

True and false prophets and prophecies

*"Beloved, do not trust every Ghost, but
test the Ghost, whether they will be out
of God, for many fake prophets shall go
into the world. "*

1 John 4:1 (KJVersion)

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Evangelist Sieberen Voordewind

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and prophecies**



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Foreword

Dear reader. Congratulations on the purchase of this book.
A practical book which you will read and re- read.

The Bible says: "Beloved, do not trust every Ghost, but test the ghost, whether they will be out of God, for many fake prophets shall go into the world." 1 John 4:1 (KJVersion).

Yes, this book will help you:

Test and recognize true and fals prophets and prophecies.

The author wish you God rich and indispensable blessing in the miraculous name of Jesus Christ, name above all names.

God bless YOU!

Evangelist Sieberen Voordewind

*One word of the living God is stronger
than millions words of human being
(S. V.)*

1. Prophets and prophecies

The Bible says:

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may **prophecy**. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that **prophesieth** edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye **prophesied**: for greater is he that **prophesieth** than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I **profit** you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by **prophecy**, or by doctrine? And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he

understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my God, I

Speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but **prophecy** serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all **prophecy**, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the **prophets** speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all **prophecy** one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the **prophets** are subject to the **prophets**. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. What? came the

word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? If any man think himself to be a **prophet**, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophecy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.”

1 Corinthians 14 (King James Version)

2. What is prophecy?

It is wonderful to know, that the living God wants to speak to the people! One of the ways of how he communicates with us is: through prophecy.

The Bible teaches us: "But he that prophesieth unto men to edification, and exhortation and comfort." 1Corinthians. 14:3. The Amplified Bible says: "But [on the other hand], the one who prophesies [who interprets the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching] speaks to men for their upbuilding and constructive spiritual progress and encouragement and consolation."

Not everyone who speaks is prophesying. Not everyone automatically prophesies a preaching, education, positive words etcetera. Speaking a prophecy is not summarizing memorised biblical texts. It also has nothing to do with beautiful texts which you have thought of yourself.

So then, what is it? The Bible says: "The spirit of the LORD Spake by me, and his word was in my tongue" (2 Samuël 23:2). And in 1 Corinthians 14:1 is written: "Follow the charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophecy" (this is prophesying!)" (KJ Version). The Amplified Bible says: "EAGERLY PURSUE and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophecy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching)."

3. True and false prophets and prophecies

The Bible says: "Beloved, do not trust every Ghost, but test the Ghost, whether they will be out of God, for many fake prophets shall go into the world." 1 John 4:1 (KJVersion).

There are many true and false prophets and prophesieth! Not everyone. Who calls him / herself a prophet comes from the living God and not everyone who calls him / herself a prophet speaks on behalf of the Lord Jesus. Therefore the Bible says to God's children: "Do not trust every Spirit." In other words: Do not assume everything you hear to be the truth.

Do not simply trust everybody who claims to be a servant of God. "Test the Spirit," the Bible says. Examine them.

Who is this person?

Is this person a true or false prophet?

Is the prophecy true or false?

The Bible gives the answer. I read in Deuteronomy 13:1: "When among you a prophet speaks or someone who has dreams and he is giving a sign to you or pronounce a miracle and the sign or miracle comes, about where he has spoken to you with the words: Let us Chase Gods, Who you never have known, and let us serve them- Than thy will not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer."

Not only false prophets want to seduce people to chase gods other than the Living God but also those who speak with overconfidence.

The Bible says: "But a prophet who is speaking over courageous in My name that I haven't command him to speak out..." Deuteronomy 18:20.

"... in over courage the prophet has spoken, Thy shall not fear." Deuteronomy 18:22.

But fortunately not every prophet is false! Blessed are the true prophets, prophecies and those who listen to them.

The Bible says: **“Believe in the Lord thy God and thy will be confirmed, believe in his prophets and thy will prosper”** (2 Chronicles 20:20). The Amplified Bible says: “Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe and remain steadfast to His prophets and you shall prosper.” Do what Gods precious Word (THE BIBLE!) says. Believe in the living God and in His prophets and you will prosper!

