

Bible Study and Notes

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

(LESSON 22)

Bible Study

1. What are the top three gifts of the Spirit that should be present in a church? **1 Corinthians 12:28**
2. What additional gifts are provided that aid a growing church although are not as prevalent? **1 Corinthians 12:28**
3. What is the purpose of the gifts? **1 Corinthians 12:7**
4. What will saints be keeping allowing Jesus to fill them with the Holy Spirit? **John 14:15-17**

5. What do the Gifts of the Spirit make a person? **Acts 1:8**
6. What is the primary gift to desire? **1 Corinthians 14:1, 5**
7. What counsel is given regarding prophets? **1 Thessalonians 5:19-21**
8. How would God speak to His people in the last days? **Acts 2:16-18**
9. What is the purpose of a prophet? **Ephesians 4:11-12**

10. Why did prophets seem to vanish in Christianity? **Lamentations 2:9**

What Group of People Does the Third Angel Reveal?

Revelation 14:12 states, "*Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*" God has saints and will have saints right up to and including the second coming (Revelation 14:14).

What will they have? Revelation 18:24 says, "*And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*" They will have prophets among them, which is one of the Gifts of the Spirit.

What Are the Gifts of the Spirit?

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 tells us,

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.”

And how are they used? 1 Corinthians 12:28 says, *“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”* Please look closely at God’s list. The first is that of apostles or missionaries because *“this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”* (Matthew 24:14). The second is that of prophets because *“surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets”* (Amos 3:7). The third is that of teachers because God commanded *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen”* (Matthew 28:19-20).

Then God provides additional gifts not as frequently used as the first three. They are miracle workers and healers. Be careful, Satan is able to counterfeit these wonders. One way to know if it is of Satan or God, is

to remember that every time Jesus, Paul, or anyone else from the Bible healed, people got up and did not lay down. Amen? Additionally, God also provides helps, governments, and diversities of tongues.

Notice who provides the gifts according to 1 Corinthians 12:11: *“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

And what is the purpose of the gifts? 1 Corinthians 12:7 states, *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”* Who do you suppose is to profit from the gifts? Man? No of course not. The gifts are used to profit God. How is He profited? God is profited by precious souls being saved. So, the purpose of the gifts is to lead people to Christ and not for personal gain or enjoyment. In fact, people do not use the Spirit; the Spirit uses people.

Now, in the Christian world today, one gift that God deems highly necessary has been reduced to a joke. Another that is lower on the list has been raised to “most important” status, even to the point that it is a test of fellowship. Satan is the one that is behind this movement. What gifts is Satan trying to swap around? That is the focus of this lesson.

What Is the Preparation for Receiving Spiritual Gifts?

Acts 1:4 tells us, *“And, being assembled together with [them], commanded them that they*

should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [saith he], ye have heard of me.”

The first condition is to wait on the Lord. How long did they wait? Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit was poured out (Acts 2:1-4). Fifty days after the feast of first fruits is when Pentecost was celebrated (Leviticus 23:16). The feast of first fruits is when Jesus rose (1 Corinthians 15:20). We are told from the resurrection to the ascension was forty days. Acts 1:3 states, *“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”* So that is fifty days minus the forty that Jesus spent with His apostles, which leaves ten. They waited ten days. Why is this important? The gifts of the Spirit are not necessarily instantaneous, as so many practice today.

What is the second condition? Luke 24:49-53 tells us, *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.”* Notice that they did not wait in their homes but actually went to the “temple” on a regular basis. **The second condition is to be attending church on a regular basis.**

What is the third condition? Still in Luke 24:49-53, they were *“praising and blessing God.”* They were active in sharing the knowledge they had. This was exercised even before the Holy Spirit gave them power. **So, the third condition is to be active in witnessing for God.** You see, the purpose of the Holy Spirit is not to make us witness but to make us a better witness. If we are not currently a witness, the Spirit has nothing to work with. But as we exercise our talents, the Holy Spirit will multiply them. This is what was brought out during the parable of the talents that Jesus spoke (Matthew 25:14-30). Each of the faithful servants doubled their gifts, but remember the one that had only one and did not exercise it, it was lost.

What is the fourth condition? Acts 1:14 says, *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”* **The fourth condition is to have a proper prayerful relationship with God.** A quick morning prayer, a few mealtime prayers, and a quick prayer before going to bed is not a prayerful relationship. A real earnestness in prayer is required.

What is the fifth condition? From Acts 1:14, we draw another point off the fact that they were in *“one accord.”* **The fifth condition is to put away doctrinal differences.** And one of the best ways is to search the scriptures to know a *“Thus Saith the Lord.”* It is not by keeping silent on differences but by allowing the Word to reveal the truth on any given subject and

submitting to it.

