

GOD GAVE GIFTS
(Part 3) “The Speaking Gifts”
(Prophecy and Teaching)

I. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10)

A. Establishing a Working Definition

1. Word “Prophecy” means “*to speak before, to tell forth.*” It has more to do with *forthtelling* the truth than foretelling the future. It is a gift of *proclamation* more than prediction.
2. Usage and Context - The prophecy gift had two distinct aspects:
 - *Before* the canon of Scripture was completed it was *revelatory* in nature (1 Cor. 12:10; Jude 3). The New Testament Prophets received direct revelation from God that became inspired Scripture. This aspect of the gift ceased when inspiration ceased.
 - Once Word completed it was *nonrevelatory* in nature. This reiteration of already given revelation continues today. Today, the gift of prophecy proclaims the already revealed truth of God's Word (“*the faith*” – Rom. 12:6). A preacher of the Word of God (1 Tim. 2:7).
3. “Prophecy” is the *God-given ability to receive, understand, and communicate God's truth with clarity and conviction.*

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Verbally expresses feelings about right and wrong
2. Straight-talkers
3. Strong reliance upon Biblical truth
4. Very black-and-white in standards
5. Have impulsive, quick, simple solutions
6. Great concern for God's work and reputation
7. Self-assured and persuasive
8. Result-oriented
9. Crowd-oriented
10. Hard on themselves
11. Persevering
12. Make loyal friends

C. Prophecy produces important results for a believer:

(1 Cor. 14:3)

- Edification – builds up
- Exhortation – encourages and challenges
- Consolation – comforts

Examples . . .

II. THE GIFT OF TEACHING (Rom. 12:7)

GIFT OF PROPHECY	GIFT OF TEACHING
More announcing	More with training
Greater focus on application	More on researching and understanding information
Tends to be more motivational	More instructional

A. Establishing a Working Definition

1. Word “teaching” means “*to give instruction*”.
2. Usage and Context - It is mentioned in three of the four gifts passages (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 4:11).
3. “Teaching” is the *God-given ability to research and understand the Bible, and then to be able to systematically explain, effectively illustrate, and practically apply it to life.*

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Enjoys researching, studying, and gathering all the information.
2. Places great emphasis on accuracy of information.
3. Communicates results of study in systematic, orderly fashion.
4. Illustrates truth from Biblical source.
5. Doesn't easily accept new truth.
6. Relatively silent until all the information is heard.
7. Carefully scrutinizes all who instruct.
8. Defensive when beliefs are challenged.

Examples . . .

CONC: