

Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Why People React The Way They Do

Article # 3

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3).

The Seven Gifts

Romans 12:6-8,

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy (**Gift #1**), let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith—or doctrine;

7 Or ministry (**Gift #2**)—the servant—let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth (**Gift #3**), on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth (**Gift #4**), on exhortation: he that giveth (**Gift #5**), let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth (**Gift #6**)—or the administrator—with diligence; he that sheweth mercy (**Gift #7**), with cheerfulness.

There are seven gifts listed here, and with each gift, whichever one that we happen to have, we have a motivation that comes with that gift; that is, we have a basic inner desire. We will respond in any given situation or any event in direct relationship with our gift.

Why People React the Way They Do

The prophet is listed in verse six, and then the corresponding verse to that one is verse nine, which gives us the prophet’s motivation, and that is to “*abhor that which is evil and to cleave to that which is good.*”

The prophet is motivated to preach or to teach or to speak about what is evil and what is good. If he's preaching, of course, he's a pastor. If he's teaching—and it could be any teacher—he would be one who instructs, and whether it's in a teaching situation or a preaching situation, he's going to teach about sound doctrine.

Peter was a perfect example of a prophet. In 1 Peter 4:11, Peter said, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.*” Another example is 2 Peter 2:18, where Peter gives a warning about those who will “*speak great swelling words of vanity.*” Peter, was motivated to express his thoughts about what was right and wrong. He spoke more than any other disciple. He became the spokesman of the early church. We read verses like, “*Peter lifted up his voice*” and then he preached a sermon, and he said, “*Why look ye so earnestly on us?*”

Peter was a prophet. He also was one who would make quick judgments, sometimes making them too quickly, which can be one of the weaknesses of the prophet. But Peter spoke first more than any other disciple. He said to the Lord, “*Bid me come unto thee on the water*”; he said to the Lord, “*Declare unto us this parable*”; he said, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Peter said to Jesus, “*...let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias*”; he said, “*We have forsaken all, and followed thee,*” and he also said, “*Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.*”

Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." And then at the supper, Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet." He was always very quick to speak and say what was on his mind.

The prophet has the ability to spot hypocrisy and usually reacts harshly to it, such as the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Peter said to Ananias, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?" and three hours later, he said to his wife, "How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit?" He was quick to spot the hypocrisy and very quick to do something about it. The prophet is also very quick to reject those who offend until things have been straightened out and everybody has been warned. It was Peter who said, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?"

Prophets are openly honest about their own faults. Peter said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Prophets are impulsive and wholeheartedly involved in whatever is being done. It was Peter who walked on the water. It was Peter who said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet," and the Lord said, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me," and Peter said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." It was Peter who ran right on into the tomb—very, very wholeheartedly involved in whatever is going on.

Prophets will give open evidence of loyalty and commitment to the Lord. It was Peter who cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Prophets are willing to suffer for the cause of Jesus Christ. The Bible says they came "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame." And they're very persuasive in their speech. We see this with Peter's message on the day of Pentecost.

Sometimes we can figure out what our gift is by looking at the weaknesses of the gift. For instance, the prophet is sometimes busy correcting people he's not responsible for,

and prophets feel very responsible for everyone. They find it very difficult to keep quiet when something is going wrong, but sometimes they just need to keep quiet. They think—and they're right—that silence gives consent; however, sometimes prophets will correct people they're not responsible to correct. They can be very quick to jump to conclusions without too many facts. They can come up with quick conclusions about something and then look for evidence to support their conclusions.

Sometimes judging is more important to a prophet than restoring a Christian. It's easier for a prophet to point out a problem than it is to come up with a solution. And, of course, that's what the exhorter will do. He will come up with a solution once the prophet has pointed out the problem.

Sometimes the prophet can be too quick to reject people who fail and persuade other people to reject them also. With prophets, it's either friend or foe. Why? Because the cause is at stake, so they say, "This has got to be done," and sometimes they react too quickly.