What is the sixth condition? Still focusing on *“one accord,”* **the sixth condition is to confess offenses between one another.** One cannot be in accord with another when issues remain between them.

What is the seventh condition? John 14:15-17 says, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”* **The seventh condition, which is a requirement, is to be keeping God’s Ten Commandments.** This then leads to an interesting observation. If the promise of the Holy Spirit is to those who give evidence of their love to God by keeping God’s commandments, then when people claim to be filled with the Spirit and are not keeping God’s commandments, it cannot be the “Holy” One, now can it?

Leaving off these conditions allows the false spirit to work instead of the Holy Spirit. Speaking of which, let us look at the two gifts that Satan is trying to capitalize upon by lifting one higher in the list and lowering the other.

Why Are Spiritual Gifts a “Last Day Events” Topic?

Revelation 13:11-14 tells us, *“And I beheld another beast*

coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” As we have discovered in *The Dragon With Lamb-like Horns* lesson, the United States would be foremost in calling down fire and then being able to work miracles. There is only one event recorded in the Bible regarding fire and miracles and that is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. According to Revelation 13, this is not a good use of miracles, so one would conclude that this is a false spirit that deceives the vast majority of Christians in the last days.

One hint of deception is revealed in Romans 8:26, which says, *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”* Today, people are encouraged to utter in various tongues, yet we see that if one is truly filled with the Spirit, especially in prayer, one will not be able to give utterance.

Now, before we go any further, it

is best to study this subject by examining the practice of the early church. So, let us begin by going back to the day of Pentecost.

How Did the Early Church Use the Gift of Tongues?

Acts 2:1-4 reveals, “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*” Here is the first example of speaking in tongues.

What happened next? Acts 2:5-6 says, “*And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.*” First, we realize that speaking in tongues is a real language that ordinary people can understand. The gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues is the ability to easily speak and understand other languages.

Acts 2:7-8 goes on to say, “*And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in*

our own tongue, wherein we were born?” Secondly, those who spoke, spoke in one language and yet, everyone that were present heard it in their own language.

Acts 2:9-11 continues to tell us, “*Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.*” That is at least sixteen different languages.

Acts 2:12 concludes with, “*And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?*” It means that God uses speaking in tongues for witnessing purposes, which is the principle the Bible outlined earlier. Again, we do not use the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit uses us.

Where is this stated? Acts 1:8 says, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

Let us look at another example found in Acts 10:44-48, which says, “*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.*

Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” Again, speaking in tongues was used to draw people into the church via witnessing. This time, it was the Gentiles giving witness to Peter that they should be baptized.

Acts 19:6-8 also says, “*And when Paul had laid [his] hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.*” Again, speaking in tongues is used in witnessing.

What Direct Council Is There on Tongues?

1 Corinthians 14:1 starts off with, “*Follow after charity, and desire spiritual [gifts], but rather that ye may prophesy.*” First, notice that Paul says that we should desire spiritual gifts especially that of prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:2-3 continues with, “*For he that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth [him]; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men [to] edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*” Please notice that popular Christianity has turned it upside down. Tongues are

looked upon as better than prophesying. God's Word says the opposite.

1 Corinthians 14:4 says, "*He that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*" Are we to be bringing attention to ourselves or to the bride of Christ, His church? The answer is the church of course.

1 Corinthians 14:5 says, "*I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater [is] he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*" Again, it is stated that prophesy is greater than speaking in tongues so that the church may be lifted up and not man. But we must be careful.

1 Corinthians 14:6-9 tells us, "*Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.*" Paul is quite plain. The wrong exercise of speaking in tongues is as speaking into the air and no one will understand, which leads to confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:10-12 says, "*There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and*

none of them [is] without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh [shall be] a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual [gifts], seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church." The first and foremost principle is to edify the church.

1 Corinthians 14:13-16 continues on with, "*Wherefore let him that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?"* When people agree with what is said, they are usually moved to say "Amen" or "Praise the Lord" or similar acknowledgments, but how will people be able to say such words if they do not know what is said? Pray for the gift of interpretation, but that does not mean it will always come.

1 Corinthians 14:17-19 says, "*For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that [by my voice] I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an [unknown] tongue.*" Let us not

desire to speak in unknown tongues, but rather be humble and teach others in our own language.

We have to be careful of speaking in tongues. Is it a coincidence that what people call the gift of tongues from the Holy Spirit is practiced today in almost all churches including the Catholic Church? Can we see how this manifestation has unified denominations? Almost all denominations think that the gift of tongues, which they enjoy inside the church in special services, is from the Holy Spirit. What does God say about this?

