MINISTÈRE DU PASTEUR CLÉMENT SALOMON · BIBLE STUDY #27

The Gift of Prophecy: God Still Speaks

So many voices say, "God told me." Does God still speak today — and how can you know which voice is really His?

The phone buzzed at 5:04 in the morning. Nadège reached for it in the dark. It was a voice message. Forwarded many times.

A deep, loud voice filled the little bedroom in Brooklyn. "I am a prophet of God. The Lord showed me a great fire coming on Haitian families this month. Only the ones who send a seed offering of seventy-seven dollars — and forward this message to ten people — will be covered!"

Nadège sat up. Her heart was pounding. Her son was in Port-au-Prince. Her mother was in Les Cayes. What if it was true? What if she did nothing, and something happened?

Her thumb was already on the "forward" button. Then she stopped. She called the one person she always called when she was afraid — Tant Odile, eighty-two years old, who lived two floors down.

Tant Odile listened to the whole message without a word. Then she said, "Come down. Bring the phone. And bring your Bible."

Tant Odile was about to ask one simple question. It is a question that can protect you from every false voice — and help you hear the true one. Keep reading. We will come back to that kitchen table.

God has always spoken

Here is the good news first: our God is not silent. He is not a far-away God who leaves His children guessing. The prophet Amos wrote:

> *"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."*
>
> **Amos 3:7 (KJV)**

All through the Bible, God chose men and women to carry His messages. Moses. Deborah. Samuel. Elijah. Isaiah. Daniel. God told Israel how He did it: "I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream" (Numbers 12:6).

These prophets did not make up their messages. Peter explains where the words came from:

> *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*
>
> **2 Peter 1:21 (KJV)**

A true prophet is like a mail carrier. The letter is not his. He did not write it. His job is to deliver it — faithfully, without changing a word.

The clearest Word of all: Jesus

And then God sent more than a messenger. He sent His Son.

> *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."*
>
> **Hebrews 1:1-2 (KJV)**

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. Every true prophet, before Him and after Him, points to Him. After His resurrection, Jesus walked with two sad disciples, and "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).

That is the heart of prophecy: it leads you to Jesus.

A promise for the last days

Did the gift of prophecy stop when the Bible was finished? God made a promise through the prophet Joel:

> *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."*
>
> **Joel 2:28-29 (KJV)**

Look who is in that list: sons *and daughters*. Old men and young men. Servants and handmaids. God's gift does not ask about your money, your skin color or your title.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter said this promise had begun to come true: "this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel... in the last days" (Acts 2:16-17). And Paul lists "prophets" among the gifts Christ gave His church "for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

So yes — God still speaks. But that is exactly why we must learn to tell His voice from the others.

Don't despise it. Don't swallow it. Test it.

Paul gives the church a balanced rule in just a few words:

> *"Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*
>
> **1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 (KJV)**

Two mistakes are possible. One is to laugh at everything and say, "God doesn't speak anymore." The other is to believe everything someone says in a loud voice. The Bible says: do neither. *Test* it. John says the same thing:

> *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*
>
> **1 John 4:1 (KJV)**

How do you test? God gives us clear tests in His Word:

- **Test 1 — Does it agree with the Bible?** "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).
- **Test 2 — Does it lift up Jesus Christ?** "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God" (1 John 4:2).
- **Test 3 — What is the fruit?** Jesus warned about false prophets "in sheep's clothing" and said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15-16).
- **Test 4 — Does it build up, or tear down?** True prophecy speaks "to edification, and exhortation, and comfort" (1 Corinthians 14:3) — not panic.

And one more thing: God's gifts are never for sale. When a man named Simon tried to buy the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter answered: "Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money" (Acts 8:20).

A word of care. This study is not about any particular person, pastor or church. It is about how every Christian can test every message by the Bible — including the messages in this study. If someone uses God's name to frighten you, pressure you, or demand money for protection, you are free to say no, to take time, and to talk with a pastor or someone you trust. Giving to God is always a free, joyful gift (2 Corinthians 9:7), never a payment for safety.

The testimony of Jesus

The book of Revelation describes God's faithful people at the very end of time:

> *"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."*
>
> **Revelation 12:17 (KJV)**

What is "the testimony of Jesus"? Revelation explains it. When John fell down to worship the angel who brought him the message, the angel stopped him: "See thou do it not... worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).

