

Mistaken Mystiques of Prophetic Ministry

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. (1 Corinthians 14:1)

Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:39a)

But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (1 Corinthians 14:29-32)

- (1) **A entire geographically represented church, reprimanded for being babes in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1-2); carnally committed to certain ministers (1 Cor. 3:3-5); accused of putting up with sexual immorality in their midst (1 Cor. 5:1-2); accusing one another before earthly authorities (1 Cor. 6:1-8); and having various other issues that Paul addressed – this church is still encouraged to remain active in the spiritual gifts, especially prophecy. Why? Shouldn't prophecy be only for 'elite prophets' or those active in the gifting for numerous years with a life of flawless integrity? Some may say so today, but Paul was more concerned with both the church's "edification" (1 Cor. 14:3, 4, 12, 31), and unbelievers' acknowledgement of God's presence (1 Cor. 14:23-24). In Corinth, everyone was to be a part of that. Shouldn't everyone also be a part of that today?**
- (2) **Prophetic ministry wasn't just to be relegated or delegated to a select few who appeared 'ministerially competent' or 'seasoned' in the ways of God. It was to be engaged in by "all", and "earnestly [desired]" by all. Likewise, today, everyone in the church should want to hear from God for the purpose of prophetically edifying each other and leading unbelievers to a place where God is seen, heard, and worshipped. The prophetic is not to be shunned in churches or hidden from unbelievers. Nor is it to be reserved for some gifted group of believers. It is to be active through everyone for the reasons God intended.**
- (3) **Today, churches that embrace the prophetic ministry of all the saints may be seen as eccentric, diabolical, heretical, and unbiblical. But if Paul addressed the churches today, even ones that are not as 'spiritually mature' as perhaps other ones appear, why should we think he would say anything different? His admonitions for all to be involved in the prophetic would still be just as applicable here, today, as in Corinth.**

Earnestly desire to be used prophetically – it was and still is God's will for His church.