

Chapter 1 : Are You Called as a Prophet? Here Are 2 Ways to Know – Charisma News

Now on Video!. The best way that I know of to identify a TRUE PROPHET would be to use the Word of God ALONE to do so. Fact is, if a Prophet IS sent by the Christian God who wrote the Christian Bible, then common sense would be that to identify same would be BY that Christian God's Word.

Of Hebrew origin; Helias, an Israelite. The first person singular present indicative; a prolonged form of a primary and defective verb; I exist. Also ouk, and ouch a primary word; the absolute negative adverb; no or not. The person pronoun of the second person singular; thou. The, the definite article. Including the feminine he, and the neuter to in all their inflections; the definite article; the. From a compound of pro and phemi; a foreteller; by analogy, an inspired speaker; by extension, a poet. From apo and krino; to conclude for oneself, i. The angel had announced that "he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias. What is the state of the case? The very repudiation of Messiahship in this form seems to imply some association with the Messianic period of which they had so many conflicting ideas. In the physical, superstitious sense, John the son of Zacharias was not the reincarnation of the Prophet Elijah, and so he boldly answered the inquiry, Art thou Elijah? They press their question once more. Art thou the Prophet? It is doubtful whether they here take up another popular expectation of the physical return of one of the old prophets, or whether, with an exegesis afterwards modified by the apostles, they point to Deuteronomy If they had identified these representations, they would not, of course, have pressed him with an identical question. It is highly probable that that prophecy had, with the predictions of Malachi and Isaiah, led to numerous expectations more or less identified with the Messianic cycle of coming events. They yearned for no upstart, but for one of the mighty brotherhood of departed men, in veritable flesh and blood. Now John and now Jesus was crudely suspected by some to be such a resuscitation. The Baptist, like the Samaritan woman, and subsequently St. Peter when full of the Holy Ghost, had sharply identified "the Prophet like unto Moses" with the Messiah himself; and therefore, on either hypothesis, he gives a curt reply to this inquiry, and he answered, No. Matthew Henry Commentary 1: He came in the spirit and power of Elias, but he was not the person of Elias. John was not that Prophet whom Moses said the Lord would raise up to them of their brethren, like unto him. He was not such a prophet as they expected, who would rescue them from the Romans. He gave such an account of himself, as might excite and awaken them to hearken to him. He baptized the people with water as a profession of repentance, and as an outward sign of the spiritual blessings to be conferred on them by the Messiah, who was in the midst of them, though they knew him not, and to whom he was unworthy to render the meanest service.

Chapter 2 : Prophet | Define Prophet at racedaydvl.com

So ladies and gentlemen, I give you Wendell Berry—the farmer-prophet from Kentucky. (Amos was a farmer-prophet too, wasn't he?) (Amos was a farmer-prophet too, wasn't he?) But keep in mind prophets are not safe.

Lord, breathe Your Spirit upon us at this time. Bless now the words of my lips and the meditations of our hearts — give us an understanding of Your Holy Word and lead us in the way You want us to go. In Jesus name we pray. Jesus and His disciples ventured into the District of Caesarea Philippi, an area about 25 miles northeast of the Sea of Galilee and about miles from Jerusalem. The region was strongly identified with various religions: It had been a center for Baal worship; the Greek god Pan had shrines there; and Herod the Great had built a temple there to honor Augustus Caesar. It was in the midst of this pagan superstition that Peter confessed Jesus as the Son of God. He would not yet establish His kingdom, but He would build His church. He looked at His disciples and in a moment of reflection said: Some say that You are Elijah; others say John the Baptist, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. You can speak of Jesus as prophet, holy man, teacher, or spiritual leader, and few will object. But speak of Him as Son of God, divine, of the same nature as the Father, and people will line up to express their disapproval. A billion Muslims will say: In our pluralistic society we have been watering down the gospels and the name of Jesus for quite some time. In an attempt to not offend other people or their religion we choose not to speak of Jesus. We accept the idea of God and we admit to trusting Him but then we go our separate way. We believe we can control our own destiny. A right confession of who Jesus is is tantamount to our very salvation Romans For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. Just as men today cannot come to know Jesus on there own volition, it takes an act of the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth. Jesus must have swelled with joy to hear Peter utter these words; He knew it was time for deeper training of the disciples. The Lord knew that Peter and the disciples could now be led into new steps of deeper truth and service. Will Campbell, the author, told this story about his conversations with Waylon Jennings, the country music singer. He decided to talk to Waylon about his spiritual condition. Will asked, "What do you believe about Jesus? I believe in Jesus. We are then supposed to read and study scriptures, have a daily open line of communication with God; associate with other Christians, worshipping together and we are to spread the Good News to others. We are to be the instruments that the Holy Spirit uses to reach others for Christ. The first, petros, means a stone or loose rock; the second, petra, means rock, such as a rocky ledge.

Chapter 3 : Are You Called as a Prophet? Here Are 2 Ways to Know | Jennifer LeClaire Ministries

You know you are a prophet when God calls on you. he talks to you his voice. you want to lesion its so pleasing and for me gentle. When he chosen me for a task. I told him it was impossible he said yes it is but they must be given that choice.

Prophets What are prophets? Prophets receive revelation from God, preach His gospel, and lead His Church on earth. The authority to speak and act in the name of God has been given to prophets since the time of Adam, and it is a vital part of the plan of salvation. Different periods throughout time have each brought with them new circumstances and unique challenges. Prophets receive revelation from God in order to help His people navigate through their own distinct times. Expand Text Prophets are special witnesses of God; they are revelators; they teach, they perform miracles, and they lead. Moses is perhaps the most recognized among the ancient prophets. While leading the enslaved Israelites out of Egypt, he spoke with God face-to-face, he parted the Red Sea, and he revealed tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments, given directly from God. Each of these prophets was called by God and given priesthood authority by Him—the divine right to speak and act in His name. Faith and repentance were common themes taught by the ancient prophets, and their words and work still resonate with us today, even as we recognize our spiritual or moral landscape to be very different from theirs. Because many of our trials and concerns are different than ancient times, it makes sense that God would call prophets for our day, servants who could further His work among His children. The first of these latter-day prophets was Joseph Smith, a man God called as a prophet in in much the same way as He chose the ancient prophets and apostles—from among the most humble and unlikely of candidates. Joseph Smith spoke with God, received revelation from Him, revealed and translated an ancient religious record called the Book of Mormon, and brought back to the earth the Church of Jesus Christ in its fulness. A considerable work has since been done that could not have been accomplished without the restored keys of the priesthood and divine guidance. Guidance was indeed what Joseph Smith was seeking as a boy when he came across James 1: A prophet receives revelation for the entire Church. Monson now holds this office as President of the Church, and he is assisted by two counselors and by the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, who perform a function similar to the Apostles Jesus Christ called in His day. Like their ancient predecessors, these men testify of Jesus Christ and they teach His gospel. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is unique in the world today for the priesthood authority it holds and for the leaders who exercise that authority, continuing a tradition as old as humanity itself. God loves His children and has promised blessings to those who listen to His inspired servants, the prophets, whose work it is to help us come to know and become more like God.

Chapter 4 : "Who Do You Say Jesus Is" Sermon by Charles Lindquist, Jr., Matthew - racedaydvl.com

Likewise, if you are called as a prophet, it is an occupation. You cannot turn off the instinct to stand in the office of the prophet any more than a physician can turn off the instinct to help people heal.

Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. You need not be afraid of him. I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood By this you know the Spirit of God: This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, Suggest a Verse Enter a Verse Reference e. Unless otherwise indicated, all content is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License.

Chapter 5 : What is a Prophet / Prophetess? | Truth Or Tradition?

