

The New Testament Church  
*The Holy Spirit #11 – Prophecy, Tongues and Interpretation*  
September 14, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Review of the Series on the Holy Spirit - John 14-17 – the Holy Spirit’s “job description”

- A. The Holy Spirit is God - the one (transcendant) and many (imminent) - Elohim
  - 1. Jn. 20:21-22 – Jesus appeared – *peace I give you, receive the Holy Spirit – regenerated*
  - 2. Acts 2:1-4 – The day of Pentecost – *be baptized in the Holy Spirit - empowerment*
- B. The Holy Spirit **comforts** (or shepherds) and **convicts** (as an attorney)
  - 1. He comforts by empowering us – prayer in tongues, the Spirit having more of us
  - 2. He convicts us of our sin, then defends us when forgiven – building our character
- C. The gifts (voice) of God draw you to greater surrender, that His character may be formed!
- D. The Trinity is involved in manifesting the work of the Spirit in the NT – v. 4-6
  - 1. Diversities of **gifts** (charismaton, ability) – the Spirit gives when they are needed
  - 2. Differences of **ministries** (diakonion, service)– our Lord Jesus develops ministries
  - 3. Diversities of **activities** (energy, power) – God the Father places us in the body

II The prophetic gifts: prophecy, tongues and interpretation – 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 12:7-11; 14:1-3

- A. Let’s look at the Old Testament Setting of the prophetic ministry – quote Stibitz
  - 1. Prophets of the OT – today 40% say too difficult; less than 5% read them at all...
  - 2. They understood the times and applied eternal truths – ***culture reflects God’s people***
  - 3. They understood that each individual affects their community – cause/effect
  - 4. They addressed individuals as a “citizen” responsible for the direction of their nation
  - 5. ***Prophets were social reformers – knowing the heart of individuals affects the nation!***
- B. Jeremiah 23:16-22 – false prophets speak out of their own heart, emotions and false hope
  - 1. They speak “a vision of their own heart” – their focus is “worthless” (vain) selfish
  - 2. Speak “peace” without being right with God – it is delusional at best – self-deception
  - 3. They ignore the judgment of God and thus people don’t turn from evil – false hope
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 14:1-3 - prophetic ministry – *a present day application of the eternal Word of God*
  - 1. Edification – to build up in the Lord – *focus on a relationship with Christ (the heart)*
  - 2. Exhortation – to convict of sin and evil – *get right with God through repentance*
  - 3. Comfort (hope) – hope for the future – God’s judgment *restores justice and true peace*
- D. ...*To another prophecy* - v. 10b – “prophecy” in context is similar to preaching the Word!
  - 1. Prophecy / Tongues & Interpretation - a message to others similar in nature and practice
    - a. Speak in a heavenly tongue – *they should pray to interpret* – 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 14:13
    - b. Praying in tongues is *more private* than public – 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 14:21-22
  - 2. Prophecy (propheteia) – *communicating and enforcing revealed truth*
    - a. The communication can be in a known or unknown language with interpretation
    - b. It is prophetic in nature – applying God’s Law/Word today in cultural relevance
    - c. The root is “prophetes” – predict – best meaning *cause and effect*
      - 1. Forth-telling is declaring the Word already established and how it applies
      - 2. Fore-telling is predicting – be cautious here – as to times and seasons
  - 3. The prophetic ministry stands on the truth of God’s Word and applies it to today
    - a. Prophetic ministry is preaching the Word – a public declaration
    - b. It is also personal and edifies one to another – community of church/culture
    - c. Example: Wycliffe, Hus and how martyrdom ignites fires of revival (see back)

## The Old Testament Prophets as Social Reformers

Rev. George Stibitz, Philadelphia, PA, 1898

*The view, apparently so prevalent in pulpit and pew, which makes religion chiefly, if not exclusively, an individualistic pious mood, a condition of personal salvation, not primarily for the blessing of society, but preeminently for self, is not found in the prophets.. A so-called pious feeling toward God, expressing itself in loud professions and prayers, in elaborate ritual and expensive sacrifices, without active and positive social virtues, is characterized as hypocrisy and formalism (from the Old Testament prophets).*

### John Wycliffe, 1330-1384

- Wycliffe laboriously translated the Bible into the vernacular English
- He wanted a plowboy to know the Scriptures as well as the Pope and clergy
- He exposed the lies and errors of his day, and was under continual persecution
  - Wycliffe completed his English Bible in 1382
  - He died on New Year's Eve, 1384
- The government did all it could to stamp out his writings and teachings, but the common people spread it everywhere on foot and in homes...
- At the Council of Constance, in 1415, 31 years later...John Hus, a disciple of Wycliffe, was condemned to be burned at the stake, but they also condemned Wycliffe on 260 counts of heresy though he had been dead 30 years!
  - They ordered that his bones be dug up, burned, and his ashes scattered.
- They tried to stamp out the Lollards, the many disciples among the common people, by controlling the teaching in the colleges so that a new generation was not infected...
- Wycliffe's ashes were scattered into the River Swift, and as Fuller would later write:

*They burnt his bones to ashes and cast them into the Swift, a neighboring brook running hard by. Thus, the brook hath conveyed his ashes into Avon; Avon into Severn; Severn into the narrow seas; and they into the main ocean. And thus, the ashes of Wycliffe are the emblem of his doctrine which now is dispersed the world over.*