4. Testing of prophecies

When it comes to the testing of the prophecies and prophets the Bible says: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." (1 John 4:1). The Amplified Bible says: "BELOVED, DO not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world. Somewhere else in God's precious word we read: "Try all but keeps the Good" (1Thessalonians 5:21). According to Longman contemporary English dictionary "trying" means: "Test / use to do or use something for a short while to discover if it is suitable, enjoyable." In a Dutch dictionary (ISBN: 90-597-1007x) it says "Trying" means checking for truth. What is checking for truth? In journalism it is common not to just publish the words about someone else. If Mister x says that Mister Y would have said something then it is very important for the journalist to check the truth of these words by talking to mister Y personally and asking him if the words of Mister X are indeed true.

Where it concerns spiritual subjects it is very good to check for truth!

If someone (example: persons like in Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 28 *) says that he or she is speaking on behalf of God (2 Samuël 23:2) then it is common to check the truth of the spoken words by the living God!

The Bible says: "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).

True prophecy of the Holy Spirit is a gift by the Holy Spirit and not by people (1 Corinthians 12:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 14:1).

Testing of a prophecy takes place through consultation with the Holy Spirit.

And the Holy Spirit speaks through us:

1) The Bible ("The sword of the Spirit, that is the Word of God," Ephesians 6:17).

2) The prophets (“And the spirits of the prophets are subordinate (office) to the prophets,” 1 Corinthians 14:32 and: 3) ”The gift of distinguish of Ghost” (1 Corinthians 12:10).

“Who consults the Holy Spirit all way will be dazed to THE truth because He “The Ghost of truth” is. (John 16:12).

“The Spirit of the Lord Spake by me, and His word was in my tongue.” (2 Samuël 23:2).

He wants to speak to you. Open up and stand before Him and He will point you in the right direction!

* Ephesians 4:11: “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 28: “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills...And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”

5. The prophetic time is different

The terminology of for example a car mechanic is different from the one of a computer programmer and / or a cook.

Because the terminology of a prophet concerning an indication of time is different from the every day language there are too many misunderstandings with the people who don't know this. Someone might get told: "Soon you will change your job" in many cases one would think of about 1 to 2 weeks. Maybe two months. But "soon" prophetically speaking may stand for a much longer time.

In the Bible we read the prophecy: "And behold I come quickly and my reward is with me... surely I come quickly" (Revelation 22:12, 20).

In these texts we read about the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. He is coming quickly. But we have been waiting many hundreds of years! Is this a false prophecy? No! It simply means that God's time is different from ours.

Another example: Someone is told: "Now you must go to Africa for a mission in faith." Many people would think? "Go straight home, pack your suitcases and get on the first plane today". Wrong! In the Bible we read a prophecy for someone who was disobedient to God: "But now shall your kingdom not being firm anymore. The Lord has picked out a man after his heart and the Lord has placed him as king over His People, because thou haven't done after the Lord has told you." 1Samuël 13:14.

When King Saul heard this prophecy, not everything changed in the same day. It was 38 years later that the prophecy was fulfilled, because God's time is different from ours.

Another example: Someone gets a prophecy in which he is told: "From now on you will be debt free." Many people think that these words will come true that very same day. "Wrong" In the Bible we read: "After that Saul said to him: The Lord from now on had torn apart the Kingdom ship over Israël and has given your neighbour..." (1 Samuel 15:28).

This prophecy didn't come true the same day, but many years later (2 Samuel 2:1-7: "It happened after this that David

inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron." So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite. And David brought up the men who were with him, every man with his household. So they dwelt in the cities of Hebron. Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, "The men of Jabesh Gilead were the ones who buried Saul." So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "You are blessed of the LORD, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him. And now may the LORD show kindness and truth to you. I also will repay you this kindness, because you have done this thing. Now therefore, let your hands be strengthened, and be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them." and 2 Samuel 5:1-5: "Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.'" Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.").

