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# Keys to Total Health

PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION, SCHOOL OF HEALTH

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## Modern Day Prophets?

Does the message which is to go "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6-12) include anything about modern day prophets? Let's investigate and see.

The last verse of the Three Angels' Messages says, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Revelation 14:12) "The faith of Jesus" includes spiritual gifts, because these were bestowed by Christ to His church. "Wherefore he saith, when ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men....And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." (Ephesians 4:8-11) Christ gave these gifts to his church so they are part of the faith of Jesus.

### Gift of Prophecy

God originally talked to man face to face. We read the record in Genesis. "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" (Genesis 3:8,9) Then sin entered in and God could no longer talk to man face to face "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2) After sin entered God used visions and dreams. "And he said, hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream." (Numbers 12:6) These prophets began soon after the fall of man and continued right down to the time of Christ. "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began." (Luke 1:70)

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through the ministry of angels, holy men of God wrote God's message to His servants. Notice how the gift of prophecy operated from the following Scriptures: "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) "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16) "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of

Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." (Revelation 1:1-3) "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." (Revelation 1:10) Here then are the steps in God's communication to man: (1) God the Father; (2) the Son; (3) angel; (4) prophet; (5) people. Every step was under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of prophecy is one of the gifts of the Spirit promised to God's church. These gifts are enumerated in several passages of Scripture. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gift of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" (1 Corinthians 12:28-30) "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; 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: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13) These gifts then are as follows:

### I CORINTHIANS 12:28-30

Apostles  
Prophets  
Teachers  
Miracles  
Healings  
Helps  
Governments  
Diversities of tongues

### EPHESIANS 4:8-13

Apostles  
Prophets  
Teachers  
Evangelists  
Pastors

## Gift of Tongues

Some people try to take the last gift on the list and make it first. They claim that when a person "has the Spirit" this will be manifest in speaking in an "unknown tongue". But notice, this gift of the Spirit is "diversities of tongues" or the ability to speak in other languages. Every gift on this list has been counterfeited by the devil including the gift of tongues. Notice how this gift operated on the day of Pentecost. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, behold are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, where in we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, and in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God." (Acts 2:4-11) The Apostles on the day of Pentecost spoke in the languages of real people who were there to understand what was said. The modern counterfeit doesn't measure up to the Biblical example.

## Gifts of the Spirit in God's Last Church

God's last church is not to be lacking any of these gifts while waiting for the advent of the Lord. "Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1:6-8) The gift which is mentioned here as the mark of God's church is "the testimony of Christ". In Revelation we find the same gift is a special symbol or mark of God's true church. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:17) What is this "Testimony of Jesus Christ?" We know from 1 Corinthians 1 that it is a "Gift", but which gift? John the Revelator answers our query: "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus; Worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:10) So then, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" or the gift of prophecy.

The writings of the prophets are always called the "testimonies" or in the New Testament "the testimony of Jesus". Notice these examples; "Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw". "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 1;2,9) "Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations." "Neither have our kings, or princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor harkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them." (Nehemiah 9:26,34) The gift of prophecy is manifest only in that church which keeps all of God's commandments, including the

seventh-day Sabbath. Notice this clear connection between commandment keeping and prophetic vision. "Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars; her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the Lord." (Lamentations 2:9) "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29:18)

## The Marks of God's Last Church

The marks of God's last church are these: (1) they "keep the commandments of God"; (2) they "have the testimony of Jesus Christ". "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:17) Seventh-day Adventists keep all of God's commandments including the seventh-day Sabbath. Has the gift of prophecy been manifest in the Seventh-day Adventist church, identifying them behind all doubt, as God's last church? It has through the writing of Ellen G. White, a prophetess of God.

The Bible warns against false prophets. Jesus listed false prophets as one of the signs of the second advent. "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." (Matthew 24:24) Between 1800 and 1900 no less than fifteen people claimed the prophetic gift. These included besides Ellen White: John Starkweather, C. G. Gorgas, Joseph Smith, Anna Lee, Hazen Foss, Mary Baker Eddy and many others.

Paul gave this timely instruction. "Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21) When I find a rotten apple I don't have to eat the whole apple to know it's rotten. One bite will convince me of that. A spoiled pie can be detected with the first spoonful. And you don't have to read all that a prophet wrote to know whether or not he is a false prophet. One contradiction of the Word of God and I know the Lord has not sent him. This problem of false prophets has been with God's people since the beginning of time. Moses told the ancient Israelites to carefully test anyone claiming the prophetic office. (see Deuteronomy 13:1-5) There are four Bible tests to apply to anyone who claims the prophetic gift. Let us look at these now.

## The Four Tests of a Prophet

1. They must confess that Jesus Christ, the invisible God, became flesh. John the Apostle, when speaking of the many false prophets which God's people would encounter, gave this instruction. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (1 John 4:1-3)

2. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Jesus mentioned this test in the Sermon on the Mount. Do they keep all of God's commandments themselves. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 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. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:15-23) The fruits of some so-called prophets are baptism for the dead, celestial marriages, plurality of wives, spiritualism, denial of reality.

3. Their predictions must come true. Jeremiah was confronted with the false prophet Hananiah. He gave this test to the people between himself and the false prophet. "The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him." (Jeremiah 28:9)

4. The key test of all prophets is found in Isaiah 8:20. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." Any prophet will always teach in accordance with God's law.

