

# Put to the Test Prophets - September 1975

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The fact that an utterance in a gathering is prefaced with the words 'thus saith the Lord' does not guarantee the truth or inspiration of that utterance automatically. Whenever a person prophesies they should do so with the added confidence that their words are subject to the judging of others matured in the Spirit. Here are some helpful guidelines which are firmly established in biblical principles. Any prophecy given in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit will:-

(a) Both confirm and enhance **what is already written in scripture**; it will never violate or contradict the scriptures.

(b) It will always **enrich our fellowship and relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ**, and never lead us away from dependence on Him to an unhealthy dependence upon either the prophet or his utterances.

This is established when the scripture says 'the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.' Rev.19.10.

(c) It will **produce a new flow of life into a gathering**, never a bondage or death. For the spirit of life ministers life.

(d) It will always **contribute to profit in a meeting**, as it is conveying the purpose and will of God. It will never be empty and meaningless.

(e) It will of necessity **be given orderly, and with clarity, never leading to confusion** or open to a multitude of interpretations that disrupt the peace of the church. God speaks with distinct sound not uncertain.

(f) The **prophet will be a man of meekness allowing his utterances to be judged** by the mature leaders, never a man conveying the impression of arrogant infallibility. 'Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances.

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every appearance of evil.' 1Thess.5.19-22.