Was it a false prophecy? No, but **God's time is different from ours!** I wrote the word: Wrong in quotation marks, because, of course, it is possible that a prophecy in which the words "now" and "present" are used is fulfilled on the same day. But it is not necessarily so! Prophecy is fulfilled on God's time and place.

6. Prophecy and the congregation

A prophecy can be spoken out in a congregation by:

- a) a prophet and
- b) by a member of the congregation

A) The prophet

The Bible says: "And he gave some, apostles; and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ;" Ephesians 4:11 and 12. And in 1 Corinthians 12 we read: "And God has appointed some in the congregation.... Secondly prophesiers...Are...all of us prophesiers?" (28,29).

B) Every member of the congregation

The Bible says: "... Strive to the gift of the spirit. But especially to the gift of Prophecy...for who prophecies for edifying for people, admonishing and encouraging..... Who prophecies edifies the congregation. I sure wanted you all to speak in tongues but rather that you prophecies...However prophecy isn't for the unbelievers but for those who believe. When the whole congregation comes together... if all prophesying..."

Read the whole chapter 1 Corinthians 14, and find out that prophecy is for everyone in the congregation.

In the congregation. But these spirits of prophets / this gift by congregation members / believing are subordinate to the prophet (the office of prophet). "And the spirits of the prophets are subordinate to the prophets." 1 Corinthians 14: 32. According to the Bible it is common that in a meeting of the congregation a prophecy is proclaimed. As believers we are allowed to stretch to the prophecies over and over again, for edifying all brothers and sisters in Christ.

7. Prophecy and love

Before Paul teaches about speaking in tongues and prophesying in 1 Corinthians 14, He writes: “follow after charity” Why? Because to receive and to share God’s love is most important! The Bible says: “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and all mysteries, and all knowledge and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:2). I write again: “And if I have prophetic powers (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), and understand all the secret truths and mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, **but have not love** (God’s love in me) **I am nothing** (a useless nobody).” (Amplified Bible).

Someone who prophesies without God’s love, according to the Bible is: nothing, but with His love: everything “Charity suffered long, and is kind; Charity envied not; charity vaunted not, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a).

Charity never faileth but whether there are be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease, whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away (1 Corinthians 13:8)! Therefore: “Let us love not by word or by tongue, but with the deed in truth.” (1 John 3:18). First let us chase after this wonderful love and then after all the important blessings!

For more information read my book: Prophetic evangelism. Do you have a desire to be a part of prophetic ministry? I can whole heartedly recommend this unique book to you.

8. Testing of prophets and prophecies

Who is the person who says it?

→ Are the fruits of the spirit visible?

Galatians 5:22,23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Matthew 7:16 – 20: "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

→ Does the person possess the love of God?

1 John 3, 4, 1 Corinthians 14:1 and:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8: "Love (LOVE OF THE LIVING GOD!) endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth]." (Amplified Bible).

Romans 5:5: "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

→ Does this person have knowledge of the Bible?

Titus 1:9: "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Hebrews 2:3: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." The Amplified Bible says: "How shall we escape [appropriate retribution] if we neglect and refuse to pay attention to such a great salvation [as is now offered to us, letting it drift past us forever]? For it was declared at first by the Lord [Himself], and it was confirmed to us and proved to be real and genuine by those who personally heard [Him speak]."

Colossians 1:19: "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell."

1 Peter 1:20: "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

2 Timothy 2:2: "**And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**"

→ Is the person humble?

Romans 12:16: "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." The Amplified Bible says: "Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits."

Matthew 11:29: "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls." (Amplified Bible).

James 4:6: “**But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**” The American Standard Version says: “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore the scripture saith, God resisteth the proud, **but giveth grace to the humble.**”

Ephesians 3:14 / Colossians 3:12 / Ephesians 4:2 / 1 Peter 5:5 / 2 Corinthians 7:6 /

→ Is the person holy?

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7: “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication...For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.” The Amplified Bible says: “For this is the will of God, that you should be consecrated (separated and set apart for pure and holy living): that you should abstain and shrink from all sexual vice...For God has not called us to impurity but to consecration [to dedicate ourselves to the most thorough purity].”

