

Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 5: Speaking in the Name of the Lord

Anyone can claim to speak for God.
Anyone can say the words, “Thus sayeth
the Lord.” How can we know if a message
is really from God?

Deuteronomy 18:21-22

- ²¹ And if thou say in thine heart,
How shall we know the word
which the LORD hath **not** spoken?
- ²² When a prophet speaketh in the
name of the LORD, if the thing
follow not, nor come to pass, that
is the thing which the LORD hath
not spoken, *but* the prophet hath
spoken it presumptuously:
thou shalt not be afraid of him.





A true prophecy will always come to pass. It is never wrong. This is because God knows the FUTURE as well as he knows the PAST. Nothing surprises him. The passing of time is like a river God sees from beginning to end.



Isaiah 46:9b-10

- ⁹ ... for I *am* God, and *there is none else*; I *am* God, and *there is none like me*,
- ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not yet done,
saying, My counsel shall stand,
and I will do all my pleasure:



True prophesy comes to us from the throne of God.

False prophecy is born in man's heart.

Jeremiah 23:25-26

²⁵ I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

²⁶ How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? *yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;*



But if you CHANGE a prophecy or verse,
if you ADD to it or SUBTRACT from it, you
no longer have God's Word.

Now it is only YOUR word, what YOU say.

Deuteronomy 4:2

² Ye shall not add unto the word
which I command you, neither
shall ye diminish *ought* [take
away anything] from it, that ye
may keep the commandments of
the LORD your God which I
command you.



Even the evil prophet Balaam knew better than to try to change God's word.



In Numbers 22, King Balak of Moab sent a messenger to Balaam offering him a great amount of money to curse the children of Israel so his armies could drive them away.

Numbers 22:6

- ⁶ Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they *are* too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, *that* we may smite them, and *that* I may drive them out of the land:
for I wot [know] that he whom thou blessest *is* blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.



But Balaam knew that what Balak said was not true. Only God has the power to bless and curse.

Numbers 22:6

⁶ Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they *are* too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, *that* we may smite them, and *that* I may drive them out of the land:

for I wot [know] that he whom thou blessest *is* blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.



This man Balaam is a very mysterious person in the Bible. He was an evil man, but he respected the authority of God more than many righteous people!

Numbers 22:12

¹² And God said unto Balaam,
Thou shalt not go with them;
thou shalt not curse the people:
for they *are* blessed.



Balaam was not a friend to the children of Israel, and he was VERY interested in the money the king offered. But he knew he could not do what the king wanted him to do:

Numbers 22:18

¹⁸ And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.



Of course, Balaam could have said the words, “I send 1,000 curses on the people of Moses!” But he knew his words would fall to the ground. He did not have the power to change a command from GOD.



He knew that no one in the world has the power to undo a blessing ordained by God, and no one can undo a curse commanded by God.

Numbers 23:20

²⁰ Behold, I have received
commandment to bless:
and he hath blessed;
and I cannot reverse it.



Only God has the power to bless and curse. He promises a blessing to all who walk in obedience toward him, but warns of a curse that comes to those who disobey him.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

- ²⁶ Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;
- ²⁷ A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:
- ²⁸ And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.





"AMEN"

The blessings of God CANNOT be distributed over social media!

Balaam told the king that the ONLY way to curse the children of Israel was to lead them into idolatry. This is exactly what he did.

Revelation 2:14

¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.



Yes, Balaam was an evil man. But he understood the blessing and curses of God better than most people teaching in churches today!

Only God has the power to bless and curse.

Numbers 22:38

³⁸ And Balaam said unto Balak,
Lo, I am come unto thee:
have I now any power at all to
say any thing?
the word that God putteth in my
mouth, that shall I speak.



When we speak a word of the LORD, we must be sure to only speak what God puts in our mouth without adding or taking away anything.

