

God's Premium on Prophecy

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Why does God magnify prophecy as the greatest gift?

I Corinthians 14:1,3,12,39 (NIV).

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement, and comfort. So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. Therefore my brothers be eager to prophesy..."

I asked the Lord once, "Father, why do you place such a high premium on prophecy? Scripture seems to magnify it as the most important gift of the nine manifestation gifts listed in I Corinthians chapter 12. I don't understand. I think that the working of miracles, the gifts of healings, or even the word of knowledge is better."

The Lord replied with a commonly known proverb, "Son, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Prophecy is preventive medicine, others are curative medicine. Prophecy is for encouragement and confirmation. If people stayed in a constant state of encouragement and comfort in their hearts, they wouldn't get sick in their bodies, and need a gift of healing. If they stayed full of courage, comfort, and hope, they wouldn't need special miracles so much - they would walk in something better - seedtime and harvest. The spirit of prophecy in the church keeps believers uplifted in their hearts, so they won't get down in their minds, bodies, and circumstances."

Immediately, scriptures began to come to my remembrance:

"Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a GOOD WORD maketh it glad." (Proverbs 12:25)

"A merry heart does good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth up the bones." (Proverbs 17:23)

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh..." (Proverbs 14:30)

"A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" (Proverbs 15:23)

"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity: but a wounded spirit who can bear?" (Cheatham paraphrase: "If the spirit of a man stays charged up, it will throw off attacks of sickness, and naturally overcome personal weaknesses and circumstances; but if a man gets down in his spirit, soon he's going to need a miracle.") (Proverbs 18:14)

From all this evidence, I am convinced the church must yield herself to a fresh baptism in the spirit of prophecy. We must allow God to inspire us to speak words of encouragement and comfort so that we may charge up our brothers and sisters. If God's people are regularly hearing God's prophetic voice, HIS NOW WORDS OF INSPIRATION, they will be strong in their spirits, experiencing God's wholeness. Then they will not always be needing miracles for themselves, but instead may themselves become miraculous channels to the masses of perishing humanity.