1 Peter 1: 16: “**Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**” The Amplified Bible says: “For it is written, **You shall be holy, for I am holy.**”

2Thessalonians 3:6,14 / Ephesians 1:4 / 2 Peter 3:11 / 1 Corinthians 7:34 / 1 Timothy 2:8

→ Is the person itself behaving in accordance with the Bible in his / her family?

Colossians 3:18- 21: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”

Ephesians 6:4: “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:22-23: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

1 Timothy 3:1-16: "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

→ Does the person profess the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Romans 10:8-11: "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth

confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

John 16:13-14: “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

Matthew 10:32 / 1John 4:1, 3

→ Is the person not one who simply wants to be in charge?
Galatians 1:10: “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

→ Is the person not one to want to be superior over another?
Galatians 6:3: “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”

Matthew 23:12: “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

Luke 18:14: “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

James 4:10: “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

→ Are his / her deeds constructive in the congregation?

1 Corinthians 14:4b: “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”

2 Corinthians 6:3, 2 Corinthians 4-10

→ Does the person associate with unbelievers?

2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1: “O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged. Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?

and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty....Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

→ Does the person work just for his / her own benefit?

2 Corinthians 7:2: “Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.” The Amplified Bible says: “Do open your hearts to us again [enlarge them to take us in]. We have wronged no one, we have betrayed or corrupted no one, we have cheated or taken advantage of no one.”

→ Does the person guide others positively ?

2 Corinthians 7:2: “Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one.” (New International Version)

→ Do the qualifications come from God?

2 Corinthians 3:5,6: “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.” The Amplified Bible says: “Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God. [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally

written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive.”

→ Does the person praise him / her self or God?

2 Corinthians 10:12, 16-18: “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...To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.”

2 Corinthians 11:7, 12-15: “Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?...But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

→ Does the person self examine?

2 Corinthians 13: 11: “Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”

→ Does the person accept criticism?

2 Corinthians 13:11: “Finally, brethren, farewell (rejoice)! Be strengthened (perfected, completed, made what you ought to be); be encouraged and consoled and comforted; be of the same [agreeable] mind one with another; live in peace, and [then] the God of love [Who is the Source of affection, goodwill, love, and benevolence toward men] and the Author and Promoter of peace will be with you.” (Amplified Bible).

→ Does the person keep all the credit for itself or does he / she give all the credit to the Lord?

2 Corinthians 3:5, 6: “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

Galatians 1:10: “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 2:6: “Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.”

What does the person say?

→ Do the words spoken go for or against the Bible?

John 14:17,25,26: “Even the **Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you... These things have **I spoken unto you**, being yet **present with you**. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **He shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (**corresponds to the Bible**).

John 15:25: “But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.”

Galatians 6:7: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” The Amplified Bible says: “Do not be deceived and deluded and misled; God will not allow Himself to be sneered at (scorned, disdained, or mocked ^{by} mere pretensions or professions, or by His precepts being set aside.) [He inevitably deludes himself who attempts to delude God.] For whatever a man sows, that and that only is what he will reap.”

Ephesians 5:6: "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Ephesians 6:14: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."

2 Thessalonians 2:3-17: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

Galatians 1:6-12: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble

you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

→ Is the prophecy to admonish the congregation?

1 Corinthians 14:3: “But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.” The Amplified Bible says: “But [on the other hand], the one who prophesies [who interprets the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching] speaks to men for their upbuilding and constructive spiritual progress and encouragement and consolation.”

The Greek word in 1 Corinthians 14:3 for admonish is: Paraklésis = Urging, encourage comfort, admonish.

→ Is the prophecy supporting the congregation?

1 Corinthians 14:3,4: “³But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”

The Greek word that stands in verse 3 means: build, building.

→ Is the prophecy clear?

Numbers 12:8: “With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” The Amplified Bible says: “With him I speak mouth to mouth [directly], clearly and not in dark speeches; and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?”

1 Samuel 19:6: "And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain."

→ Does the prophecy humiliate: Jesus Christ, God the Father, the Holy Ghost or the leaders of the congregation or who or what ever else?