Often physical phenomena accompanies a true prophet's visions: eyes open, no breath, super human strength, et cetera, but physical phenomena is not a test of a true prophet. The message is (see Daniel 10:15-18; Numbers 24:2-4; Matthew 24:24; Revelation 13:13, 14; 16:13,14; Galations 1:8).

### **Ellen G. White as a Prophetess**

Let's apply these tests now to the experience and writings of Ellen G. White.

1. To the law and testimony. In her writings Ellen White always upholds God's law and she never contradicts Scripture. She teaches Saturday as the seventh-day Sabbath.

2. Predictions come true. Ellen White made many predictions. The following are examples. (1) Prediction of the San Francisco earthquake. She first predicted the San Francisco earthquake on December 11, 1900. (See *Review and Herald*, p. 796.) In 1902 she said the earthquake would also include Oakland. (See the book *Evangelism* p. 29) In 1906 she made her final prediction a few weeks before the earthquake. The earthquake struck April 18, 1906. In *Collier's Magazine* of March 30, 1956 is a description of the earthquake. 490 city blocks were destroyed, 256,000 were left homeless, 500 dead, 1500 injured. (2) Predictions of rise of modern spiritualism. Modern Spiritualism began in the Fox home in Hydesville, N.Y., March 31, 1848, with mysterious "rappings" which were just the beginning. Ellen White wrote: "I saw that it would spread more and more, that Satan's power would increase and some of his devoted followers would have power to work miracles and even to bring down fire from heaven in the sight of men. I was shown that by the rapping and mesmerism these modern magicians would yet account for all the miracles wrought by our Lord Jesus Christ, and that many would believe that all the mighty works of the Son of God when on earth were accomplished by this same power." (August 24, 1850, *Early Writings*, p. 59) In March, 1948 the 100th Anniversary was celebrated. *Spiritualism* published a *Centennial Book of Modern Spiritualism*. These points were made which had been predicted by Ellen White nearly 100 years before. (3) Prediction of World War I and II. In 1890 in the book of *Messages to Young People*, pp. 89,90, and in the *Review*

and *Herald* of February 11, 1904. (4) Prediction of Sunday laws. In the book *Great Controversy* (1888) Ellen White made these predictions: (1) The Supreme Court would set aside the constitution - this was done October, 1960. (2) A national Sunday law would be passed. This is still in the future.

3. Fruits of Ellen White's writings. Ellen White wrote books in nine areas. Let's investigate each of these areas and see what effect her counsel has had in the total program of the Seventh-day Adventist church. (1) Education - Seventh-day Adventists operate 4,723 church schools, 416 high schools, 16 colleges in North America and 2 universities in the United States. (There are other schools and colleges overseas). (2) Medical work - Seventh-day Adventists operate 305 hospitals and clinics. Over 150 physicians graduate annually from the church-operated medical university; plus 700 nurses graduate annually. (3) Publishing work is done in 262 languages, publishing books and periodicals, but in 1,068 languages the church is preaching the gospel. We have 44 publishing houses, 300 periodicals, 75 new books yearly are published. (4) Welfare work - Seventh-day Adventists operate 5,377 Dorcas Welfare Societies with 703 welfare centers while 23,500 laymen hold first-aid certificates from the Red Cross. The church operates Disaster Relief Centers in every major country of the world. (5) Mission work - 200 countries have been entered to date; and the message is preached in 1,068 languages. We send 365 new missionaries in each year. (6) Health Reform - Ellen White also spoke of cancer germs which she said were largely contracted from meat-eating. (1905, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 313) Now science has made this discovery. (see *Newsweek*, June 18, 1956, and *Life*, June 22, 1962). She said cigarette smoking was a slow malignant poisoning. Heart disease was attributed to high fat diets. (7) Christian standards - she encouraged modesty in dress and care in selecting entertainment. (8) Evangelistic work - there were 21,088 evangelists in 1966 and 62,516 ministers. (9) Details of organization - workers are trained in each country to take over the work in that country as in China where our work still is strong while others now have no church there at all.

4. Confess Christ. Read *Steps to Christ* and *Desire of Ages*.

God has promised to send messages through His prophets. If we heed these messages God has promised to establish and prosper us. The prosperity of the Seventh-day Adventist church can be traced directly to their acceptance and obedience to the instruction of God given through His prophetess, Ellen G. White. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7) "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants; believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." (2 Chronicles 20:20)

The final warning message to the world identifies God's final church in the midst of confusion. It is a church which keeps "the faith of Jesus". (Revelation 14:12) This final church is directed by the Lord Himself through the gift of prophecy. The gift of prophecy is a vital part of "the faith of Jesus."

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MODERN DAY PROPHETS?

List several "gifts of the spirit". Which do you think is most important? Why?

Read Revelation 12:17. What two characteristics would you expect to see in God's people?

- a. Does this include speaking in unintelligible "tongues"?
- b. What other Bible verse links the keeping of God's commandments with the gift of prophecy?

What does the "testimony of Jesus" mean? Specify the Bible text which clarifies this.

How can you test and prove a true prophet of the Lord?

What are your feelings about Seventh-day Adventism reflecting God's true church? Of what importance is this to you?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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