

HOW TO TEST A PROPHETIC WORD

You need a witness to the Word in your heart!

Don't over apply this test - sometimes the Word received will make you uncomfortable and stretch you ... does not make it "false"

Test #8 - Does it line up with other Words you have received before?

Test #9—Does it line up with the vision of the church you worship and fellowship with?

Apply all 9 tests and get the big picture:

- Give the prophecy time
- Time is a great equalizer
- Pray about your prophecy
- Act only when conditions met - and after a multitude of counsellors
- Don't move too fast – don't move ahead of God and don't move so slowly that you fall behind where God would have you at the moment.

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The wrong things to do:

- Reject all prophecy
- Accept all prophecy

The right thing to do: Test or judge all prophecy

1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove (test) all things"

This way we don't "quench the Holy Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

Judging does not quench the Spirit or shut Him down - but, in fact, it frees you to respond and actually releases life (John 6:63). We are commanded to "test" the prophetic.

Old Testament:

Prophetic was judged and if the word was wrong the prophet was stoned

New Testament:

Prophecy is judged ... and this allows for inaccuracies (1 Corinthians 13:12) and we treat those who prophesy the same way we treat teachers and pastors who are not always 100% right - with love and mercy

Tremendous detail about prophecy and other verbal gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 ... because they have the most potential to harm and to heal... both in the church and in the world

Get a copy - type it out - and then "test it"

Test #1 - Is it Scriptural

God's Word—is the only objective standard

The subjective must be judged by the objective Word of God

Subjective = emotional / experience of the moment

Objective = God's never changing Word

So - when you receive a Word of the Lord be careful of:

- Emotion
- Your opinion
- Content - does it line up with the Word

If prophecy fails this test - IGNORE the other 8....

Test #2 - Does it fulfill prophecy's stated purposes?

Jesus warns of false prophets (Matthew 7:15-18) and they may have accurate words

The three purposes of prophecy in the New Testament
1 Corinthians 14:3

- Build up
- Stir up
- Cheer up

Test #3 - Does it Glorify Jesus?

Central theme of all prophecy is Jesus and what He is doing in your life and in the world

The Holy Spirit - the Spirit of prophecy will always focus on Jesus - John 15:26 and John 16:13

A false prophecy ... Acts 16:16-18 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Her "ministry" did not lead to Jesus being worshipped but drew attention to herself and to Paul; she spoke to earn money for her owner, and her source was a 'spirit' or demon... so a false prophetic word even though the content was true

Test #4 - Is the person speaking the word reliable?

It matters who gives you the Word of the Lord

God can and does us anyone but we are to "know those who labor among us..." 1 Thessalonians 5:12

Jesus warns of false prophets (Matthew 7:15-18) and they may have accurate words

What to watch for in a person prophesying

- Integrity, transparency, honesty, humility, holiness...
- Stability
- Credibility
- Track record
- Training/mentoring - who?

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.

The gifts and callings are without repentance (Romans 11:29) so you look for stability, their track record, credibility, training and mentoring....

Gifting is valuable - character is invaluable

Test #5 - Have any of their predictions come to pass

The fulfillment of the words given determine if someone is speaking for God or not...

Testimonies and reports....

Test #6 - Are the words given scriptural and do they lead to obedience to Jesus and the Bible?

Matthew 24:24 false signs can deceive ... so always test it "does it help you to obey Jesus and His Word"

Again - Acts 16 story of Paul and the demon possessed young lady

We are easily deceived if... We often do not have a proper knowledge of the Scriptures - "discernment"

We tend to label any supernatural phenomena as automatically from God

Test #7 - Does it bear witness with your spirit?

Do you know that you know it is from God?

Does it confirm what you are hearing in your prayer times?