

A PROPHET'S REPORT CARD

5 Biblical Tests for Grading Legitimate Prophetic Ministry

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This outline is meant to provide more specific biblical "tests" when evaluating which prophets to follow and trust. Though there are likely more points that could be added, this short list may give believers a start in knowing what to look for when considering and weighing a prophetic word or ministry.

Why are prophets a part of the modern-day church? A fivefold minister's job description:

And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God... to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ (Ephesians 4:11-15 ESV).

- Based on social media interactions, it would appear that many in the collective Charismatic movement are still children!
- The goal is to "grow up" and become mature as a whole.
- The job description for a fivefold prophet is about equipping and maturing the saints, specially in the area of hearing God's voice and discerning by the Spirit.

FIVE BIBLICAL VALUES TO GRADE AND EVALUATE HEALTHY PROPHETIC MINISTRY:

VALUATION: the estimated or determined value of a thing; the judgment or appreciation of worth or character

1. Godly character: purity of spirit and humility of heart

- We have QUALIFIED prophets by their GIFT – instead of their CHARACTER.

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully (Psalms 24:3-4).*

- Clean record! No involvement in questionable things.
- Honors God above all else. Wants to please God at any cost.
- Draws from the Spirit of God and not their flesh.
 - Not watered down or compromised for "effect."
 - Not given to pleasing men.

- Not just about being “a nice person.”
- God is restoring PURITY to the prophetic – starting with the vessel.

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves. (Philippians 2:3 NIV).*

- HUMILITY is critical – PRIDE (Arrogance) GOES BEFORE THE FALL
- All recent leaders that have fallen had pride in their lives – opened the door to deception.
- Humility reveals a proper Fear of the Lord!
- Selfish ambition = “electioneering or intriguing for office” Trying to sell yourself!
- Vain conceit = pride

2. Servant leadership: Loves the Body of Christ

Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well ... He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap (1 Timothy 3:2-7 ESV).

- Healthy marriage and family.
- Good reputation in their own church.
- Not a recent convert.
- They LOVE the Body of Christ. Speak well of those they may disagree with.
- They don’t get stuck in their own theological “bubble” but care about the broader Church.

But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:43-45 ESV).

- Not focused on building a platform or ministry, but building a people. (Local church!)
- Stays away from being over critical of another PART of the BODY (1 Cor 12:12-31).
 - o “Woe” to the wolves – but what about those you simply don’t agree with?
- How can I serve you? What do YOU need to understand?
- LISTEN to ME versus What do YOU think?
- Reflects THE FATHER’S HEART! Calls you UP

3. Grounded in Scripture: Biblically Sound

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene (2 Timothy 2:15-17).

- Scripture is THE STANDARD of Truth. Leads people to weigh accordingly.

- Babble = empty discussion, vain and useless matters
 - o *a gangrene, a disease by which any part of the body suffering from inflammation becomes so corrupted that, unless a remedy be seasonably applied, the evil continually spreads, attacks other parts, and at last eats away the bones.*
 - o *“Inflamed” emotions – “inflammatory” remarks!*
- Remember the GOAL IS TO MATURE. INSPIRE to walk in truth.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night (Psalms 1:1-2).

- Demonstrates a love for God’s standards – inspires others to follow.
- KNOWS the Word studies it – the principles and precepts.

4. Authentic prophetic anointing: pure spiritual revelation

...No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

- Marked by supernatural revelation, not human initiative or imagination.
- When the Spirit of God speaks, it will have WEIGHT and AUTHORITY.
- Revelation from the Spirit is fresh – not repackaged or contrived.
- Not everything is a prophecy! (encouragement? Wisdom? Faith?)
- “Revelation” simply means a fresh understanding and application of God’s Word.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:17-19).

- o This is NOT the same as “special revelation available to only a few elites...”
- o We can’t live ONLY BY REVELATION – But BY THE WORD OF GOD.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins...to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:76-79).

- Prepare the way – calling attention to what’s coming.
- Knowledge of salvation – prophetic encounters are SUBJECT TO the message of the Kingdom.
 - o Correcting, calling people to God’s standard of righteousness.
- Give light to those in darkness – freedom - (they can SEE IN THE SPIRIT).
 - o Elisha prayed for his servant’s eyes to be opened.

- Isaiah 6:1 "I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne..."
- Daniel 10:5-6 "I looked up...saw a man dressed in linen...face like lightning..."
- Ezekiel 1:1 – "I saw visions of God."
- Revelation 1:10 – "I was in the Spirit...heard a voice behind me...saw the voice.."
- Sometimes open visions, inner vision, dreams, etc.
- Lead the Body to the Prince of Peace.

5. Track record: Accuracy and Accountability

So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits (Matthew 7:17-20).

- Remember, it's not just the fruit of their GIFT, but the fruit of their CHARACTER.
- QUANTITY does not QUALIFY! (Daily word?)
 - Difference in sharing the results of one's prayer life, versus a prophetic word.
 - Could be a word of encouragement or wisdom...
- A legitimate prophet welcomes feedback and accountability for previous words. (Keeps accurate records for review).

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:29-33).

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so (Acts 17:11).

- Accountable to local oversight.
- Teachable spirit and openness to correction.

REVIEW: FIVE BIBLICAL TEST FOR GRADING HEALTHY PROPHETIC MINISTRY:

- GRADING SCALE – 10 points each = 50 as the highest score.

1. Godly character: Purity of spirit and Humility of heart
2. Servant leadership: Loves the Body of Christ
3. Grounded in Scripture: Biblically Sound
4. Authentic Prophetic anointing: Pure spiritual revelation
5. Track record: Accuracy and Accountability

- Let us weigh God's messages and messengers fairly and accurately.
- The Word of God sets the standard – in all things.