Matthew 15:19 / Mark 7:22 / Matthew 23:12 / Luke 14:11.

Example: someone once said that God had shown a wall (which means opposition, problems) and in front of it there laid a spring board. 'Jesus' would have said to that person: Use me as the spring board to jump over the wall. I am that springboard. The one who jumps on the springboard would be more worthy then the spring board itself. And: Jumping on Jesus is blasphemous. He, the Son of the Living God would not humiliate himself as a spring board, sand, stone or anything like that. This is not a prophecy as the Bible would intend it to mean.

→ Does the person say what God says in the prophecy or in daily contact?

1Thessalonians 2:13, 14: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:..."

2 Peter 1:21: "For no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it [to do so--it never came by human impulse], but men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit." (Amplified Bible). The King James Version says: "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.**"

Romans 10:8 "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which

we preach.” The Amplified Bible says: “But what does it say? The Word (God's message in Christ) is near you, on your lips and in your heart; that is, the Word (the message, the basis and object) of faith which we preach.”

Romans 11:2 / Acts 4:31 / Collosians 3:16 / Ephesians 1:13, 6:17.

→ Are the words spoken out of God's Love?

1 Corinthians 14:1: “**Pursue love**, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy.” (New American Standard Bible).

Galatians 5:14: “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt **love** thy neighbour as thyself.”

1 Corinthians 13 / 1 John 3/ 1 John 4.

→ Is the prophecy being used improperly as a counter attack?

Luke 11:53: “And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things:...”

Matthew 24:11: “And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”

→ Is it a prophecy or a reading from the Bible?

→ Is the person learning Biblical truths?

Galatians 1:6-9: “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

Colossians 2:4, 8, 21, 22: “And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words... Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ...”

(Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?”

Ephesians 4:25: “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

John 16:13: “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

→ Does the person keep the biblical texts in its proper context?

1 Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..”

1 Timothy 1:15 / Galatians 1:7

→ Are there any objections to testing their spoken words?

1 Corinthians 10:15: “I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.”

Matthew 24:4: “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.”

1 John 4:1: “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Philippians 3:17 / 1Thessaliosians 5:21.

→ Does the prophecy come true?

Example: Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:1-18:

Joel 2:28: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions...” **AND:**

Acts 2:1-18: “And when the day of Pentecost was now come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them tongues parting asunder, like as of fire;

and it sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound was heard, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speaking in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying, Behold, are not all these that speak Galilaeans? And how hear we, every man in our own language wherein we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, in Judaea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia, in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues the mighty works of God. And they were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying one to another, What meaneth this? But others mocking said, They are filled with new wine. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spake forth unto them, saying, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and give ear unto my words. For these are not drunken, as ye suppose; seeing it is but the third hour of the day. **But this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel: And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams: Yea and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days Will I pour forth of my Spirit; and they shall prophecy.**" (American Standard Version).

→ IMPORTANT: The person and his words must be tested:

1 John 4:1 / 1Corinthians 2:15 / 1 Corinthians 10:15 / 1 Corinthians 14:29 / Galatians 6:4 / Ephesians 5:11, 15.

What often happens is that the person who has the prophecy or a vision wants to stand superior of another. The person would like to reprimand another. Own desire and / or fantasies are confused with the prophecy or vision. Or: someone speaks

out about another and says something that is already known through human knowledge. Or it can be about power or desire for a position within the congregation.

→ Is the prophecy to support the congregation?

1 Corinthians 14:4: "He who speaks in a [strange] tongue edifies and improves himself, but he who prophesies [interpreting the divine will and purpose and teaching with inspiration] edifies and improves the church and promotes growth [in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness, and happiness]." (Amplified Bible).

→ Is it for the believers so that they can learn through it?

1 Corinthians 14:31: "For in this way you can give testimony [prophesying and thus interpreting the divine will and purpose] one by one, so that all may be instructed and all may be stimulated and encouraged." (Amplified Bible). The New Living Translation says: "In this way, all who prophecy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged."

→ Is it to encourage?

1 Corinthians 14:3-31.

→ Is it to convince the unbelievers?

