

Motivational/Operational Gift of Prophecy

Romans 12:4-8

There are three focuses on prophecy in God's Word: Public Utterance, Office, and Motivation

Ironies with the gifting of prophecy:

- Not all motivational prophecy gifted people prophecy with the utterance gift
- Not all prophets lack mercy. Some are highly developed in it
- Not all who have public utterance in prophecy are motivationally driven in prophecy
- Having the motivational gift of prophecy does not mean one stands in the five-fold office of a prophet

Defined: The special ability to perceive and communicate truth and divinely inspired utterances in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification.

Greek: "Propheteia" Strong's - "The inspired speaking forth – making known – affirming God's thoughts"
Also means "to perceive". I will use this definition in referring to the motivational gift of prophecy.

Old Testament prophets proclaimed truth and exposed and predicted judgment concerning the sins of God's people. Today the motivation of a prophet would be to use scripture to reveal the unrighteous motives and actions of others.

People with this gift are usually:

- Discerning
- Critical
- Authoritative
- Determined
- Convicting
- Courageous
- Confronting
- Uncompromising

Characteristics of motivational prophecy gifts in body:

1. They present truth in an uncompromising manner. They have an overriding passion that God's purposes be vindicated.
2. They have the ability to discern the character and motives of individuals and groups. They expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation. God brings us prophecy gifts to show us where we have missed it.
3. They do the dirty work in body. They deal with issues and people that no one else will. People admire their boldness and fearlessness. They "tell things like they are". They say things to people that pastors' would rather not have to say.
4. The prophetic personality is predisposed to seeing things in absolutes. They have a need to express themselves verbally. They will not lack in having an opinion. They speak as "one who knows" and they usually do.
5. They see biblical truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond. They warn of God's immediate or future judgment if there is no repentance.
6. They understand God's heart and mind through experiences the Lord takes them through.
7. They do well in church discipline situations, convicting people of sin and error. They encourage repentance that produces good fruit.
8. They have the capacity to identify, define and hate evil.
9. They are persuasive and articulate.

Dangers & Misuses of this Gift:

1. Can be too extreme on their viewpoints and therefore lose their credibility.
2. Can come across too harsh, blunt and insensitive to people, which can feel condemning and judgmental - offering no hope.
3. Can look as though they dwell on the negative. (e.g. The glass is always half empty; in contrast to the exhorter who sees glass the glass half full.)
4. Can be intolerant of opinions and views that differ from theirs. Can get the reputation of being "hard headed".
5. Can be too opinionated and black & white about issues rather than seeing all sides with openness which can be taken as intolerance toward even partial good.
6. Can jump to conclusions too quickly, sometimes wrongly; drawing conclusions from few known facts; taking the words, actions of the accused out of context in order to prove their points.
7. They are persistent with their viewpoints. They feel compelled to persuade others to agree with them, which can lead to campaigning and division in a body.
8. They tend to expect immediate repentance regardless of whether their rebuke was given in love or even fully accurate.
9. Their desire of immediate decisions in those who want to take longer can be perceived as pushy.
10. Can be unforgiving; making it difficult for a perceiver to see a separation between the sin and the sinner. Therefore they tend to reject them both with equal vigor.
11. Can be proud of their own rhetoric and persuasiveness.
12. Can think they have a special "in" with God since they speak on His behalf. They may try to be a "prophet" when they may not be.
13. Can be bull headed; becoming stubborn and uncooperative if they do not stay pliable before God.
14. Can be deceived into thinking they have all the answers.
15. Can be lacking in love and operating in the fruits of the spirit.
16. May want to be taken at face value without evaluation (Note: 1 John. 4:1; 1 Corinthians 14:29)

17. May speak personal feelings and wishes rather than a Word from God; Operating on personal agenda rather than God's.
18. Can get emotionally carried away; become incensed and raise their voice.
19. Can be intimidating in manor or demeanor.
20. Can excuse a rude personality as "my gifting".

Rudeness is not a right; it is a weakness

1 Corinthians 13:5 Love ... does not behave rudely, does not seek its own ...

21. May quit ministry assignments, withhold finances, boycott ministry activities, leadership and or church relationship as a way of protesting a supposed wrong, and/or because they don't like it, or get their own way (ex. Jonah).
22. They sometimes view changes as being double minded. (E.g. Jonah when God changed his mind about the Ninevites)
23. They can embarrass themselves and others in public and not even know it.
24. They have such high standards for righteous living that they must be aware of being legalistic.
25. Their boldness and strictness may present a hindrance to close relationships (Example: Elijah)

Practical application:

1. Once you correct people direct them toward the positive. The truth needs to be spoken in love. They need to understand that the ministry of mercy *completes* rather than *competes* with his gift.
2. Maintain a consistent, submitted prayer life. Prophecy without prayer leads to error!
3. Avoid placing expectancy on individuals or church body to do everything you suggest.
4. Learn to receive correction as well as giving it -- avoiding a defensive posture. Sometimes prophets need to be taken out to the woodshed by the pastor. Occasionally they will be confronted in public. Why? Because they say imprudent things in public.