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What stands out in the passage in Deuteronomy is that the false prophet will skillfully attempt to lead people away from YHVH. He came to show us how it should be done. That is the true meaning of fulfill! Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains electronic ed. The fruits you produce are your works and the way you conduct yourself. What you think, say and do reflect who your Father is. It takes His name in vain. Is he obedient to YHVH or does he teach and live lawlessness? Does he bear the fruit of the Spirit or the fruit of the Adversary? Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? There is a passage in the Didache no 11 that specifically deals with how to identify a false prophet. Here is some more information on the Didache for better understanding. Greek texts and English translations Updated ed. Here is what they wrote: By his conduct, therefore, will the false prophet and the prophet be recognized. Here are some guideline for us, which of these fruit does your prophet or teacher display? The fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5: Against such there is no Torah. Many follow after them The majority is not always right. How many people were in the ark at the time of the flood? Noah was a prophet of YHVH. He told people what was about to happen, but they did not listen to him. The end-times will be as in the time of Noah Luk People want their ears tickled; they want sensation and intrigue. They want to hear something new! We see another example of this in the book of Acts. Paul was in Athens, and the people of Athens loved hearing something new. Is it different in our time? These teachers are the ones drawing the crowds. They, themselves teach and practice mixed worship We have seen in the previous quoted passages how people want their ears tickled and always want to hear something new. They choose for themselves teachers in accordance with their desires. Do not follow them, they are deceived and will deceive you! Should I be consulted by them at all? They practice idolatry, and they worship YHVH. Their idolatry is a stumbling block for them, and they will be answered in accordance to the deception of their hearts. They will, in other words, be deceived even further. Be careful and consider this. YHVH will allow you to be led deeper into this deception. Study to show yourselves approved 2 Tim 2: Prophets prophesying for money were already a problem at the time of Jeremiah and Ezekiel Jeremiah 6: But if he asks for money, he is a false prophet. Paul also wrote about this problem. Peddling means to conduct a retail business. They are the peddlers that Paul is teaching against. They have made the Word into a retail business. It is ironic that the preachers who preach lawlessness are also the ones how eagerly quote Malachi in order to convince people to tithe. Are those true prophets? There are, however, honest Torah-observant teachers, who do sell the books they wrote, or teachings they recorded, but they do this in order to cover the costs they incurred. If they fall short in one of these, you are in danger of being deceived. Is that a change you want to take? We want you to also look at yourself, how do you measure up against these signs? We, as believers, can lead people astray by simply repeating false teachings. We are to search for the truth and only share truth with one another. Be like the Bereans and prove all things before sharing a message, for in a way each of us are a prophet or a teacher unto another and we will have to give account for every word we have spoken. In a future article we will look at seven more signs. Please share this message and leave us a comment if you have something to add or share..

Chapter 6 : Are there prophets in the church today?

You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. What is a Prophet A prophet speaks divinely inspired messages to others.

It was intended for questions regarding use of these principles. I will try to address, quite directly and truthfully, your questions below. You have asked me to speak into your life, which I am honored to do. I will speak carefully from what I believe is the truth of God. Know that anger, defensiveness, hurt feelings, and offense are reactions out of the soul, they are never a reaction from the born again spirit. Several months ago I became a member at my church and I am really loving the Lord and all that He has done and is doing and going to do in my life. The Lord has led me to a lot of scriptures with the warning of being deceived and about false prophets coming up. The danger is not so much in whether or not you might be a false prophet, as it is in whether or not you might be a "baby" prophet-yet-in-training who is giving false prophecies. Both 1 prophets with unsundered souls and hardened hearts, and 2 immature "baby" prophets-in-training with unsundered souls and tender hearts, can "prophecy" false prophecies. What is the common factor here? Two of these verses are Jeremiah To be a true prophet of the Lord requires a strong commitment to searching and reading and meditating upon the Word of God so as to not prophesy a soulish prophecy. You need to have a strong inner foundation of the Word to recognize subtle deceptions from your unsundered soul or the devil. To be a true prophet of the Lord requires a surrendered and submitted soul, and a fixed commitment to wanting only the will of God to be done--never the will of the prophet. I would encourage you to read and reread the book of Jeremiah. This book, perhaps more than any other in my estimation shows how God feels about the difference between a true prophet and those who prophesy out of their own souls. To prophecy words that are not given by God is a very, very dangerous thing. To prophesy out of your own soul ANY Christian who is not aware of the deceptiveness of their own unsundered soul can do this not only places you in a dangerous place, it places the one you have prophesied to into the same dangerous place if they come into agreement with your false or soulish prophecy. Why do people come into agreement with false prophecies? Because they make the person feel good and his or her soul can detect personal benefit from believing they must be true. Also, I believe that the Lord led me to leave my job to be available for Him full time and the Lord has been preparing me for something, maybe that ministry. The Lord often trains His people and teaches them discipline and order by having them submit to the routine of jobs and daily responsibilities. He wants you already on the path of discipline and obedience by the time you need to move in it during a ministry assignment He gives to you. He will very clearly open and close doors to verify His desires for change of such a work status in your life. I shared this same information with my Pastor who is also a prophet and he basically took me to one of the same scriptures that the Holy Spirit had led me to. I agree, but I also believe that it is a sermon to be preached. A pastor must be very careful of who he or she allows to preach in the pulpit of the flock he or she has been given to shepherd. This is not something for you to try to arrange or manipulate. Our church has just completed a special time of dedication and worship, and I was constantly on the floor exhibiting a physical manifestation , sometimes a lot. I also do the same thing sometimes during praising the Lord. I know I have physically "affected" other people with this manifestation accidentally. My Pastor brought these things to my attention and he asked me, "Did you get revelation as to why you would be exhibiting this manifestation "? I know there was some sarcasm in his question because I told him about some of the revelations God had given me. You may well be a potential prophet, but God uses people in authority over us to hold us in a state of training and learning until we are ready to be used. Can these authority figures have wrong motives? Yes, they certainly can. He will, however, allow you to be trained and matured through learning how to react spiritually to those wrong motives of others. The only thing that can hold you back from fulfilling great destiny purposes for your life is the stubbornness of your own unsundered soul. Just read about Joseph being locked in prison for something he had not done, and know that God never wastes anything in our lives no matter how negative it may seem to us and others around us at the time. I am quite sure that God used that time of imprisonment to teach Joseph to surrender to the greater purpose yet to come. God was