1 Corinthians 14:20-23 tells us, "*Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With [men of] other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying [serveth] not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in [those that are] unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?"* In plain words, Paul tells us that tongues are not for inside the church but for outside the church in witnessing. Also, Paul states quite clearly that prophesying is for within the church and not for outside the church. And looking at the world today, it is completely backwards. People are more concerned about speaking in tongues and even

conducting a tongues service or classes that teach how to speak in tongues than they are in regards to prophesying or even studying the Word.

The reason I know about the tongues classes is that I know someone that when she became a Catholic, wanted to be very involved. She took a class every Tuesday for understanding spiritual gifts especially speaking in tongues. When the priest told everyone to begin to speak in tongues, she heard everyone around her speaking in what she thought was tongues, so she just started babbling. As the priest walked by to help the students, he told her that she was doing a marvelous job. She was so excited. The next Tuesday, she hurried off to class, and again, the same thing happened. This time, she told me, "I don't know what I'm saying, but I'm told that I'm doing really well." She went a couple more nights but reported a little less sure of herself, so she asked me to go with her because she felt uneasy. And we went, and the same thing occurred. The priest announced that it was time to speak in tongues and the whole room began to babble. I looked strangely at her and that was the last time we went to that class. I thought they were out of their minds. Later, when I studied this truth in the Bible, we were thrilled to know that the Lord had pulled us out of there.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 says, "*But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or [one] unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so*

falling down on [his] face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth." The purpose of prophesying is for the church and yet, it has been reduced to a 1-900 number, a tabloid joke, and scary end of the world predictions. All of these are nothing more than counterfeits of the real thing. There is no fear in end time events if we walk with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:26-27 says, "*How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an [unknown] tongue, [let it be] by two, or at the most [by] three, and [that] by course; and let one interpret.*" This eliminates the classroom or church service environment.

1 Corinthians 14:28-29 goes on to say, "*But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*" How do we judge the prophets?

1 Corinthians 14:30-33 tells us, "*If [any thing] be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*" Notice that the prophets are subject to the prophets, which is to speak in harmony with past prophets. This is just one test, and we will see more as this lesson unfolds.

What Does God Say About Prophets?

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 tells us, "*Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*" To count all modern-day prophets as a hoax is to go against a "*Thus Saith the Lord.*" We are to prove all things. How? By the Bible of course. And we are to follow earnestly that which is correct or we will receive the consequences, as did the Israelites.

First of all, should we believe all prophets? Matthew 24:24 states, "*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*" Did Jesus tell us to not believe any prophets? No. Just do not follow the false ones. That means there are some true ones. But how can we tell the true from the false? By the Bible tests that we will study in a moment.

Were there prophets after the cross? Acts 13:1 reveals, "*Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*" Acts 21:8-9 says, "*And the next [day] we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was [one] of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did*

prophecy.” Not only were there prophets after the cross, but God even used women, which are known as prophetesses.

Will there be prophets in the last days? Joel 2:28-29 states, “*And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*” Acts 2:16-18 confirms, “*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.” God’s word tells us that he will use prophets in the last days.*

What is the purpose of the prophets? Ephesians 4:11-13 reveals, “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” Are the saints perfect? Do we have a unified faith? No, of course not. Christianity is the most broken faith compared to any other. Then Apostles,

Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers all have a role to be play in guiding the body of Christ yet today.

What protection is there when following the prophets? Ephesians 4:14-16 tells us, “*That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*”

Why Did Prophecy Seem to Disappear?

Jeremiah 26:4-6 reveals to us, “*And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you, To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending [them], but ye have not hearkened; Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.*” God tells us that when the people fall away from the Word of the Lord and His Law, He will not pour out His Spirit. It would be made like Shiloh. And the greatest period of falling away was that of the dark ages.

It is reiterated in Lamentations 2:9, which says, “*Her gates are*

sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes [are] among the Gentiles: the law [is] no [more]; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.” Clearly, when the law is dismissed, the prophets will not receive messages from God.

How Do We Tell a True Prophet from a False One?

There are a number of tests that a prophet must pass. The most important test is that of passing all of the tests. Let us examine each one keeping in mind that all of the tests must be perfectly fulfilled.

1. Numbers 12:6 says, “*And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, [I] the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, [and] will speak unto him in a dream.*” The first test is that a prophet receives messages from God through visions and dreams. Therefore, anyone claiming to be a prophet and are conscious about the experience is a false prophet.
2. Deuteronomy 18:22 “*When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that [is] the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, [but] the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*” A prophet must be 100% accurate when he or she says, “The Lord has revealed...” If there is an error, that person is not of God because God is never wrong. Amen? There was TV preacher who, at the end of December, would compare the accuracy of

the tabloid prophecies to their fulfillment, which are approximately 5% correct. This was used to distract the viewers. He then recalled the events he spoke of that previous January that God told him to share on his program and he has an accuracy rating of approximately 88%. It sounds great. But according to God's grade book, an "A" is 100% and an "F" is everything else.