1 Corinthians 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

5. Avoid holding peoples sins over their head.
6. Take great effort to speak the truth in love and be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit when correcting or pointing out another's weakness. Be aware that listeners may reject the message if not spoken with love and compassion (and sometimes even when it is!)
7. Develop flexibility, and don't get upset if things are changed midstream.
8. Understand the concept of grace.
9. Develop tact, manners and courtesy (These are a sign of proper upbringing and have nothing to do with a "gift")
10. Be sure you have love, not rebellion, as your motivation in dealing with others.
11. Present your ideas without the premise that everyone has to do agree with and follow them.
12. Be a team player.
13. Walk in the Spirit.
14. Be submitted to your pastors' gift (rather than compete with). If operating in a wrong spirit, a church split can result.
15. Avoid letting pride rule you, which can create a demanding or discouraging spirit that hinders the gift.
16. Avoid majoring in minors. Don't try to make your convictions the main doctrine of others.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

I have seen prophecy-motivated individuals emphasize one scripture, non essential issue, or minor doctrine by creating a whole debate on it thus splitting a church. They can cause division over something that may or may not be important.

17. Avoid the mistake of worshipping your own opinions. (*"That's my opinion. Take it or leave it"*)
18. Make sure your motives are in the proper place.
19. Develop balance – in personality and life.
20. Listen to your spouse – take prayerful consideration of their input.
21. Praise people when they make progress.
22. Try not to attribute a personality disorder to a spiritual gift.
23. Understand what Spirit you are of (Luke 9:51-55)

<p>It is possible to be right and wrong at the same time (right in doctrine, wrong in spirit)</p>
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Luke 9:51-56 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, 52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. 53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. 54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" 55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

Example of a proper spirit:

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Example of wrong spirit:

- Judgmental
 - Negative
 - Sarcastic
 - Vindictive
 - Opinionated
 - Mean
 - Loud
 - Angry
 - Bitter and unforgiving
- ✚ Negativity in a church setting or business meeting can kill the faith of a body
✚ Excessive negativity reveals the need of inner healing and forgiveness

How to Receive a Prophecy Gift:

1. Realize they do love and want the best for others in their heart.
2. Recognize the truth they may be presenting despite the method. Don't write them off just because they seem to be negative. There is usually usable truth in what they are saying.
3. Don't go to them for mercy. If you receive mercy consider it a bonus. Find the mercy gift.
4. They need encouragement, mercy and understanding (They often marry mercy people.)
5. Don't allow their convictions to become your main doctrine, or to become an over-emphasis.
6. God brings you into their lives to show them where they are missing it. Don't allow them to intimidate you.
7. Communicate to them when they are offensive, negative, excessively opinionated and causing strife. God will often use a mercy person/spouse or another prophet to correct them. They can get off in their own world and be oblivious to the needs of others. They appreciate it when people are honest with them (unless it is their spouse). When told that they are too harsh, their answer would probably be, "I don't mean to be, I just feel strongly about the situation". If you don't confront them and talk behind their back you sin against them. "Go to your brother ..."

Ministries This Gifts is Needed in:

- Preaching/Exhortation
- Counseling
- Bible School teacher
- Writing books and articles
- Worship leaders
- Bible Study Leaders

Complementing Gifts:

- Mercy
- Exhortation

Bible Illustration: John the Baptist (Luke 3:3-20)

1. He was aware of his unworthiness (Luke 3:16)
2. His emphasis was on scripture. He knew he was called to speak the word and was careful to present scriptural validation (Luke 3:4-5)
3. He was direct, frank and plain in speaking of repentance (Luke 3:7-14)
4. He looked for the actual signs of repentance (Luke 3:8)
5. He emphasized right and wrong (Luke 3:9-10)
6. He saw motives and spoke out concerning them (Luke 3:7)

Biblical Prophecy People:

- John the Baptist: Matt. 21:32, Luke 3:2-20; 7:18-29
- Anna: Luke 2:36-38
- Mary: Matt. 1&2, Mark 6:3, Luke 1:26-56, Acts 1:14
- Ananias: Acts 9:10-17, 22:12-16
- Hosea: Hosea 1-14
- Jeremiah: Jer. 1-52
- Isaiah: Is. 1-66
- Jonah: Jon. 1-4
- Jesus: Jn. 12:49, 14:6, 14:8, Matt. 12:34, Mark 1:35, Matt. 21:13

Scripture describing the motivational gift of prophecy:

Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins."

Luke 3:7-9 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.



They make great sheep dogs when they have been to obedience school!