Did you notice? Even an angel refused to be worshiped. A true messenger never wants the glory. He says, "Worship God."

The Seventh-day Adventist Church sums up this Bible teaching like this: the Scriptures testify that prophecy is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; this gift is an identifying mark of God's remnant church; Adventists believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White, whose writings bring comfort, guidance, instruction and correction to the church — and make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested (see Fundamental Belief #18, "The Gift of Prophecy," in the Church's own words).

Ellen White herself never asked anyone to put her writings above the Bible. She described her work like this: "the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light" (*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 125). The greater light is the Bible. And the Bible leads to Jesus.

So do what the believers in Berea did. They "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). Test everything — even what you read here — by the Book.

> God **still speaks** — through His Word, His Son, and His Spirit. The gift of prophecy is **real** and promised for the last days. And every voice must be **tested by the Bible**, which always leads to Jesus.

The question at the kitchen table

Tant Odile put her old Bible on the table. The cover was soft as cloth. She pushed her glasses up and asked her one question:

"Pitit mwen — what does the Book say?"

They opened it together. Isaiah 8:20: "To the law and to the testimony." They looked for Jesus in the voice message. He was not there — only fire, fear and seventy-seven dollars. They read Acts 8:20 about the gift of God that cannot be bought. And they read 1 Corinthians 14:3: true prophecy brings comfort.

"This message brought you no comfort," Tant Odile said gently. "It brought you fear. My God does not sell His protection. He gave His Son for free."

Then she turned to Joel 2:28. "But do not throw away the gift because of the fake. God still speaks, chérie. When a message lifts up Jesus, agrees with this Book, and makes you love God

more — hold fast to that."

Nadège did not forward the voice note. Instead, she sent ten people a verse: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Then she called her son in Port-au-Prince, just to hear his voice. He was fine. He was sleepy. And he laughed when she said, "I love you, and God loves you more."

There are many voices today. Only one Voice made heaven and earth — and He still speaks through His Word. When you are afraid, ask Tant Odile's question: "What does the Book say?"

(Nadège and Tant Odile are an illustrative story, drawn from what many families live; any resemblance to specific people or messages is coincidental.)

Before you close this — one question

How many voices are talking to you right now? Videos, voice notes, "prophecies," opinions. Which one do you trust when you are afraid?

You do not have to sort them out alone. We would be honored to open the Bible with you — and to show you how God's Word leads straight to Jesus.

Would you like to know more about Jesus, study the Bible, or go deeper on this topic? Reach us today:

📞 **903-748-9353** · ✉️ **jils19802012@gmail.com**
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SHARE THIS WITH SOMEONE WHO GOT A FRIGHTENING "PROPHECY" TODAY

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Viewer Handout

The Gift of Prophecy: God Still Speaks — pocket version

5 truths to remember

1. God is not silent: He reveals His plans to His servants the prophets, moved by the Holy Spirit (Amos 3:7; 2 Peter 1:21).
2. Jesus is God's clearest Word, and every true prophecy points to Him (Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 24:27).
3. God promised to pour out His Spirit in the last days on sons and daughters alike (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-17).
4. Don't despise prophecy and don't swallow every claim — test it by the Bible, by Jesus and by its fruit (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21; Isaiah 8:20; 1 John 4:1-2; Matthew 7:15-16).
5. The "testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"; Adventists believe this gift was manifested in Ellen G. White, whose writings point back to the Bible as the standard (Revelation 12:17; 19:10).

Memory verse

> *"Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*
>
> **1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 (KJV)**

Think & pray about it

- Which voices have the most power over my fears right now? Have I tested them by the Bible?
- When I read or hear a message "from God," do I look first for Jesus in it?
- What is one habit I can start this week to "search the scriptures daily" like the Bereans (Acts 17:11)?

