

Prophecy & Deliverance

**July 6th through
July 9th, 2009**



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WHAT IS PROPHECY?

The Lord said: **"To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak."** —Jeremiah 1:7

Because Jesus is the Prophet and we are obliged to set our hearts on the charism of prophecy above all other gifts, we must know what prophecy is. Prophecy is to deliver a message from someone, to speak on behalf of another person. For example, Aaron was Moses' prophet (Ex 7:1). But **usually prophecy is speaking on behalf of God**. Prophecy can refer to the past, present, or future — whatever God is saying. It can be a simple "Hello" or a profound revelation.

Prophets receive prophecy through God's word (Dn 9:2ff) and in communal worship (Acts 13:2; 2 Chr 20:13-14), personal prayer (Jer 23:22), the experiences of everyday life (Jer 1:11-13), or dreams and visions (Nm 12:6).

Prophecy can be given in the form of blunt statements, preaching, symbolic actions, dramas, and even songs (Ez 33:32). Most Biblical prophecy is in the form of poetry.

A prophet needs the help of those with the gift of discernment of spirits (1 Cor 12:10). We must test the spirits of the prophets to see if they are of God (1 Jn 4:1). No prophetic interpretation is an individual matter (2 Pt 1:20). The prophetic spirit must give witness to Jesus (Rv 19:10), be confirmed by the universal Church (see 1 Tm 3:15) and be in accord with the Bible (Dt 13:2ff).

WHAT IS DELIVERANCE?

All Christians have authority over the devil (Mt 10:1; Mk 16:17), but there are some members of Christ's body who have a special gift of deliverance. Also, some situations are better dealt with by a group of people who form a deliverance team. In the few situations where the devil is not only oppressing people but possessing them, only a priest appointed by the bishop can lead the deliverance team.

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Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us and asking us to deliver messages to others on Your behalf. Thank you for giving us authority over the devil. Please help us to set our "hearts on spiritual gifts — above all, the gift of prophecy" (1 Cor 14:1).

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