

18. The Gift of Prophecy

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.

Prophecy is an important gift of the Spirit, which God gives to guide His church. He has promised to continue to send prophets right down to the end of time and has especially promised the spirit of prophecy to His remnant.

- God sends prophets to tell us of His plans. Amos 3:7
- The gift of prophecy will exist until the church reaches full maturity and unity. Ephesians 4:11-13
- The Spirit brings comfort, guidance, and correction. John 16:7-14
- There will be prophets in the last days. Joel 2:28-29
- God's remnant has the spirit of prophecy. Revelation 12:17, 19:10
- In Bible times not all prophets wrote books of the Bible. Some wrote books or delivered messages that did not become part of the Bible. 2 Samuel 7:3-11; Luke 2:36; 1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 9:29

The messages that Ellen G. White received in visions and dreams pass the biblical tests of confession of Christ, fulfilment, and harmony with Scripture. They have also borne good fruit for God's kingdom.

- God's prophets confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. 1 John 4:1-3
- Fulfilment is one test of the prophetic gift. Jeremiah 28:9
- God's prophets receive visions and dreams. (This was Ellen White's experience also.) Numbers 12:6; Acts 2:14-21
- A true prophet does not contradict God's past revelation through prophets and through His Son, Jesus. Hebrews 1:1-3, Isaiah 8:20; Luke 24:25-27
- A true prophet's message bears good fruit. Matthew 7:15-20

Texts for further study: 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21; 2 Chronicles 20:20

Personal Application

-  Why would it be important to God to send a prophet in the last days?
-  How can I know whether a person who claims to be a prophet for God really is one?
-  How would people have to respond to a prophet's message for the message to bring about unity?
-  I am thankful that God has shown His continuing concern for His church and that He sent a special messenger to me, as part of His church, in these last days.

Commitment

- Father, I believe You still want to communicate with Your church through the gift of prophecy. I will study the writings of Ellen White and seek to understand Your message for Your remnant people.