FOR TEACHERS & SMALL GROUPS

Presenter Bullet Sheet

- **Open with the story** (an illustrative story: Nadège in Brooklyn, a 5 a.m. voice note from a "prophet" demanding a $77 "seed offering" and ten forwards; her son in Port-au-Prince; she calls Tant Odile, 82, who says "bring your Bible") — ask: "When you hear 'God told me,' how do you know if it is true?"
- **Point 1 — God has always spoken:** Amos 3:7; Numbers 12:6; 2 Peter 1:21. Prophets deliver God's message like a mail carrier — they do not write it.
- **Point 2 — Jesus, God's clearest Word:** Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 24:27. All true prophecy points to Him.
- **Point 3 — A promise for the last days:** Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-17; Ephesians 4:11-12. Sons and daughters, servants and handmaids — the gift continues in the church.
- **Point 4 — Test it:** 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21; 1 John 4:1-2; Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 7:15-16; 1 Corinthians 14:3; Acts 8:20. Four tests: agrees with the Bible, lifts up Jesus, good fruit, builds up instead of frightening. God's gifts are never for sale.
- **Word of care (read aloud):** this is not about any particular person or church; anyone pressured with fear or money in God's name may say no, take time, and talk with a pastor; giving is always free and joyful (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- **Point 5 — The testimony of Jesus:** Revelation 12:17; 19:10. Even the angel said "Worship God." Present Fundamental Belief #18 in the Church's own words; Ellen White's "lesser light … greater light" (*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 125); the Bible remains the standard; Acts 17:11.
- **Close the story:** Tant Odile's question — "What does the Book say?" No Jesus, only fear and money; the gift of God cannot be bought; but don't throw away the true gift because of the fake. Nadège forwards a verse instead and calls her son.
- **Appeal:** invite everyone to make the Bible their first test for every voice, and to ask the Holy Spirit to guide them "into all truth" (John 16:13).
- **Close:** memory verse (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21) + "God still speaks — test every voice by the Book — it leads to Jesus."

EVIDENCE-BASED · FACT-CHECKED

10 Myths vs. Facts

Myth	Fact (with Bible)
1. God stopped speaking through prophets long ago.	God promised to pour out His Spirit "upon all flesh" in the last days (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-17), and Christ gave prophets to His church "for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).
2. If someone says "God told me," I must believe it.	"Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1).
3. Because there are false prophets, all prophecy should be rejected.	"Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21).
4. A new prophecy can correct or replace the Bible.	"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16).
5. Prophets are mainly fortune-tellers.	God reveals His plans to His prophets (Amos 3:7), but prophecy mainly speaks "to edification, and exhortation, and comfort" (1 Corinthians 14:3).
6. Only men can receive the gift of prophecy.	"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy... upon the servants and upon the handmaids... will I pour out my spirit" (Joel 2:28-29).
7. A powerful speaker or an impressive show proves a true prophet.	Jesus said false prophets come "in sheep's clothing" and "by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:15-16, 20).
8. A true prophet deserves honor and worship.	The angel told John, "See thou do it not... worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).
9. Adventists put Ellen G. White above the Bible.	Fundamental Belief #18 states that her writings make clear the Bible is the standard by which all teaching must be tested

	(Isaiah 8:20); she called her work "a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light."
10. God's blessing or protection can be bought from a prophet.	"Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money" (Acts 8:20).

Where this comes from (Sources)

This study is built on the Bible and reflects the published beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Verify everything for yourself:

- The Bible — passages on the gift of prophecy: Numbers 12:6; Isaiah 8:20; Joel 2:28-29; Amos 3:7; Matthew 7:15-16, 20; Luke 24:27; John 16:13; Acts 2:16-17; Acts 8:20; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 14:3; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:1-2; Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10 (King James Version, public domain).
- Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Belief #18, "The Gift of Prophecy" — official beliefs: https://adventist.org/beliefs (please read the statement there in full, in the Church's own words).
- 28 Fundamental Beliefs (2020 edition, PDF): https://adventist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ADV-28Beliefs2020.pdf
- General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: https://gc.adventist.org/
- Ellen G. White, *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 125 ("a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light"), public domain; her writings and their history: https://whiteestate.org/ / https://m.egwwritings.org/
- Related studies in this library: *"Can We Trust the Bible?"*, *"The Holy Spirit: God With Us"*, *"Spiritual Gifts for Service"* and *"The Church: God's Family"* — https://pasteurclementsalomon.org/resources.html · Questions? https://pasteurclementsalomon.org/faq.html · Faith Journey: https://pasteurclementsalomon.org/journey.html

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pasteurclementsalomon.org · 903-748-9353 · jils19802012@gmail.com
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