

Prophet Redemptive

Biblical

Romans 12:6 - *propheteia* (προφητεία, 4394) signifies “the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God” (pro, “forth,” phemi, “to speak”: see prophet); in the NT it is used (a) of the gift, e.g., Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; 13:2; (b) either of the exercise of the gift or of that which is “prophesied,” e.g., Matt. 13:14; 1 Cor. 13:8; 14:6, 22 and 1 Thess. 5:20, “prophesying (s)”; 1 Tim. 1:18; 4:14; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Rev. 1:3; 11:6; 19:10; 22:7, 10, 18, 19, 21

Meaning of the word prophet

The Greek word for prophet is a combination of two things that mean “prior” and “to make known,” in other words to make something known before it happens, the idea of foresight of seeing it beforehand and making it known. Understand that this Greek word can be used in two separate ways. For the manifestation gift of prophesying, God sovereignty makes known to the individual what is going to happen in the future. That is the kind of usage we are accustomed to for the word prophet.

But the redemptive gift of prophet does the same thing in a different way. Using principles, he can know in advance what will happen.

The redemptive gift of prophet operates in the arena of principles and extends the truth into the future. Whereas the manifestation gift of prophet is able to hear from God directly and just know things that will happen in the future.

A good example of the redemptive gift of prophet is someone who can build, not just one who can criticize. Any carnal, immature prophet can run around and say “this is broken, and that’s wrong, and this you shouldn’t do” and so on. That is very damaging to the church and very low level.

A good prophet is somebody who can embrace the problem and apply the principles in such a way as to effectively repair the problem.

Another Way of Looking at the Redemptive Gift Prophet

Perceiver- Ongoing Insight A person with the Motivational Gift of Prophecy could also be called a “perceptive” person. That is someone who sees and understands the deep meaning of a situation. We are not talking about *revelation* that is, seeing something never seen before. We are talking about having the light of the Word of God and the Spirit of God giving holy illumination to the mind of the person in order to reveal the truth of a situation. This motivational gift is characterized by the ability to:

¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In [*Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 492). T. Nelson.



1. see or perceive **beyond surface appearances**;
2. receive and declare **truth about a situation**;
3. receive and declare **insight** about people or programs.

This creative gift from our Heavenly Father gives a believer the ability to see situations and people with ongoing prophetic insight. This gift (like the rest of the gifts listed in Romans 12) functions independent of any public ministry or position. In other words, someone with the motivational gift of prophecy is NOT the same as someone with the ministry gift of prophet.

Characteristics of Prophet Redemptive/Motivational Gift

Tends to see things in black and white, right and wrong

Is committed to truth

If it is right and God has said it. The prophet is committed to go regardless of whether anybody follows

Takes initiative and enjoys things that are new

Does a terrible job of maintaining things

Is verbally expressive and can be compulsive about it

Processes quickly

Has an opinion on everything and is quick to share it

Judges and evaluates everything, even situations that do not directly impact him

Knows no fear

Simplistic worldview – must make sense of everything

Has a basic boldness

Not intimidated by the unknown or change

Needs to have a goal, a reason to live, an objective

Cannot tolerate having no options

Is generous but can give impulsively and unwisely at times

Shifts gears quickly from one direction to another. Can be here and then there

Tends to be a visionary

Is fiercely independent and competitive

Requires full disclosure of facts

Has a compulsion for honesty, integrity, and transparency

Is intolerant of perceived rebellion, hypocrisy, and denial, especially in leadership

Is hard on himself.

Tends to find it difficult to forgive himself

Has to make sense out of everything, even unreasonable situations

Can be unsentimental about relationships

Has a passion for excellence in himself and others

Is driven to excel and challenge others to be their best

Has a large range of emotions. Has intense, passionate extremes in emotions

Bases faith on the principles of God's Word. "God said it. I believe it"

Can embrace a problem and figure out how to repair it

Can re-build, not just criticize

Needs time alone to refuel and re-energize and process



Has a passion for restoration
Sees the damage of sin and the restoring power of God
Is drawn to brokenness and can rebuild a broken life
Is quick to celebrate what God has done
Has a passion for celebration
God often calls the prophet to a higher level of sacrifice in his personal disciplines, faith, and commitment
Can go through seasons when God is silent. these seasons of silence are designed to build a deeper root system of faith for greater fruit in the future
Takes initiative, likes new things
Goes against the status quo
Does not maintain well running organization – will quit, improve it, or change it
Gives full disclosure – exposes weakness, compulsion for honesty & integrity - Very hard on self
Out of sight out of mind
Passion for excellence
The prophet is very hard on himself
The prophet has probably the largest range of emotions of any gift
A prophet tends to hold truth much more tightly than relationships
The prophet is one that is drawn to brokenness