1 Corinthians 14: 24, 25: "But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you." (New Living Translation).

→ Is the prophecy spoken with a believing heart?

Romans 12:6b: "So if God has given you the ability to prophecy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you." (New Living Translation).

→ Is it an honest prophecy, without selfish motives?
Matthew 24:24: “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

(Archive: Education: Sieberen Voordewind, 1990)

9. Pure and impure sources

It is a privilege for every Christian, to spread the precious and wonderful Gospel of God's love and mercy. But what is precious unfortunately can be abused by wrong people. Example: there is no one who would take a bucket of sand from the beach to falsify it. But precious things like diamonds, paintings and worthy documents are duplicated by many

swindlers. As such evangelism is the most precious in existence and abused by many. So what we read about this, hear or experience about this is nothing new. Concerning impure sources we read in the Bible that there are people who preach the Gospel out of anger and dispute, or for their own interest (Philippians 1:5-17*) to please people instead of God (Galatians 1:10: "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.). There are also people who claim that God speaks through them, but through their own over-confidence it is they who say (Deuteronomy 18:20: "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.) "So the Lord says" frankly are saying "So I Say." Unfortunately it will happen that someone isn't speaking the truth out of God's spirit, but from a wrong Spirit (Acts 16:16-18 **), Besides that there are people who are acting like a servant of God and even have a Christian title. But wrench the Gospel willingly (Galatians 1:6, 7). Unfortunately we see a lot of, what I call, "false evangelism" what I mean by that is that there are many Christians who claim to be evangelists but instead of reaching the lost they are pulling many people out of other churches and congregations (Luke 14:23, 15:1-7, 19:10 / John 10:4,5***).

It is not God's intention to rob sheep out of others cages, but to seek that which is lost. It is not decent to evangelise at a location, where someone else is already active (Romans 15:18-20). Concerning the pure sources, God's precious word reveals to us; That there are Christians who are spreading the Gospel out of a good Spirit (John 14:15-17,26,16:8,9,13,14), filled with God's love (Philippians 1:16), never derogatory towards another, and never taking any benefit from it(1 Corinthians 7:2). Are living saintly lives (2 Corinthians 6:14), revealing the fruits of the holy spirit in their lives (Galatians 5:22-25), not glorifying themselves but glorifying Jesus Christ(1John 16:14a), bringing a pure message (Galatians 1:11-12 / John 16:13-14). To ensure that we don't go off track,

it is important to pay attention to these biblical advises, with our religious eye always focused on Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life!

* Philippians 1:5-17: "For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel."

** Acts 16:16-18: "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."

*** Luke 14:23: "And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

Luke 15:1-7: "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

John 10:4,5: "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."

10. Prophecy and deeds

No matter how wonderful the words of a prophecy of someone are: The living God is also looking at the walk of life of the messenger! The Lord Jesus once said: "Not everyone, who says to Me: Lord, Lord, shall come into the kingdom of heavens; but who does after the will of my Father, who is in

heaven. Many shall come to me in those days and say to Me: Lord, Lord, haven't we prophesied in your name and in your name.... And I will openly say: I have never knewed you go away from Me, Thy workers of lawlessness." Matthew 7:21-23. It is important to God that the messengers not only speak beautiful words but also that their actions are according to Gods will. How blessed the right words and deeds will be in the miraculous name of Jesus!

11. Apparently true but still false

It is possible that in the first place a prophet seems to be true, for his words are trustworthy, but actually happens to be false. A clear example we read in the Bible in Numbers 22:2-Numbers 24:25. We read that the prophet Bileam (2 Peter 2:16) got the request of king Balak to curse the people of God for Money. He didn't refuse immediately but said: "that the

night here and I will give you reply, like The Lord is speaking to me “And the Living God spoke to him and said: “Thou shall not go with them, Thou shall not curse that people for it is blessed” The prophet obeyed the Lord. But again he got the request of the king and this time the king raised his fee. Still he didn’t choose the money. “Even if Balak gave me his house full of silver and gold, I would not be capable to break the order of the Lord my God...was part of his answer. Again he requested the men of the king to stay and wait upon the answer of the Lord. And the Lord spoke: “Now those men came to summon you, rise up, and Go with them, but only the word I will speak to you thou shall complete” Those words weren’t curses but blessings. Bileam was filled with Gods Holy Spirit (Numbers 24:2) and spoke Gods words out to them (Numbers 22:38 / 23:4-10 / 23:16-24:1-9,12 and 13).