setting him up to become a powerful influence in a foreign culture in order to make a way for his own family to be saved in a time of great famine. So often we pitch a soulish "fit" when God puts us into hard places. That hard place may be the beginning of His process to put us into positions of great authority, even before world leaders, to fulfill plans so great we cannot comprehend them. God so prepared Joseph that he held no hard feelings or offenses against his brothers rascals that they were. When one is a prophet-yet-in-training, regardless of the incredible potential of that young "master," he or she must be tutored and governed, sometimes even contained, by those with more experience and understanding until the Father of us all appoints that one as being ready. The time of the appointing as being ready is in the hands of the Father, never in the hands of the tutors or governors. No one can open a door that God has shut, and no one can shut a door that God opens. I told my Pastor that I believed the physical manifestation was God purging me. I know that you believe this is part of God preparing you to become a prophet. Since the physical manifestation you describe is so distracting to other people, and it seems to me to serve no purpose as validated by Scripture, I would get on my knees about your beliefs about it. How do you do this? Ask God to show you the purpose or the reason for why such a manifestation might be scriptural or useful to His Kingdom purposes. God wants us to know His purposes and plans for our lives. He does not want to keep secrets from us that could help us mature and grow in His destiny purposes for our lives. Could you help me Rev. You obviously want to be used to God. This is a good thing, and I commend you for wanting to cooperate with God in this calling. However, I heard a missionary say something so true and valuable, some ten years ago, that I often repeat it. When he was younger, this man believed God called him to be a missionary to the Philippines. So he sold everything he had, quit his job, and prepared himself as he believed he should get prepared to go to the mission field for God. God did not send him until 13 years later. There is often a unknown time for training and maturing between the call and the going forth to fulfill it. What most affects the length of that unknown passage of time? Please help me and most of all please pray for me. Please bind me and loose what you think and believe may need to be loosed and bound. Savard, I trust you and the decisions you make. I do not want to discourage you in any way, as you may well be one of the greatest end times prophets God is now raising up. But you do need further experience with God, particularly in allowing Him to train you in the use of His gifts. This is not a caution that you must sit and wait for 13 years, rather this is a call to you to redirect your energies into preparation for being used. Read, read, and reread the book of Jeremiah along with as much other Scripture as you can make time to read. Ask your pastor if there are any books he can recommend on the offices of the five-fold ministries, particularly the prophets. Read about all of the Old Testament prophets and learn from them. One final word of caution, from my own experience and my own beliefs. Prophecy is being misused and abused these days. So-called prophets are prophesying out of their own souls that which they believe people want to hear, also that which the so-called priogets believe validates what they have soulishly chosen to believe about certain churches, ministries, and individuals. One good word for you to always think about: If you already have strong feelings about an individual or a ministry needing correction and then you believe God has given you a prophecy that validates exactly what you have been already thinking, it is almost always a false prophecy coming out of your soul. The prophetic words I trust the most are the words a prophet gives that are nearly as surprising to the prophet as to the one being prophesied to. I hope this helps. I thank you for your timely response and most of all, I thank you for your honesty. I was not offended by any of it. Quite a few of my "prophecies" have been confirmed and have come to pass, but I understand that the devil can give confirmation and make "prophecies" come to pass also, is this correct? The devil does not "make" prophecies come to pass, rather he sets up the unsundered soul to "think" certain things ahead of the time of what he is going to cause to come to pass. He does the same thing when he is aware of other things coming to pass even though he has nothing to do with them. I do not think Satan can read your mind, nor do I think he can foretell the future. He simply is aware of things already in progress things the finite minds of humans have no way of knowing until they actually happen and pre-determines how he can take advantage of them. He does this by implanting suggestions into the mind through access into unsundered souls that do not or cannot discern his intervention or interference. These doors of access into the unsundered human soul are explained in detail in Shattering Your Strongholds as being brought about through the self-establishment of strongholds in the

