The Mystery of the Gift of Revelation

Everyone can hear from God, but not everyone can perceive it

How does the revelatory gift operate? How can we grow with it? What do you do with it? What is a prophetic gift?

The Bible has a lot to say about this

- When many people think of prophecy, they think of the prophets of the Old Testament
- That is more of a stereotype than what the Bible really says

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11).

"For all can prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged" (1 Corinthians 14:31).

All is all, and some is some. So what did Paul mean when he wrote these two verses?

- He was indicating there are different levels of the prophetic gift
- You may not be a prophet, but you can receive revelation from God

"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).

- Prophecy shouldn't be treated flippantly
- It shouldn't be stigmatized either

Some have a revelatory gift but don't know how to develop it

- You sense things that make you feel very uncomfortable
- Some receive revelation visually
- Simple quick pictures
- You may get series of pictures—more like visions
- You may have dreams that reveal things

To the body of Christ, you're an eye

- The eye cannot rest outside the body

Some hear revelation through the still, quiet, voice

- You may hear small phrases when you first meet someone
- You may hear specific Scripture for a specific person

You are an ear to the body of Christ

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It is crucial today, to receive revelation from God

- Revelation cuts through the muck of lies and distortion that are in the world
- We need clarity from Heaven
- Sadly, we're losing many of our gifted young people to psychic fairs, the occult and New Age lifestyles because we don't understand how the gift of revelation works
- All the psychic arena is doing is counterfeiting the original

Some basics of revelation

- A lamp represents you
- Oil represents the Holy Spirit
- God is the match that ignites the fire
- It produces light in the lamp for everyone to see
- The purpose of the lamp is to light the path so we don't stumble

Prophecy doesn't operate at the same level in everyone because prophecy operates in three distinct areas:

- The gift of prophesy
- The spirit of prophesy
- The ministry of the prophet

If only some were given the ministry of the prophet, then how can everyone prophesy?

- The spirit of prophecy is that which allows everyone to prophesy
- It is the sovereign act of the Holy Spirit, and happens the moment you receive Jesus
- The spirit of prophesy can be stirred up by those having the gift of revelation

What is a prophet?

- The ministry of the prophet is someone who has been given the gift of prophesy but they frequently operate in the spirit of prophecy

What is the difference between a psychic and a prophet then?

- The difference is the source that the revelation comes from
- Is it darkness, or is it light?
- Is it from evil, or from God?

The ministry of a prophet is a very high bar to reach

- It requires not only a gift of revelation, but also character—developed in the refiner's fire
- It's a lifestyle that emerges through a lifetime
- The level and maturity of prophetic ministry today is different in clarity than that of the ministry that is to come
- Prophetic ministry is progressing—but the best is yet to come

If you don't think you hear from God, John Paul would like to broaden your definition of what it might look like.

"But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14).

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Exercises:
Decision making

- Begin every day by asking God to help you process all the data you will take in that day
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you peace over every decision that lies before you, and remove peace, when you are about to make a wrong decision
- Believe that the Holy Spirit will tell you what is right, and what is wrong
- The longer you go without working out the harder it is to get back what you had
- Ask God for a Bible verse that might apply to a specific issue you are dealing with
- Ask God to reveal a song you will hear as you are driving to work
- Ask God to highlight people who could use an encouraging word

The first step to hearing God speaking to you is in your heart—believe that He wants to

God does care that you're practicing hearing from Him

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