the proper authority. In a restaurant, or other public place, yes, I believe that we are to be utilizing our gifts outside the four walls of the building; that the church is not a place, but it is you and I. However, I would try not to deliver a word within me, to someone who is in the church if I am not released to do so in that body. Just because I happen to be sitting in a restaurant setting afterwards, still does not mean that I am released. I like to deliver a word in front of the church or at the microphone,

not from my seat, unless that is the protocol of the house. It's important that I do it so that all can hear and be edified.

### **Why**

So that we can be effective in our gifting, and to bring acceptance to you and the word, and to bring glory to God and not shame; to glorify the Lord and be protected by the spiritual covering in the house.

### **Why Not**

I did mention I was going to share with you the why not. Why not, do it my own way whenever, wherever I feel like it! I believe that our lack of tact and protocol has caused a lot of problems in the body. Many churches and denominations that I visit have been so hurt by lone rangers and smoking guns, loose cannons in the prophetic, that the bulk of what I do in the early stages of my visit, is to re-establish confidence and integrity. Since 1948, there has been a restoration season in the church with the five-fold ministries being restored. The gifts of the Spirit being restored to the body, particularly the gift of prophecy and the office gift of the prophet; and part of our responsibility, in everyone of us that have been given divine authority in the prophetic, also must burden the responsibility of operating in and restoring this gift in the way that we can be effective. That God's people can be encouraged and edified, that the word can be fully received, and that God can be glorified in the way we operate in the gift, co-operate and fellowship in the body, and with our leaders.

I am looking forward to bringing you the prophetic Edge every month, and I would like to hear from you. Please email me your questions and comments. Let's you and I begin to develop a deeper relationship as we put our hand to the plough and serve the Lord together.

God Bless You.

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