mind. This is NOT the gift of discernment as some think it is--a "gift" that can be used to discern anything you want. It is the gift of Discerning of Spirits, a spiritual gift given by the Holy Ghost to know what spirit or Spirit is operating behind any supernatural happening, including the seeming fulfillment of prophecy. It is the gifting to know if an evil spirit, the Holy Spirit, or the soul of a man or woman is in operation. This is something everyone needs to understand. A Christian whose unsundered soul can be accessed and confused by the enemy can "fall for" a counterfeit work or manifestation that only appears to be of God. If so, did I leave anything out? Yes, you are right on here, with the possible exception of loosing soul ties. This would be good information for you to read. Also, in Producing the Promise there is a chapter on the power of agreement right or wrong that will give you further understanding. As for the book of Jeremiah, the Holy Spirit has led me to this book and I have read it several times. He also led me to the book of Job, Isaiah, Micah, Lamentations and Ezekiel which I have read, but I will reread them and continue to do so until I come into full understanding or wherever I should be with these books.

Chapter 7 : The Prophet - Wikiquote

Now if you say to yourselves, 'How can we tell that a message is not from the Lord?'â€” whenever a prophet speaks in my name and the prediction is not fulfilled, then I have not spoken it; the prophet has presumed to speak it, so you need not fear him."

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: 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. He only shares what the Lord reveals. Scripture defines Scripture, not man. He only seeks to glorify the Lord. He will never seek glory to himself. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: He will preach Jesus as God who came to Earth and put on humanity in order to redeem us all. 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. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: Behold, I have told you before. [Click here for the biblical facts needed to expose false prophets.](#)

"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams.

Patrice May 31, 15 no comments SaveSavedRemoved 5 Today, there is no doubt that God is restoring the prophetic ministry to the church as never seen before. Prophets are springing up from everywhere and people are more than ever aware of the prophetic ministry as never before. Of course this situation, which is quite new to the church in these endtimes, leads to many questions. Both simple church members as well as those called to the prophetic ministry have questions. Some of those questions are: What is the prophetic ministry? What is the purpose and function of the prophetic ministry in the church today? How do we define the word prophet? Do we know what the word prophetic actually means? Is someone who prophesies every Sunday in church a prophet? How do I know that I am called to the prophetic ministry? What are the signs that I should look for? If I am called to the prophetic ministry how will it be manifested in me? How will God train me? How long does it take to be trained as a prophet? As you can see there are many questions and I am sure you have got your own, you can add your own list. If the Lord has called you and you would like to be trained, then apply to be a student and you will have the answers to all these questions during your training.

Defining Prophecy and Prophet The first thing that I what to look at is the word prophetic. Obviously prophetic is an adjective related to two words prophecy and prophet. In a nutshell, prophecy is speaking ahead of time, what God is planning to do. It can also involve preparing the ground for what God is planning to do. Because prophecy is an utterance it actually covers a lot of what goes as normal preaching. Whenever a person speaks forth under inspiration what God is saying to others at the present time, they are exercising a prophetic ministry. So prophecy can also fall under inspired preaching. But it is of course a lot more than that. From the above definitions you may be tempted to believe that a prophet is someone who just has a gift of prophecy or who prophesies. But the prophetic ministry is actually more than that as said. But I think this is where many people get confused. The confusion comes from the failure to distinguish between three biblical concepts:

Body Ministries Body ministries can be found in Roman Prophecy, Servanthood, Teaching, Exhortation and encouragement, Giving to others and meeting their needs, Ruling or taking charge or leading others, Compassion and mercy and taking care of people. These are called body ministries because they are ministries that every single member of the body of Christ is called to function and operate in. Every believer has got a ministry because the word ministry simply means service; so to minister means to serve. And you will agree that every believer is called to serve the Lord. There is no particular training needed, believers receive them from the Lord and function naturally in them.

