

# Romans 12:3-6

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## Speaking for God, Pt 1

KSN [prophet, speak / sign, child, face]

### 3 Categories of Spiritual Gifts

1. Speaking for God (Prophecy, Teaching, Exhortation)
2. Serving for God (Serving, Giving, Leading, Mercy)
3. Doing Signs for God (Miracles, Healings, Speaking Unlearned Languages, etc)

### 1) Prophecy Defined

#### a) Direct Words from God

- Deut 18:18-22
- Deut 13:1-4

#### b) Function

- Foretelling the Future
  - 1 Sam 3:19-20, Jer 28:9, Dan 9:2
  - Acts 11:27-29, 27:21-26
- Direct Guidance
  - 2 Kings 17:12-13; Jer 23:16-18,21-22
  - Acts 13:1-2; 1 Cor 14:3
- Written Scripture
  - 2 Peter 1:20-21

#### c) Subject to Verification (1 Thess 5:20-21)

- Orthodox – 1 John 4:1-5
- Infallible – Deut 13:3
- Validated by Other Prophets – 1 Cor 14:29

*A direct, new revelation from God to a specific individual providing future predictions, immediate guidance, and/or Scripture.*

### 2) Prophecy in this Context

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### 3) So, Where are the Prophets? – 1 Cor 13:8-12

- a) “Pass away” – v. 8
  
- b) “Partial vs. Complete” – v. 9-10
  - Like childlike knowledge vs. adult knowledge – v. 11
  - Like an image in a dark mirror vs. seeing someone face to face – v. 12
  
- c) “Perfect” is the “complete product” of the gift of Prophecy
  
- d) Results of taking “perfect” to be the Return of Christ...
  - False Prophecy
  - Fallible Prophecy
  - Redefined Prophecy

### 4) Take Aways

- a) God has Spoken to us – Heb 1:1-3
- b) Treasure Prophecy in its complete form – 2 Pet 1:19-21
- c) Do not speak new revelations from God – Rev 22:18
- d) Do not receive new revelations from God – Jer 23:16-22

#### Praxis

1. Recall instances when you have been asked to "speak on behalf of" another person? How did you go about doing so? How did you feel doing so?
2. Besides Prophecy, what are other ways each of us can "speak for God?" Do you have any opportunity to do so this week?
3. How might you respond graciously and helpfully to one who says they have a fresh "word from the Lord" for you?
4. Thought Question: What good purposes come from the Spirit stopping new prophecies once the Scripture was complete?