

Backslidden #2 Handout



**1:4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying,
5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before
you were born I set you apart;**

I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."



A spiritual gift is a God-given ability, distributed to individual Christians by the Holy Spirit that allows him/or her to work through their lives to help the church execute its mission on earth.

Romans 12:3–8

3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,

5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

6 In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

6...So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

A "word" is something that has come into the mind of a person, presumably from God, and it is to be passed on to others.

Holman's Treasury of Key words: A popular conception of "prophets" is that they foretell the future. (we see this with Jeremiah)

Although the ability to foretell the future is an important role of a prophet, it is not the major function.

God's prophets in the Bible spoke messages for the people in their day, including warnings and words of hope.

A prophet was first of all called to speak forth the word of God as delivered to him or her—whether it referred to the past, present, future, or to all these aspects of life at the same time.

Brian Broderson Calvary Church –

In my own experience, prophecy has often been God's way of confirming something to me that He has already put upon my heart.

Let me give you an example. Some years ago, I felt like God was calling me to take a step of faith that could possibly change the course of my life.

I was willing to do it, but I needed confirmation that it was actually God who was leading me, and not just my imagination or desire.

One Sunday morning, I felt a decision had to be made, so before I left for church, I cried out to God and said, "Lord, You have to show me what You want to do!"

At that time, we had three services on Sunday morning, and during each of the services, a few people would gather to pray for me while I preached.

In between the first and second services, one of the men who faithfully prayed for me approached and asked if we could speak privately.

As we stepped aside to talk, he said that he had been struggling during his prayer time for me that morning and that God wanted him to tell me something.

He was actually very nervous because he had never done anything like this before.

Basically, God told him to tell me to do what He had put on my heart. The amazing thing is that this man had absolutely no idea what I was going through.

In fact, after he shared with me, he asked, "Does this make any sense?"

I assured him that it did, and I thanked him for being bold enough to come to me. That was prophecy in action!

6...So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 Test everything. Hold on to the good.

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

I have probably received no more than 10 prophecies. By prophecy, I mean a word directly from the Lord through an individual.

Now this does not mean that only 10 people have ever approached me with a word presumably from the Lord. I've had that happen many times over the years.

Unfortunately, most of these acclaimed words from the Lord turned out to be nothing more than the wild imaginations of men!

7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well.



7...If you are a teacher, teach well.

8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging.



If it is giving, give generously.

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.

And if you have a gift for showing kindness (mercy) to others, do it gladly.



**EMBRACE WHO
YOU ARE AND
THE GIFT GOD
HAS GIVEN
YOU.**



**MAKE
JESUS
KNOWN.**

His father was a pastor and the message prominently displayed in his childhood home was, *"Only one life; 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."* As David progressed in his career as an adult, his mother continually asked, "That's nice, Dave. But what are you doing for the Lord?"

And he did what he loved – God blessed Hobby Lobby and he gives 50% of his profits to get the gospel out into the world.

**4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying,
5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before
you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a
prophet to the nations."**

**MAKE
JESUS
KNOWN.**

The gift, talent,
passion or
ability that God
gives us needs
to affect people
for eternity.

6 "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

God doesn't
call those
who are
able.

He enables
those who He
calls.

2 Corinthians 3:5

5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

2 Corinthians 12:9–10

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth.

**I asked for strength and
God gave me difficulties to make me strong.**

**I asked for wisdom and
God gave me problems to solve.**

**I asked for prosperity and
God gave me brawn and brains to work.**

**I asked for courage and
God gave me dangers to overcome.**

**I asked for patience and
God placed me in situations where I was forced to wait.**

**I asked for love and
God gave me troubled people to help.**

**I asked for favors and
God gave me opportunities.**

**I received nothing I wanted
I received everything I needed.**

My prayers have all been answered.

2 Timothy 4:2–6

2 Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own

desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

**NOT
BECAUSE HE
ACCEPTED
THEIR
LIFESTYLE**

Matthew 16:

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

**We have
to look
out for
the slow
fade.**

4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

5 But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.