Leadership Ministries Then you have the higher-level ministries, which are the leadership ministries that you can find Ephesians 4: Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Evangelists, and Pastors. These are the governing body of the church. And the ministry of the prophet or specifically the prophetic office falls in this category. Now you know that for every job that you carry out, you need specific tools and skills. The gifts of the spirit are tools and abilities that the Lord gives to his servants to carry out successfully their functions in the church. Since we have both body ministries and leadership ministries, the spiritual gifts are available to both levels of ministries to carry out their functions and serve the Lord efficiently. So you can understand that the ordinary member of the body of Christ who has got the body ministry of prophecy will need the need the gift of prophecy to carry out that ministry; likewise the prophet will need the same gift of prophecy. Both ministries relate to the the prophetic. But the latter involves more than just prophesying. This means that a person with the body ministry of prophecy or the gift of prophecy carries out a prophetic ministry but they are not a prophet. The prophet on the other hand can not only prophesy but also carry out many other functions. For example the ministry of exhortation is also a prophetic function. Although it is not prophetic in itself, the prophetic ministry is usually designed to motivate and encourage believers to go on with God and to find their place in the Body.

Purpose of the Prophetic Ministry What are the other functions that set the prophet apart? What is the purpose of the prophetic ministry? And the

only way to know that the body of Christ is a place of maturity is when believers are walking in faith, love and hope. Secondly, the goal of the prophet is to bring believers to a full knowledge of the Lord. Thirdly, the goal of the prophet is to help prepare believers for the ministry God has called them to do. As said, for the prophet to fulfil the purpose of the prophetic ministry, they need some specific spiritual gifts. They are referred to as prophetic gifts. There are three groups of spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians Main Gifts of the Prophetic Ministry The main gifts involved with the prophetic ministry are the vocal and the revelation gifts. Regarding the power gifts the major one that the prophet uses is the gift of faith. So the prophetic gifts are given to the prophet in order to fulfil these three goals. Now the question is how? The main purpose of prophecy is to encourage and edify the body of Christ. How can prophecy bring encouragement and edification? Through a prophetic word. A word that tell believers how much God loves them and how valuable they are to Him will certainly bring them closer to the Lord. But sometimes prophecy can be a word of wisdom that needs to come to pass. So the prophet needs to do more than prophesying, he needs to send forth a prophetic decree, so that whatever the Lord is planning for the individual or the body of Christ to come to pass. The prophet can do this while ministering directly to a person or in prayer. By sending forth a prophetic decree, the prophet becomes part of the solution of whatever the person is expecting. How should the Prophet use the Gifts of Revelation? One of the main functions of the prophet is to equip the saints for the work of ministry. To fulfil this function the prophet needs to help them to identify their gifts and ministries and the main tool is the gift of the word of wisdom. With the word of wisdom the prophet can, not only reveal what ministry they are called to but they can go further by giving them direction regarding how to grow in that ministry. The prophet can in this case use the word of wisdom to bring confirmation. When the prophet does this, they really build hope in the lives of believers; they give them something to hang onto and something to live for. As I said earlier the main power gift in which the prophet operates is the gift of faith. Without this gift the prophet cannot function properly. I have already said that the prophet is not called to just predict or give revelation. And the way the prophet does this is through prophetic decrees. Only when the prophet decrees can what they have been predicting or revealing come to pass. But the decree itself is not enough, what makes the decree effective is the gift of faith. It is the spiritual force which when released into the earth accomplishes the will of God. So as the prophet decrees, the gift of faith is released to accomplish the will of God. The prophet fulfils this function mainly through intercession. This is the main characteristic of a prophet. It is not predicting or foretelling, although prophets do these things. Foretelling or predicting is what psychics are busy doing, but they are not giving any solutions. They are just predicting what Satan will do.

