

The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

This week we examine the gifted leaders of the Church who are called prophets. Prophets have played an important role in God's work as recorded in both the Old and New Testaments to point people to God. However, Satan has also been busy throughout the history of Man by sending false prophets to deceive people and lead them away from God. Thus, it's crucial that we know how to distinguish between a true and a false prophet!

1) 1Corinthians 12:28

*"And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second **prophets**..."*

Look up the word "**prophets**" in the Blueletter Bible as used here in 1Corinthians and write down the meaning of the word:

2) 1Corinthians 14:1

*"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may **prophesy**."*

Look up the word "**prophesy**" in the Blueletter Bible as used here in 1Corinthians and write down the meaning of the word:

3) Read the following examples of prophets in the Bible

Genesis 20:7

2Samual 12:7-12

Haggai 1:1, & 7-8

Acts 11:27-29

Acts 21:8-11

Based on your reading of the scriptures above what do prophets do? What else did you notice about those with a prophetic gifting?

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4) 1John 4:1

“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.”

The apostle John exhorts us to **test** the spirit of anyone who claims to be a prophet so as to discern whether they are from God or not. In the scriptures below describe the criteria we should use to test whether a person is a prophet of God or not.

Deuteronomy 18:20-22

Matthew 7:15-16

Acts 15:15

2Corinthians 11:3-4

Galatians 1:6-8

2Peter 2:1-3

1John 4:2-3

Revelation 19:10

5) Based on what you’ve just read make a list of anyone you believe is (or was) a false prophet.