Quarter Four: *The Gift of Prophecy*

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Lesson 9—Testing the Prophets
Wednesday: Positive Fruits
November 25, 2026

- **Last Week:** "Interpreting Prophetic Writings"
  - Keys to Biblical Interpretation

- **This Week:** "Testing the Prophets"
  - Biblical principles to test the authenticity of the prophetic gift

Memory Text: "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" (1 John 4:1, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- **1. Sunday:** Role of the Supernatural (Pastor John D)
  - #1: Physical phenomena, showing that a supernatural power is at work (visions / dreams)
- **2. Monday:** Harmony with the Bible (Pastor Ryan J)
  - #2: Harmony with the Word of God (never contradict Scripture)
- **3. Tuesday:** The Incarnation of Christ (SQ)
  - #3: Emphasis on the centrality of Jesus & His incarnation, ministry, death & resurrection
- **4. Wednesday:** Positive Fruits (Jill)
  - #4: Fruit of the prophet's life & ministry (fruit demonstrated over time, not perfection)
- **5. Thursday:** Fulfilled Prophecies (Pastor John L)
  - #5: Prophetic fulfillment (foretelling) (caveat of conditional prophecies)
- **6. Friday:** "Taste and See" (Jill)
  - How EGW fulfilled the tests of a true prophet & the challenge to try her writings for oneself

Wednesday: Positive Fruits

Matt 7:16 – 20; Jonah 1:1 – 3; Acts 15:36 – 39; Gal 2:11 – 14; Deut 34:10 – 12; Hag 1:12; Isa 39:5, 6; Isa 53:4 – 6; Dan 9:15; Jer 9:1

- This week: **Biblical tests of a true prophet**
  - #1: Physical phenomena, showing that a supernatural power is at work (Dinzey)
  - #2: Harmony with the Word of God (never contradict Scripture) (Johnson)
  - #3: Emphasis on the centrality of Jesus & His salvation plan (SQ)
  - #4: Fruit of the prophet's life & ministry (demonstrated over time…not perfection)
  - #5: Prophetic fulfillment (caveat of conditional prophecies: Lomacang)

- **Positive fruits: fruit of the prophet's life & ministry**
  - Matt 7:15 – 20 – "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (16) You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? (17) Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. … (20) Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

- **1. What should I see in the prophet? Reflect Jesus**

- Moses interceded for his people who had sinned with the golden calf (Ex 32)
- Daniel interceded for the sins of his people (Dan 9)
  - Jesus intercedes for us right now – Heb 7:25 – He always lives to make intercession of us
- Jeremiah cried for the fate of his people (Jer 9)
  - Jesus cried over His people, as He overlooked Jerusalem

- Hosea loved a woman who chased over lovers & spent much to buy her back
  - Jesus loved people who despised Him & spent everything to buy us back

- The closer a prophet walks with Jesus, the more the character of Jesus becomes visible in the prophet's life.
  - What are the results of their personal lives?
    - Humility or pride?
    - Love or selfishness?
    - Forgiveness or bitterness?
    - Peace or worry / strife?
    - Patience or irritation?

- **2. What should I see in the ministry? Bear good fruit**
  - Matt 7:15 – 20 – "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (16) You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? (17) Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. … (20) Therefore by their fruits you will know them.
    - In the context of false prophets vs true prophets

    - Where do we see their fruit?
      - In their ministry & in their personal lives
        - Fruit is developed over time

    - What are the results of their ministry?
      - Souls won to Jesus?
      - Hearts converted?
      - Lives changed?
      - Care for others?
      - People led to or from Jesus?

- **3. What if the prophet fails? Repent when wrong**
  - Jonah 1:1 – 3 – "Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, (2) 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.' (3) But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD."
    - Jonah directly disobeyed a command from God
    - Was Jonah a true or false prophet?
      - God gave Jonah a genuine prophetic message
        - Jonah responded wrongly to that message
      - The messenger's personal failure doesn't automatically invalidate the message God gave through him.

- Gal 2:11 – 13 – "Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; (12) for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. (13) And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy."
  - Those of the circumcision – Jews
  - Was Peter a prophet?
    - Peter forthtold:
      - Pentecost sermon, much of 1 & 2 Peter
    - Peter foretold:
      - Destruction of the earth (2 Pet 3)
      - Rise of false teachers (2 Pet 2)
  - Was Paul a prophet?
    - Paul himself defined prophets as "forthtelling": 1 Cor 14
      - Edification, exhortation, comfort
    - Paul also foretold: the shipwreck & that all would be saved
      - End-time events – the man of sin in 2 Thess 2
  - Did Paul & Peter handle this correctly?
    - Peter went back on his word & compromised under pressure
    - Paul stood for what he believed was right – but was harsh
- **3. What if the prophet fails? Repent when wrong**

- **4. What happens over time? Grow in Grace**
  - A true prophet doesn't have a perfect past: he / she demonstrates a Christward trajectory
  - Acts 15:36 – 40 – "Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.' (37) Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. (38) But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. (39) Then the **contention** became **so sharp** that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; (40) but Paul chose Silas and departed…"
    - Before 2nd missionary journey: Paul & Barnabas argued over John Mark & split
      - Barnabas wanted to give John Mark another chance
      - Paul believed he'd been lazy & weak the last time
  - 2 Tim 4:11 – "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry."
    - Last book written by Paul
    - Shows Paul's growth in character – change of heart toward Mark
    - Mark probably grew, too, but shows Paul's willingness to give him a 2nd chance
  - The fruit of a prophet's ministry is the trajectory of their life
    - Representative in their growth in grace & character

4 takeaways of fruit in a prophet's life

- 1. What should I see in the prophet?

    - Reflect Jesus
- 2. What should I see in the ministry?
    - Bear good fruit
- 3. What if the prophet fails?
    - Repent when wrong
- 4. What happens over time?
    - Grow in grace