

# The Gift of Prophesying

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BIG SANDY, Texas—When reading the book of Romans, believers find that the apostle Paul mentioned seven gifts in his letter to the Romans. They are listed in Romans 12:6-8.

The first gift listed is the gift of prophesying (verse 6). There are many scriptures in the Old and New Testaments about this subject. This article will list only a few of those scriptures in an effort to attract your interest in studying the subject in greater detail.

## **Imaginations of their heart**

*Deuteronomy 18:20-22*—" 'But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'—when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

*Jeremiah 23:16-17, 21*—"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, "The LORD has said, 'You shall have peace' "; and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you' ' . . . I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied."

*Matthew 7:15*—"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

*Revelation 2:20*—"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols."

## **Beware of accurate predictions**

*Deuteronomy 13:1-5*—"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart

and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst."

*Matthew 24:24*—"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

*Revelation 13:13-14*—"He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived."

### **Words of edification**

*Luke 2:36-38*—"Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem."

*Acts 2:17-18*—"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy."

*Acts 15:32*—"Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words."

*1 Corinthians 13:2*—"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

*1 Corinthians 13:9*—"For we know in part and we prophesy in part."

*1 Corinthians 14:3*—"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."

*1 Corinthians 14:37*—"If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord."

*Revelation 22:18-19*—"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."