Do keep in mind that there are conditional prophecies. Jonah experienced that as he declared that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days (Jonah 3:4), but it was not. The reason is because "God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did [it] not" (Jonah 3:10).

3. Deuteronomy 13:1-4 says, "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him." God says that He will allow false prophets to be 100% accurate in regards to signs, but test what they say. If they speak contrary to the Word of God or His

commandments, do not believe them. God wants to know who will follow Him. Will they follow Him or the false prophet. And many do follow after false prophets especially those who speak against the law. This is reiterated in Isaiah 8:20, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them." That means, any Sunday keeping church that claims to have a prophet are actually pointing to a false prophet.

4. 2 Kings 5:15-16 says, "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that [there is] no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, [As] the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take [it]; but he refused." Naaman was trying to buy off or give a reward unto Elisha who refused to accept it. From this illustration, a prophet does not charge a fee. That eliminates palm readers as well as those 1-900 numbers.

5. 2 Peter 1:20 states, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." A prophet does not reinterpret another prophet's visions and dreams; rather, they speak in harmony with those interpretations.

6. 2 Peter 1:21 tells us, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost." All credit is given to God

and never taken upon themselves. Remember who we are to edify.

7. Isaiah 58:1 reveals to us, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Prophets are not for enjoyment but rather for revealing the sins of the people and to call them to repentance. And it is not an easy job. People do not like to hear that they have to change their ways. No wonder prophets have been killed and stoned.

8. Isaiah 24:21 states, "And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones [that are] on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth." Prophets always reveal God's judgment that is coming upon the earth and upon those who choose not to repent.

9. 1 Corinthians 14:4 tells us, "He that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." If the prophet begins to call people to follow him or her, that is not God's prophet. God's prophet will lift up the church and draw people to be more active in the church.

10. Daniel 10:17 states, "For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me." A prophet will not breathe during a vision and will lose all consciousness.

11. Matthew 7:16-20 tells us, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of

thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Now be careful. Let us not judge the skin of the fruit. The fruit may look good but be rotten on the inside. Their entire character has to be put under a magnifying glass. Now we are not judging the person as going to heaven or hell, for the Bible condemns such, however, we are told to judge the actions if they be right or wrong. So, if a prophet preaches one message and lives another that is not a prophet of God.

That is eleven tests with the addition that all tests must be 100% satisfied. Additionally, God has a pattern that He works with. He predicts an event well before it occurs with one or more prophets, and when the event is occurs, another prophet or prophets issue the final warnings. Let us look at a few examples.

1. Who predicted well in advance that the flood was coming? Enoch by naming his son Methuselah, which means, "At his death, it shall come." Which prophet was used to warn the people when the time of the flood was to be fulfilled? Noah.
2. Who predicted the captivity of the Israelites in Egypt? Abraham (Genesis 15:13).

Which prophet brought them out of Egypt? Moses.

3. Who predicted the Babylonian captivity? Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:11-12). Which prophet was around during that captivity? Daniel.
4. Who predicted the first coming of Jesus? Just about all the Old Testament prophets. Which prophet ushered in the first coming of Jesus? John the Baptist is the main one, but there was also Simeon (Luke 2:25) as well as "Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age" (Luke 2:36).

What Does God Say About Adding to the Word of God?

Revelation 22:18-19 states, "*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book.*" Some apply this to mean that there will be no more prophetic writings. Be careful. Note the next verse. Revelation 22:20 says, "*He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord*

Jesus." If a prophet appears on the scene after the book of Revelation and re-enforces the same truths written throughout the Bible, those writings can be accepted.

Besides, if the previous understanding were correct, then we would only have five books to the whole Bible. Why? Deuteronomy 4:2 tells us, "*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish [ought] from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*" In slightly different wording, Moses conveys the exact same thing as John stated in Revelation, yet there were other prophets after Moses. So, other prophetic books for spiritual growth, as long as they do not contradict even in the slightest degree with any prior writings, are permitted. Besides, the Bible mentions several books that are to be respected yet are not in the Bible. There is the book of Jasher according to Joshua 10:13, the book of Nathan according to 1 Chronicles 29:29, book of Gad according to 1 Chronicles 29:29, book of Shemaiah according to 2 Chronicles 12:15, and the book of Jehu according to 2 Chronicles 20:34.

May we in these last days receive the light from God to discern between true and false prophets as well as between true and false manifestations of the Spirit.