

Quarter Three: *1 and 2 Corinthians*

Jill Morikone

Lesson 6—Spiritual Gifts

Thursday: The Gift of Prophecy

August 6, 2026

- Last Week: “All to the Glory of God”
 - 1 Cor 8, 9 & 10
 - Idolatry (esp food offered to idols) & Paul’s counsel for the church
- This week: “Spiritual Gifts”
 - 1 Cor 12, 13 & 14
 - Paul’s counteraction to the schisms in the church (from 1 Cor 1 – 4) & the disorderly gatherings in Corinth: Unity in the body of Christ & spiritual gifts

Memory Text: “Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy” (1 Cor 14:1, ESV).

The week in brief:

- 1. Sunday: Varieties of Gifts (Dinzey)
 - 1 Cor 12:1 – 6 – purpose & meaning of the spiritual gifts given to believers in the body of Christ; role of faith
- 2. Monday: Unity through Diversity (Ryan)
 - 1 Cor 12:12 – 31 – role of unity in the body of Christ, combined with the individuality / diversity He gives to His children
- 3. Tuesday: “A More Excellent Way” (SQ)
 - 1 Cor 13:1 – 7 – primacy of love for all spiritual gifts; what love is and is not
- 4. Wednesday: The Gift of Tongues (John L)
 - 1 Cor 12 & 14 – the spiritual gift of speaking in another language; the misinterpretation of this gift in the Corinthian church & the confusion & disorder that caused
- 5. Thursday: The Gift of Prophecy (Jill)
 - 1 Cor 14:3, 4 – understanding the gift of prophecy as edification, exhortation & comfort in the present as well as prediction for the future; role of EGW as receiving this gift

Thursday: The Gift of Prophecy

1 Cor 12:10, 28; 1 Cor 13:8; 1 Cor 14:3 – 6, 22; Eph 4:11 – 13; Acts 15:32; Acts 2:29 – 31; Acts 15:32

- Broad topic: seek to discuss
 - What is the gift of prophecy?
 - What is its origin & purpose?
 - Importance?
 - Role in the life of the church
 - How is the prophetic gift revealed throughout the centuries – and today?
 - What is the criterion of a prophet?
 - Who is Ellen White and what is her role?

- **What is the gift of prophecy & where is its origin?**
 - 1 Cor 12:10 – “to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues”
 - Middle of the list of spiritual gifts
 - The gift of prophecy = a spiritual gift
 - 1 Cor 12:7 – “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”
 - **Takeaway #1: The gift of prophecy is given by the Spirit for the edification of all**
 - The gift of prophecy is not something studied or self-created – it’s a gift from the Holy Spirit
 - The gift of prophecy is not for the holder of that gift – it’s intended for the edification of others
- **What is the purpose of this gift of prophecy?**
 - 1 Cor 14:1 – “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”
 - Prophecy – *prof-ay-tyoo’-o* = Strong’s: “prophesy; to foretell events, speak under inspiration”
 - Divinely empowered forthtelling or foretelling
 - **Forthtelling** – say something on behalf of someone else
 - **Foretelling** – say something in advance
 - Comes from Gk root word *prof-ay’-tace* = a prophet; a foreteller (“prophet”); by analogy, an inspired speaker
 - Someone inspired by God to foretell or tell-forth the Word of God
 - Foretell = predicting the future (**future** prediction)
 - Tell forth = speaking God’s message to someone now (how to live in the **present**)
 - **Takeaway #2: The gift of prophecy has a two-fold application:**
 - Forthtelling: Present day message on behalf of God
 - Foretelling: Future prediction on behalf of God
 - 1 Cor 14:3, 4 – “but he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. (4) He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”
 - Present day message on behalf of God: **forth tellers**
 - **3-fold purpose today:**
 - **Edification** – build up the church (can indicate constructive criticism / instruction that builds up a person in Christ)
 - **Exhortation** – from *par-ak’-lay-sis* – entreaty, urgent counsel, caution (personal, intimate call)
 - **Comfort** – involves tenderness, comfort, speaking closely to someone
 - **Forth tellers: present day message of edification, exhortation, comfort**
 - **OT examples**
 - Elijah: predicted no rain to Ahab, but primary work was forthtelling: calling the nation to repentance & preaching against idol worship (Ahab)

- Elisha was forthtelling: delivering direct messages of guidance & repentance to others
- **NT examples**
 - Acts 15:32 – “Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.”
 - Directly called prophets: Judas & Silas were forthtelling (strengthening the believers with edification, exhortation & comfort)
 - John the Baptist
 - Foreteller – John 1:27 – he was not worthy to untie Jesus’ sandals
 - Forth teller – call to repentance & reformation
- **Foretellers: prophets who predict the future**
 - Amos 3:7 – “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”
 - The Holy Spirit inspires prophets to predict the future
 - **OT examples**
 - David: Acts 2:29, 31 – “Men & brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead & buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ... (31) he (David) foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ...”
 - Peter is forthtelling (providing a God-anointed, present day message of edification, exhortation & comfort)
 - Peter is referring to King David who was a foreteller – prophet who predicted the future
 - Micah 5:2 – “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old from everlasting.”
 - Micah is foretelling the coming Messiah from Bethlehem
 - **NT examples**
 - Acts 11:28 – “Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.”
 - Agabus is foretelling the coming famine
 - Agabus predicted Paul’s coming chains (Acts 21:10, 11)
- **Is the Gift of Prophecy important?**
 - 1 Cor 14:5 – “I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied...”
 - Indicates multiple people are called to forthtell: edify, exhort & comfort
 - 1 Cor 14:1 – “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”
 - Called to desire the gift of prophecy

- **Takeaway #3: The Gift of Prophecy is to be more widely bestowed than we might have thought**
 - Many might be called to be forth tellers
- **When is the Gift of Prophecy bestowed through history?**
 - Biblical prophets since early days of Biblical history
 - Joel 2:28, 29 – “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons & your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. (29) And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”
 - The prophet Joel is foretelling a coming outpouring of the Holy Spirit with many prophets – both men & women
 - Fulfillment at Pentecost (Peter’s sermon)
 - Fulfillment in end times
- **Tests of a True Prophet**
 - Bible presents at least 4 tests that are applied to
 - Those who claim to speak for God through prophecy, miracles or other spiritual gifts
 - 1 Thess 5:20, 21 – “Do not despise prophecies. (21) Test all things; hold fast what is good.”
 - **#1: Fulfilled prophecy (foretelling)**
 - Jer 28:8, 9 – prophecies of true prophets, when they are not conditional, always come to pass
 - Jer 18:7 – 10 – conditional nature of predictive prophecy
 - Deut 18:22
 - **#2: Agreement with God’s Word**
 - Isa 8:20 – “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”
 - Test everything a prophet says by the Word of God
 - Deut 13:1 – 4 – leads to obedience to God’s Word
 - **#3: Emphasis on the centrality of Jesus**
 - 1 John 4:1 – 3 – “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, (3) and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God...”
 - **#4: Fruits of the prophet’s life and ministry**
 - Matt 7:15 – 20 – “... (20) Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”
 - A prophet’s fruit = the impact of his or her life & work
- **Prophetic Role of Ellen G. White**
 - She fulfills the tests of a prophet
 - She is not the Spirit of Prophecy; rather she possesses the Gift of Prophecy
 - The prophetic gift of prophecy was bestowed on her

- She was both a forth teller and a foreteller
 - Both current edification, exhortation & comfort for present-day
 - And prediction of future events
- Her writings are inspired and authoritative
 - Yet, her writings are not to supersede the Bible
 - They act as a “telescope”, magnifying Biblical truths, while not creating new, independent revelations