Numbers 22:38

³⁸ And Balaam said unto Balak,
Lo, I am come unto thee:
have I now any power at all to
say any thing?
the word that God putteth in my
mouth, that shall I speak.





Elizabeth could NOT have understood the meaning of her prophecy to Mary. But she knew better than to change it into something she *could* understand:




Luke 1:41-45

- 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:
- 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed *art* thou among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of thy womb.
- 43 And whence *is* this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.
- 45 And blessed *is* she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Elizabeth did NOT know that Mary was pregnant with the Son of God, or that Gabriel had visited her. To her ears, each of these statements sounded VERY strange. But this message was for MARY, not for her!

Luke 1:41-45

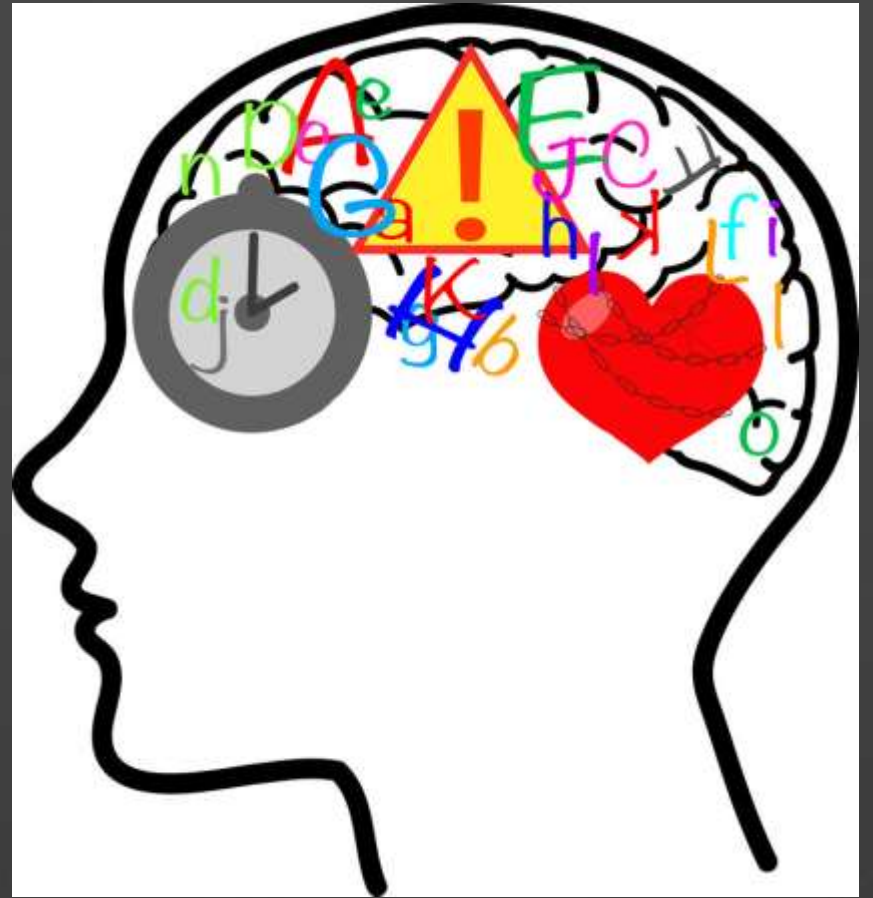
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- ⁴⁴ For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.
- ⁴⁵ And blessed *is* she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.



God needs
messengers,
not editors.

The Holy Ghost gives the words.
You just speak.

Slow down your busy mind.



Put your mind into NEUTRAL gear.



Submit yourself to God in humble adoration, and “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).



UP NEXT: The REVELATION gifts of the Spirit



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Questions to help you understand the lesson:

1. What is the difference between true prophecy and false?
2. What happens when you add or subtract from a word from God?
3. Why couldn't Balaam curse the people of God?
4. Did Elizabeth understand her prophecy to Mary?

Each question is worth 25 points.