Major Weaknesses

Judgmental. Critical toward others and even more critical of themselves
Unforgiving
Not willing to overlook the failures and weaknesses of others
Bitterness
The enduring battlefield for the prophet. Can have an unforgiving spirit that is destructive
Non-relational
Tends to value principles and truth as more important than relationships
Important note: The redemptive gift of prophet does not necessarily have the manifestation gift of prophecy listed in 1 Corinthians 12 or the office of prophet in Ephesians 4.

Biblical example of Prophet – Peter

Caleb

One of the greatest prophets of all time, Caleb, walked by faith. He had no fear and came into the Promised Land and said, “Giants, what giants, all I can see is God, come on guys.” He tried to bring the entire nation with him and he failed, they turned against him. His heart break was that he could not inspire the nation to rise to the challenge and possess their birthright. He couldn’t bust them out of their comfort into voluntarily embracing pain. So he went through forty years of waiting. He was a man who bore fruit late in life; he was 80 years old when his time came. A new generation came up, a younger generation and they were willing to go into the land. They won the battles, they drove out the preliminary batch of enemies and then it was time to divide the land and God’s promise to this man who had so much vision, God’s promise to this man who tried to inspire an entire nation to move out of comfort and voluntarily embrace pain to embrace their birthright, God’s promise was that he could have anything he wanted in the land. He got first dibs over everybody.



He lived true to his calling. He could have chosen the nicest, most comfortable place, he had paid his dues, he had been there, done that, he had his promise from God, he could have gone for the easiest place but he didn't. The cry of the prophet echoes down through the years where Caleb said "Give me this mountain, the mountain where the giants are, the mountain where the whole army of Israel went around the mountain instead of attacking the giants, give me this mountain, I want the hardest place in the land, I want to possess my birthright." That mountain was Hebron, a place steeped with the history of Israel, a righteous, holy place. God honoured the passion and faith of Caleb. Caleb took that mountain, he experienced fulfilment, and he set a standard for all other prophets who are willing to wait and to be obedient and to pay their dues and spend those years in the wilderness and in the fullness of time. With roots that went down deep and drew up water, whose leaves never wilted, this man possessed his inheritance and watched Israel possess some of theirs.

This is the call of the prophet, to move beyond comfort, to provide the vision and the principles to bring a group of people to possess their individual birthrights. That is what it is for the prophet to possess his own birthright.

John the Baptist is an example of this in scripture. His only prophecy was that Messiah was coming which had been being said for 2000 years. Yet all through his ministry he demonstrated the redemptive gift of prophet. So any of the 7 can prophesy and prophet doesn't necessarily prophesy at all. John the Baptist's primary calling was fulfilled through the Ministry Gift of a Prophet (Eph 4:11). However, his life and ministry can also give us some insight into the function of the Motivational Gift of the prophetic:

1. His unconventional dress (Matt 3:4) shows that he was not concerned about external appearance
2. He was aware of his personal unworthiness (Luke 3:16). People with a prophetic gift tend to be hard on themselves.
3. He knew he was only a voice for God. His ministry was completely scripturally based, as we can see in Luke 3:3-6.
4. He was frank and direct in confronting the crowd with their sin, warning them of judgment, and exhorting them to repent (Luke 3:7-9).
5. He did not dwell on the negative. When people from the crowd asked, "*What shall we do then?*" he told them the positive steps they could take to turn from their sin (Luke 3:10-14).
6. He looked for repentance, that is, a change in lifestyle in people (Luke 3:8).
7. He placed great emphasis on right (good) and wrong (evil) (Luke 3:10-14) and openly rebuked evil in those in authority (Luke 3:19).
8. He discerned people's motives (Luke 3:7).

Ezekiel and Jonathan

Prophet's Battlefield

Bitterness becomes the prophet's enduring battlefield. The prophet sees hardship, sees the consequences of sin so much more clearly than anyone else. The prophet is horrified by the evilness of sin more so than the other gifts, and so he becomes very prone to step into the role of God and to be not only the judge and jury, but to be the one who issues the sentence and say "this is how long it is going to be, and this is what you have to do before I will release you." Forgiveness is key.



“Then Peter (redemptive gift of prophet) came to Him and said, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”

Discernment