asked him, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John When the people saw the sign that Jesus had performed, they began to say, "Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Understanding and Utilizing the Manifestation of Prophecy. Many people are familiar with the ministries of apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. However, if we are to have everything that the Lord wants us to have as his Body, we must understand the ministry of the prophet and have prophets functioning in the Church. Today, in the Administration of Grace, the Lord Jesus Christ seals with holy spirit every person who gets born again Eph. That means every Christian has the ability to hear from God and prophesy Acts 2: For many people, the immediate reaction to hearing that every Christian can prophesy is to think that prophets are no longer necessary. However, a more detailed study of Scripture and indeed, the evidence of correct practice in the Church reveals that is not the case. For example, Ephesians 4: Furthermore, there are other verses in the Church Epistles that mention prophets, such as 1 Corinthians Acts confirms what the Church Epistles teach, and shows that prophets were active and important in the Church Acts Surely the Lord would not have specifically placed men and women in the Church with the gift ministry of a prophet if they did not perform a distinctly different role than other Christians who were operating the manifestation of prophecy. Thus the call to be a prophet is a job assignment, given to someone whether he wants it or not. The Old Testament scriptures make this very clear. Isaiah knew he was called from birth: Amos describes the call of God upon his life: In regard to prophets in the Church, the book of Acts confirms what Ephesians and Corinthians state doctrinally, that the Lord selects and specifically calls some men and women to be prophets. Prophets were important in the establishment of the church at Antioch, the first church recorded that was composed of both Jews and Gentiles Acts It was the prophet Agabus who foretold that there would be a severe famine in the Roman world during the reign of Claudius Caesar Acts Prophets were vital in getting the revelation from the Lord to set apart Paul and Barnabas and send them on their first missionary journey Acts The prophets Judas and Silas are specifically mentioned as exhorting and confirming the disciples in Antioch Acts It was Agabus the prophet who so graphically portrayed what would happen to Paul in Jerusalem Acts In fact, the only foretelling in Acts is given either by prophets or by the apostles Peter and Paul. Evangelists still exist in the Church even though every Christian can share his faith, there are still pastors even though every Christian can help people who are hurting, and there are still prophets in the Church even though every Christian can manifest prophecy. Prophets are charged with being spokesmen for God just as they were in the Old Testament, and today they speak also for the Lord Jesus Christ. Now that we know the difference between the manifestation of prophecy and the ministry of a prophet, we need to understand how that difference plays out in the Church. All prophecy, whether from a Christian operating the manifestation of prophecy, or from a called prophet, will be as the Spirit gives utterance Acts 2: Called prophets speak the message the Lord gives them, whatever it may be. Both the manifestation of prophecy and the ministry of a prophet are used by the Lord in the Church today Eph. To understand how prophets operate in the Church, we must understand how they functioned in the Old Testament. Soon after Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden, God stopped talking openly to people and chose specific individuals through whom He would communicate to mankind. The oldest occurrence we have today relates to a prophetic utterance at the oracle of Zeus at Dodona. Thus, ancient Greek language and culture confirms what the Hebrew language communicates: It is beyond the scope of this appendix to categorize every type of message that prophets bring forth, but a short list will show some of the variation that occurs in the Bible. In some categories there are many examples, but a few will suffice. Tell what will happen in the future: Can have messages for individuals: Of course, because the prophet is a prophet of God, He will not contradict what He has said in His written Word. This brings up the fact that some people assert that God would not give a harsh word of reproof today because we live in the Age of Grace, but that assertion misses the point. There are verses that apply to the Church that show God will still reprove and correct His people. The principle still stands: Actually, since we have more today, we could reasonably expect Him to get more upset. Although there are well documented times when God spoke audibly to prophets, it

