

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY



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- **How did Jesus demonstrate or practice this gift?**
 - **How is this gift a command? Who is called to prophesy?**
 - **What would this look like to those of us who are beginning to exercise this gift?**

WHAT IS PROPHECY

- **Foretelling A prediction/ proclaiming some future events**
- **Forth-telling - a message of divine truth revealing God's will**
 - **Prophetic truth-speaking - speaking plainly and faithfully about injustice, exploitation, misuse of power, and oppression of the weak and defenseless.**

HEBREWS 1:1-3A – GOD MESSAGE COMES THROUGH JESUS


- **1 Long ago, at different times and in various ways, God's voice came to our ancestors through the Hebrew prophets. 2 But in these last days, it has come to us through His Son, the One who has been given dominion over all things and through whom all worlds were made.**
- **3 This is the One who—imprinted with God's image, shimmering with His glory—sustains all that exists through the power of His word**

HOW DID JESUS DEMONSTRATE THE GIFT?

Woman at the Well

Jesus reveals

1. Who He is
2. Who she is

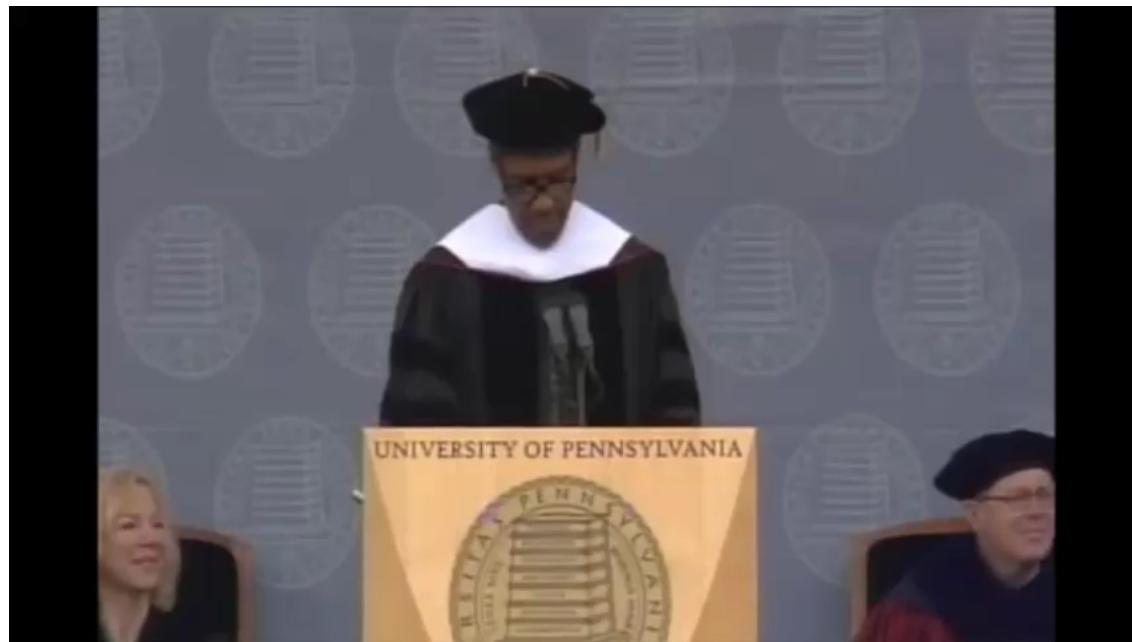
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- Person of God – His character
 - Power of God
 - Purposes of God


HOW IS PROPHECY A COMMEND? WHO IS CALLED TO PROPHECY

- **Pray that you might prophecy -**
- 1 Cor. 14:1 So in everything strive to love. Passionately seek the gifts of the Spirit, especially the gift of prophecy. .
- 5. My preference would be for you all to prophesy by the Spirit. Those who speak prophetically are God's mouthpiece and are far more useful to the church...
- 1 Thess. 5:19 Don't suppress the Spirit. ²⁰ Don't downplay prophecies. ²¹ Take a close look at everything, *test it*, then cling to what is good. ²² Put away every form of evil.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

- Build us up
 - Spur us on
 - Dry our tears



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- **Must be grounded in and aligned with scripture.**
 - **Based on a life of holiness and obedience.**


 - **Don't let your gift take you where your character can't keep you.**


IS THIS YOU?


<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaking with conviction that comes from nudging of the Spirit – the drop the mic quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can feel like that person is speaking so strongly that others feel intimidated
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeling the need to clearly address injustice, sin, unrighteousness (little tolerance for foolishness) Alertness to dishonesty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May be quick to expose without restoration process• Can be judgmental
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to discern quickly or accurately “size up” a situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can jump to conclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honest and aware of own faults	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be really harsh with themselves

EXERCISE YOUR GIFT

- Romans 13: 4 For in the same way that one body has so many different parts, each with different functions; 5 we, too—the many—are different parts that form one body in the Anointed One. Each one of us is joined with one another, and we become together what we could not be alone.
- 6 Since our gifts vary depending on the grace poured out on each of us, it is important that we exercise the gifts we have been given. If prophecy is your gift, then speak as a prophet according to your proportion of faith.

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- **Prayer or praise and worship – might feel words, pictures, song, or emotions bubbling up from somewhere deep**
 - **Start out making it a prayer – connect it with scripture**
 - **Don't try to foretell the future – stay away from mates, dates and babies in predictions**
 - **Check it out with a mature believer..**
 - **God never makes you say anything. You are always in control of that gift..**

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- **Receiving end – you also need to know the Word to be able to weigh prophecy.**
 - **I John 4:1 My loved ones, I warn you: do not trust every spirit. Instead, examine them carefully to determine if they come from God, because the corrupt world is filled with the voices of many false prophets**

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- It's all from Jesus, about our Lord, motivated by love, for the building up of His body; revealing His Person, Power and Purposes
 - We **all** should pray that we might be able to be used with this gift. Ask God to use you in this way.
 - Exercise your gift! It is not spooky or weird –It involves practice and risk. (Sometimes you might get it wrong.)

APPLICATION – HOMEWORK

- **This week - Get together with people, (either in your small group or just get together with one or two others)**
 - Worship together and pray for each other
 - Ask God, “Is there a message that you want me to convey to this person?
(Remember it is out of love – to build us up, spur us on, dry our tears)
 - Wait quietly and see what God brings to mind. (scripture, word, song, picture, etc)
 - Share it. Let the other person weigh and share

DISCUSSION FOR SMALL GROUPS

Have you ever had a “Denzel Washington” moment when someone spoke so powerfully into your life that you knew it was God? What happened? What was the result of that word?

Has God ever used you in that way (that you know of)?

What are your fears and concerns about (you or someone else) operating in this gift?