

# Truth and Spirit Ministries

## Giving Gift to Prophet for Prophecy?

**Fact or Fiction?** *Are we to give a Prophet a monetary gift before or even after a prophecy or word from the Lord for my life is given? - Jamal*

To find the answer to this question, we must study the word of God and rightly divide it. (*II Timothy 2:15*) There are some prophets in the Church today that have been teaching believers that they should give money or sow a financial seed for a prophetic word from the Lord but this goes contrary to the Word of God. Those that teach this are blurring the fine line between the gifts of God and the vessel (or minister) which administers the gifting or anointing of God to others. According to the Bible, Prophets should not be prophesying for money but we can and should financially support Ministers of the Gospel, which would include the ministry of the Prophet. (*Ephesians 4:11-12, I Corinthians 9:4-14*) Prophets should not be trying to “profit” however from the gifts that God gives to his people freely but may receive offerings for laboring for Christ.

In the scriptures, the Lord revealed his displeasure towards the prophets of Israel that prophesied for money and spoke out against them. (*Jeremiah 6:13, Ezekiel 22:25, Numbers Chapters 22-24, II Peter 2: 15-16, Jude 11 KJV*). He also equated such practice with divination, [*i.e. those that distribute or determine by lot or magical scroll, soothsayer, witchcraft. 7080, 7081 [Hebrew] Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.*] (*Micah 3:11-12*) We also do not find in the New Testament scriptures that any apostles or prophets of the Lord taught believers to “sow a seed” or give a monetary gift before or after receiving a prophetic word or for any other gift of God for that matter and it is no wonder considering what God has already said concerning this subject. Since He is clearly against this practice, believers should not give money to any Prophet that insists upon an offering for a prophetic word.

Unfortunately it’s not just prophets that have been guilty of making this mistake. There have been some who call themselves bishops, apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers that have erred in this department also. Some have the false mindset that believers must first sow a seed or give an offering before they can receive both the material and spiritual blessings of God; however this teaching goes contrary to Gospel of Christ (which is a gospel of grace). It is true that we will be blessed for giving, but God will also not hold back his blessings if we do not have anything to give. (*Luke 6:38, I Corinthians 8:13-15, 9:6-8*) The gifts of God should never have a price tag attached to them before people can receive them.

We do not find it anywhere in the Bible that the saints must give monetary gifts in order to receive from God. Why? *It is because he freely gives them to us by grace.* Our salvation and everything that accompanies it is freely given to us by God’s grace and through faith in the word of Christ. (*Romans 10:17, Hebrews 6:9, Ephesians 2:8*) God is freely dispensing these wonderful gifts that accompany our salvation beginning now, in this life. If we are truly God’s children, then we are also joint-heirs with Christ and inherit all things freely with him. An

inheritance is not something that we must pay or work for; it is something that is given to us because we are now sons of God. (*Romans 8:14-17*) Paul also declared in *Romans 8:31-32*:

**“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (KJV)**

The Bible also makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is God’s gift to us. The gifts of the Spirit are just that- gifts; this would also include the gift of prophecy. (*Acts 2:39, I Corinthians 12:10*) A New Testament prophet moves in other gifts of the Spirit as well, including the revelatory gifts of the word of wisdom and word of knowledge. Prophets also move in the other gifts of the Spirit as he wills. (*I Corinthians 12:4-11*) The point is that all of these gifts come directly from God and are freely given by him. A gift is not truly a gift if we must pay for it. The very definition of a gift means *something that is freely given*. We do not have to pay the price for these blessed treasures because Jesus has already paid the price and obtained them for us through his sacrificial atonement, *all we must do is receive them by grace and faith*.

The anointing and gifts of the Spirit that flow through ministers of the Lord should always be freely given. When the Lord Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the Kingdom of God, He told them to heal every sickness and disease, raise the dead and drive out demons. He also said this:

**“Freely you have received, freely give.” (*Matthew 10:8*)**

Jesus also told them not to take anything with them because they were to keep their dependence on God. He let them know that as workers of God they were worthy of their hire. (*Matthew 10:9-10*) They were to rely on the financial support of others as they went from village to village. The Lord has also commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their living from the gospel. (*I Timothy 5:18, I Corinthians 9:7-14*) However, we never find it recorded that any of the ministry in the early Church ever asked people for monetary gifts for those things that came through the anointing! This would include those things that are released to us through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, teaching, preaching and prophesying.

Then why do some ministries in the Church teach the saints to give monetary gifts or offerings for the gifts of God? Those that do this today could be doing this for some of the following reasons:

**They could be false prophets (or apostles, pastors or teachers).**

**They could be truly called of God but led astray by the false teaching and bad example of others.**

**They could have a “works based mentality” instead of a grace-based faith.**

**It could simply be that they have been led astray by their own greed.**

**(Supporting scriptures are *II Peter 2, Jude 11, Titus 1:11, I Timothy 1:3-7, Galatians 2: 16-21*)**

The latter happened to the Prophet Elisha’s servant, Gehazi. Elisha gave Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army a prophetic word of the Lord that he was to go to the River Jordon and wash himself in it seven times and he would be healed of his leprosy. Eventually Naaman

agreed to go and the prophetic word came to pass and he was completely healed. Afterward when Naaman offered Elisha a gift, he refused saying:

**“As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.” (II Kings 5:9-16)**

Elisha would not personally take any credit or gift for the prophetic word he had given Naaman, but Gehazi was led astray by his own greed and followed after Naaman in order to get whatever he could from him by lying to him. His plan backfired however and he brought upon himself Naaman's leprosy. (II Kings 5:20-27)

Even though Prophets should not prophecy for money, again the Bible teaches that the Ministry should be supported financially and that they can receive gifts and offerings for their labor in the Lord. This financial support is to help supply their physical needs so they can serve the Lord freely without having to worry about financial burdens. However, it was not so that they can live a life of wealth and ease while brethren in the Church are burdened financially. (II Corinthians 8:13-14) Paul made it clear though that even though he had the right to receive offerings from the Corinthians that he would not abuse this power if they did not want to give offerings freely. (I Corinthians 9:1-18) He did receive offerings from Churches as they gave from the heart though. (Philippians 4:14-20) In light of the covetousness running rampant among some ministries in the Church today, wouldn't it be wonderful if they learned from Paul's godly example?

Because of the greed and scams of some modern day Ministries, there are some saints that have become disgusted and stopped giving altogether. We should always follow the Spirit however and ask him to direct our giving in regards to the Ministry. If we financially support the Lord's Ministers, we are also supporting Christ and his message. This also shows that we believe the message of Christ and his messengers. Those that help to support Ministers of the Gospel also share in their reward. This is especially true when we receive a Prophet. (Matthew 10:40-42)

The Apostle Paul taught that believers should “abstain from all appearance of evil.” (I Thessalonians 5:22) Paul certainly practiced what he preached. He especially sought to set a godly example when it came to the offerings of the Lord. (II Corinthians 8:18-22) Even giving the appearance that one is greedy or covetous for money sets a bad example, especially when it comes to the Ministers of the Gospel of Christ. Would that all ministers today would be like-minded! In summary, we should not give a monetary gift to a prophet in order to receive a prophetic word but we can support a prophet's ministry because he is serving the Lord by preaching the Gospel. Hope this helps. May the Lord give you further insight into all these things.