Many people in our time would think that Bileam was a true Prophet because he didn’t speak curses for the money but blessings of God, because he had contact with God and God’s Spirit came over him. At first sight you might say there was nothing wrong with that and even today he would have many followers. But.... The Lord Jesus wasn’t so happy with him (Revelation 2:14) and neither was Brother Judas (Judas: 11) or Brother Peter (2 Peter 2:15 and 16) in their eyes he was someone who deceived Gods people into sin. (See also: Numbers 31:16). In Matthew 24 the Lord says: “And many false prophets shall rise and many shall be deceived” (:11). Bileam was actually a false prophet who seduced Gods people into sin. Read also: Matthew 7:15, 16, 21-23 which talks about what the Lord says about prophets who keep themselves busy with sin. Someone can seem to be a true prophet. But be false in reality. The human looks at appearance but God looks to the inner side. And just like He revealed the truth to Brother Peter so He wants to reveal to us what is false and true so that we may stay on His straight path!

12. Apparently false but not false

It can happen that a prophecy appears false in the first place but in the end appears not to be false at all. A wonderful example we read in the Bible.

One day Brother Lazarus was seriously ill. His sisters Martha and Maria send someone out to the Lord Jesus with an announcement: "Lord Look, the one you love is ill" You can read this in the Gospel of John chapter 11 (KJVersion).

What did the Lord Jesus give as an answer to that messenger? "I am coming right away?" No! He said: "This illness is not for dead but for the glory of God for that the Son of God can be glorified thru this." (Verse 4). He didn't go at once but waited two whole days. And then we read: 'when Jesus arrived He found Lazarus lying in his grave for four days.... Martha then said to Jesus: Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (Verse 17 and 21). Now isn't that something! Jesus said that the illness of Lazarus was not for Death and still he dies. Many People in our time would think that the prophecy of the Lord was false "The "prediction" didn't come true". What many people seem to forget is that prophetic language is different from all other languages!

When Jesus said: "This illness is not for dead but for the glory of God..." he meant: "This illness will not end with death but with the glory of God with: Life!" Death was not the final station of this sickness, in this specific case but: Health / life! For what happened:" Jesus said: "Take away the rock.... And after saying this he shouted with loud voice: Lazarus come out! Then the Lazarus who died came out... Jesus said to them: untie him and let him go..." (Verse 39, 43, 44).

When Lazarus was ill, death came as a transition, after which he was completely healthy again!

A prophecy that first seems false was true at the end!

So someone can get a prophecy to be prospering in a financial way, but first go bankrupt before enjoying the wonderful prosper even more.

13. Prophecy can prevent destruction

The Bible says: "One day the Lord told Jonah the son of Amattai, to go to the great city of Nineveh and say to the people, "The Lord has seen your terrible sins. You are doomed!" Instead Jonah ran from the Lord. He went to the seaport of Joppa and bought a ticket on a ship that was going to Spain. Then he got on the ship and sailed away to escape." Jonah 1:1-3.

Jonah was called by the Living God to preach the Gospel in Nineveh. He did not want to be obedient to God and ran away. Even today there are people who react exactly the same way as Jonah did. They are called to do the job of an evangelist; they are called to spread the Gospel. They are called but they do not do what God asks them to do. This large group of Christians run toward the television, the computer or to another hobby. They want to please God just a little bit, but do no more than praying for and blessing the lost souls. But...there is more to do other than read this book.

There is more to do other than praying for lost souls!

There is more to do other than blessing the lost souls!

There is more to do other than standing in front of a window, looking outside and blessing a passer-by!

There is more to do other than just greeting a passer-by

There is more to do other than saying "Hello" to the neighbours!