The prophet has to be careful about focusing on the negative all the time. Because they are very sensitive to evil, they can spot deception; they can spot hypocrisy immediately, and it can turn out that the prophet is against more than he's for. And if something is partly wrong, then it's all wrong, which, of course, is not the case.

Sometimes there's a lack of tact in expressing an opinion. Prophets are driven by a desire for honesty. They just say what they think they need to say, and sometimes they say it without all the facts even if it's not their responsibility to say anything at all. The prophet will demand a positive response to a harsh rebuke. Walking an aisle after a church service was invented by prophets, and because they want

immediate repentance, they might magnify failures in order to promote the repentance.

Prophets will condemn themselves when they fail. They're extremely self-critical. They feel worthless when they fail. And they will accuse others of deception if they don't reveal faults. For instance, if they're selling a used car, they'll point out everything that's wrong with that car to the person who's buying it. And that's not a weakness; that's a good thing. But the prophet has to be honest about everything that he's doing—or at least he wants to be.

Let's do a little bit of a test here and see if you can figure out if you're a prophet or not. If you are, you're motivated to the following reactions:

- You see actions of people as either right or wrong. There's no gray area. Everything is black and white.
- You react strongly to people who are not what they appear to be. If you're a prophet, you are motivated to detect when something is not what it appears to be, and you can quickly discern a person's character.
- You feel responsible to correct those who do wrong; you separate yourself from those who refuse to repent of evil.
- You'll explain what is wrong with an item before you sell it.
- You will let people know how you feel about important issues, whether they want to hear it or not.
- You'll enjoy people who are completely honest with you. Even if it hurts, you want the honesty.
- You're quick to judge yourself when you fail, and you're willing to do right even if it means you're going to suffer all alone for doing it.

Those are the motivations of the prophet. Now, once again, this series is to try to figure out why people act the way they do, so it will help you if you're a prophet to understand why you respond and also why other people respond in these ways—because they're motivated to do it. We look at the weaknesses of the prophet, and we say, "Well, I'm a prophet. I just can't help that I'm doing all this stuff." No, no. It matters not what the gift is, we need to determine to be led by the Holy Spirit and let the Holy Spirit have control of us as we are used of the Lord to serve Him in His work with the gift that He has given us to serve with.

Our goal in this series is to try to figure out why people act the way they do, and there are seven different responses here in any given situation, and in this article, we've looked at the responses of a prophet. Maybe you've wondered, "*Why do I react the way I do?*"

If you're a prophet, that's why you're motivated to act or react the way you do. Make sure that you do what you do under the power of the Holy Spirit. And as we look at other people and we see how they're reacting in any given situation, if they're a prophet, this is how they're going to react—and, again, we need to make sure the Holy Spirit has control so that we can be used in a way that would be honoring to the Lord. The prophet is the first gift in the list of the gifts in Romans 12:6-8, and in our next article, we're going to jump down to the last gift because it's totally opposite of a prophet, and that is the mercy show-er. We're going to see why they respond the way they respond in any given situation.



Understanding Blindspots



Everyone has blindspots that they do not see; however, others do see them.

We tend to evaluate people on the basis of our strong points.

If our motivation is Bible Study we tend to judge people who are not motivated to study.

If our motivation is to witness we tend to judge people who are not motivated to witness.

If our motivation is separation we tend to judge people who are not separated.

If our motivation is giving we tend to judge people who are not motivated to give.

If our motivation is organization we tend to judge people who are not organized.

If our motivation is serving we tend to judge people who do not serve.



- Ungrateful
- Lazy
- Insensitive
- Critical
- Lack of Faith
- Judgmental
- Selfish
- Pride

Second Corinthians 10:12,

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise”

Holy Spirit Control

Our goal should be to have the Holy Spirit in control of our gift.

The TRUTH



Audio Messages

1. ["Buy The Truth And Sell It Not"](#)
2. ["The Knowledge of The Truth"](#)
3. ["They Shall Be Turned From The Truth"](#)
4. [Exposing Those Who Oppose The Truth](#)