seems the more common means of communication He used was visual revelation, even if the vision were in a dream. Although it would be ideal if every dream and vision were crystal clear and self-explanatory, that is not the case. The method and content of the visions and dreams of God are His business, and He has purposely chosen to be unclear in some of His communication. Although the tendency of most people is to blame the prophet for any unclear dream or revelation and it is true that sin can cloud clear revelations from the Lord, this blame is often misplaced. God can be perfectly clear when He wants to be, as many Old and New Testament records attest. Many biblical records show that God is purposely unclear. Furthermore, the Bible has records of prophets receiving visions and revelations they did not understand. For example, Daniel did not understand the meaning of what he heard Dan. There seem to be two primary reasons why God is sometimes purposely unclear. One is to drive people into deeper and more intimate communication with Him. Remember, the reason anyone gets any revelation in the first place is that God loves us, wants to help and bless us, and wants a relationship with us. He wants us to have a relationship with Him. There is more to life than just providing for others. God wants our love and to have a relationship with us. When there is unclear revelation, we are driven deeper and deeper into His heart as we seek understanding. We want to know what He meant, and that means we need to go to Him for the understanding. The second reason that God or the Lord is sometimes unclear when He gives a revelation or a vision is that it causes people to work together. We see this in the prophetic books in the Bible. There are many biblical topics that can be understood only by learning about them from several different books. God gave one revelation to the prophet Jeremiah, another to Ezekiel, another to Daniel, etc, and only when they are taken together do we get the whole picture. This is still true today, God giving a message through one prophet that is confirmed and developed by another prophet. Similarly, one prophet often has insights about the prophetic revelation that another prophet received, which sheds light on the original revelation. Another reason for God to promote community and communication among the prophets is the need for prophets to mature in their calling. Being around other prophets helps a younger or less mature prophet grow and understand the revelation he or she is receiving. As early as the time of Samuel, prophets were companying together 1 Sam. It is important to understand that even mature prophets can be wrong, or appear wrong, in what they say. For that reason, accountability to other prophets and to the Body of Christ is very important. The goal of the prophet is not to tear down but to recover and build up. Building up the Body of Christ is a challenging goal that can be accomplished only by cooperation with, and accountability to, other believers in the Body of Christ. Prophets, while calling others to account, must also be accountable. In that light, every prophet must realize that he or she is engaged in a spiritual battle, and the primary weapon of that warfare is the Word of God. A prophet is to anchor his life in prayer, and focus on the Hope even when the task at hand seems hopeless. This requires determination and discipline. This can easily be seen by reading the prophetic books and noting what the prophets said. Things are no different now in the Administration of Grace than they were in the Old Testament. The sin nature of man exerts a strong influence, which is why there is so much reproof and correction even in the Church Epistles. Speaking words of reproof and correction is rarely a blessing. This means that he must endeavor to have the heart of the Lord for people. Because prophetic utterances can have a huge impact on the one receiving the message, it is very important that the prophet deliver the message with the same heart as the Lord would if he were here personally. It is a very difficult task to distill to doctrine the communication that a prophet receives by revelation and how it should or perhaps should not be communicated to others. The mature prophet knows that sometimes the Lord communicates to him in a manner that is meaningful only to him, and a literal recitation of it would only be misunderstood by a listener. The Lord often uses harsh words or striking images to create impact, perhaps like a figure of speech makes an impact in literature. Mature prophets do not assume that stark imagery is literally true, but nor do they discount that it may be. This communication may take a number of forms and will not always be accepted or understood. A wise prophet will seek the Lord for wisdom concerning the details, timing and wording for each situation. He or she may also seek counsel of trusted advisors or more seasoned prophets. This however, provides no guarantee that the message or the prophet will not be criticized or disregarded. Just as prophets get lauded and praised when their prophecies are a blessing, they are derided and persecuted when their prophecies are unexpected or unwanted. Prophets must accept this in order to forestall

temptations of disobedience, self pity, envy, bitterness, and hardheartedness, and to be able to see and hear clearly the revelation that the Lord wants communicated. Each prophet must develop his own relationship with the Lord Jesus so that the Lord can communicate to him in a way that he understands, even if others do not. There will be times when it would be detrimental for the prophet to repeat exactly what the Lord gives to him because the images would be misunderstood. Each prophet must learn from experience how to correctly understand the messages and images he receives from the Lord, and then prophesy to others in a way that is helpful and appropriate. One of the great services that the prophets of old performed was to help people who needed to know what to do about specific situations. That prophecy has been weak and even nonexistent in the Church has added to the problem. Although some people who look to demonic sources of information are Christians, they may not know that what they are doing is a sin in the eyes of God, and they usually do not have a clue that they can tap into their gift of holy spirit to get a message of knowledge and a message of wisdom, or go to a prophet in the Church for help and direction. There has always been spiritual advice available, both good and bad. That is why the Bible mentions and forbids the practice of divination, consulting mediums, astrology, etc. Kings have always surrounded themselves with men who claimed to have supernatural knowledge.