There is more to do other than just opening your heart to someone else.

There is more to do other than praying at a prayer meeting for your neighbourhood.

There is more to do other than praying for your country.

There is more to do other than going on your knees to pray for people in your neighbourhood.

What else is there to do? There is more to do other than just saying "Yes" to the calling which God has given you. The Bible says: "After this, I heard the Lord ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?" "I'll go," I answered. "Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

Oh, do not be as foolish as Jonah was to run away, but obey the heavenly master! Do that what Jonah finally did.

"Once again the Lord told Jonah to go to that Great city of Nineveh and preach his message of doom. Jonah obeyed the Lord and went to Nineveh. The city was so big that it took three days just to walk through it. After walking for a day, Jonah warned the people, "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!" They believed Gods message and set a time when they would go without eating to show their sorrow. Then

everyone in the city, no matter who they were, dressed in sackcloth. When the king of Nineveh heard what was happening, he also dressed in sackcloth; He left the royal palace and sat in dust. Then he and his officials sent out an order for everyone in the city to obey. It said: None of you or your animals may eat or drink a thing. Each of you must wear sackcloth, and you must even put sackcloth on your animals. You must also pray to the Lord with all your heart and stop being sinful and cruel. Maybe God will change His mind and have mercy on us, so we won't be destroyed. When God saw that the people has stopped evil things, He had pity and did not destroy them as he had planned"

Jonah 3:1-10

At the end Mr. Jonah obeyed the Lord and proclaimed the prophetic message which he had received from God. Nineveh would be turned upside-down by God. Nineveh would be doomed. But because Jonah proclaimed the prophetic word of God and the people repented, the destruction of Nineveh did not happen. If we spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people and they repent then they too will be saved from destruction (John 3:16 and onward). Prophecy is: Saving people from destruction! That is why a Spirit filled Christian has compassion for people who are doomed. Compassion means trying to stop the other from going to hell. The living God says to you also! "Who shall I send?" What is your answer now?

For more information read my book: Prophetic evangelism. Do you have a desire to be a part of prophetic ministry? I can whole heartedly recommend this unique book to you.

LET US PRAY

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we (you and I !) may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

I pray: "O, God. In the Name of Jesus Christ, I come to You with this man, women, boy or girl that have a need. I ask You to touch this person now with the power of Your Spirit, in the

Name of Jesus. O, Lord heal this person for 100%. Heal from the top of his head to the soles of his feet.

We pray for all the problems. Whatever the problem may be, give a miracle. My dear friend, receive healing in Jesus' Name.

Receive deliverance from all your problems in Jesus Name. And receive the power of the Holy Ghost. Receive the anointing. Receive it now, in the Name of Jesus Christ. And be free. Amen!"

"But He (Jesus) was pierced for our transgressions, He (Jesus) was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Don't forget: God is always greater than your need!
God loves you.

Evangelist Sieberen Voordewind

DON'T GIVE UP

Don't give up
if everything is against.

Don't give up
if the sky is dark.

Don't give up
if all dreams in tatters fall

Don't give up
as other people giving up

Don't give up
if the situation is hopeless.

DON'T give up
because the answer is on the way,

because Jesus is greater than any need,
because the sun will shine,
because dreams can come true,
because there is hope for the hopeless,

because Jesus does not give it up.

So Never give it up!

Ev. Sieberen Voordewind

Biography

Evangelist Sieberen Voordewind was born in Eerbeek (The Netherlands). He was aware of his vocation as an evangelist at the age of three and has remained faithful to this through many difficult circumstances.

At the age of fifteen he was baptized by immersion and christening of the Holy Spirit and as a result received divine strength to carry out the gospel. In the years thereafter various

well-known preachers publicly prophesied that he would become an evangelist and reach many people with the gospel.

With now and then the support of others he have reached many people with the gospel of God's love and grace, via self publicized lecture in different languages, large and small evangelist campaigns, internet, audio cassettes, radio, meetings, bible school, street actions, telephone help line, door to door actions etcetera.

After studies and experiences Sieberen has written books for everyone who longs for MORE.

