



The Prophetic Voice

Let His Light
Shine in the
Darkness

JoAnn Seel

God reveals Himself to us:

- Through His creation
- Through scripture
- Through Christ
- Through the Holy Spirit

Through His creation

- “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

Romans 1:20

Through scripture

- “Whoever believes in Me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this He meant the Spirit.....” John 7:38-39
- “These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: ‘Not one of his bones will be broken,’” John 19:36

Through Christ

- “Which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”

Ephesians 3:5 ESV

- “For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:12 ESV

Through the Holy Spirit

- “But, as it is written, what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him—These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ESV

Purpose of Holy Spirit

- To comfort us

“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.” Acts 9:31

To help us

- “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

To glorify the Son and make Jesus known

- “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”
John 16:14

To convict the world

- “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness, and of judgment:”

John 16:8

To guide us into all truth

- “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

John 16:13

To give us power in the Holy Spirit

- “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.: Acts 1:8

To prophesy, give visions, give dreams

- “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:21
- “But he who prophesies (the Spirit) speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

1 Corinthians 14:3

To help us resist the flesh

- “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

Romans 8:5

To be with us

- “Or do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

1 Corinthians 3:16

To build up our faith

- “But he who prophesies (the Spirit) speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to me.”

1 Corinthians 14:3

Exhortation: A speech or discourse that encourages, incites, or earnestly advises

To teach us all things

- “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 2:27

To give Himself as a gift and His working power as gifts

- “God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?” Hebrews 2:4
- “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:...There are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit...But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” 1 Corinthians 12

Gifts of the Spirit

- Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miraculous Powers, Prophecy, Distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation.
- “All of these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, as he determines.” 1 Corinthians 12:11
- “God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will.” Hebrews 2:4

To help us discern

- “We are of God. He who knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and spirit of falsehood.” 1 John 4:6

Characteristics that accompany a false prophet:

- Do not expose sin.
- Make people feel secure.
- Whitewash sin.
- Fee for divination (Numbers 22).



Characteristics that accompany a true prophet:

- Intimate relationship with God.
- Pray.
- Study the Scriptures.
- Receive wise counsel.
- Suffer.
- Learn from experience.
- Intercede.
- Share burdens.

Why prophecy...1 Cor. 14:3, 24-31

- Expose sin
- Call to account
- Secrets of the heart disclosed
- Cause to worship
- Edify
- Learn
- Exhorted (to admonish, to urge one to pursue some course of conduct, always perspective, looking to the future). The Expanded Vines
- Consolation

Remember ...

Prophetic is not a
shortcut to guidance.

Misconceptions:

Prophetic people have been allowed to function unchecked, often because leaders have been intimidated by their sometimes-powerful giftings. This loss of accountability has allowed some to develop unbiblical ideas and ways and pass them off as normative and valid.

Unbiblical ideas and ways:

- It is not necessary for them to be accountable to human leadership because they answer to God alone.
- They are given the liberty to speak dogmatically on extrabiblical issues or on nonessential matters because, supposedly, they have received a divine revelation.

Unbiblical ideas and ways

- They are permitted to rebuke people in public settings without following the biblical principles of confrontation. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- They may utilize manipulative and flamboyant theatrics and melodrama in their ministry style because they are really “filled with the Spirit” and are directly led to do so.

Unbiblical ideas and ways

- It's okay for them to use exaggeration in their communication in order to create an atmosphere of "faith" for their gift to work.
- It's permissible for them to draw undue attention to themselves because they are the special conduits of God's power to the people.

Unbiblical ideas and ways

- Ordinary believers may not approach them because they are too important and must not be distracted from their communion with God.
- They are allowed to engage in behaviors that others couldn't get away with because they are the “anointed vessels” that must never be “touched” by any criticism.

From my observations:

- It is easy to **embellish, soften, or distort** the light, but God gives us a prophetic voice to bear witness to **His** light, not ours.
- God gives us the ability to discern cause and affect, with that comes a responsibility.
- When we speak His words, they should bear witness of God and bring a healthy fear of God.

From my observations:

- We must always remember that without the Holy Spirit men cannot comprehend the light.
- There is always timing to a prophetic word.

Biblical Guidance:

I Corinthians 14:29-33

And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn, and all may be exhorted; and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; for God is not a God of confusion but of peace as in all the churches of the saints

What renders my witness to the light ineffectual?

- Philippians 2:14-16

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, **holding fast the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.