

Summary

In this message, we continue our deep dive into false prophets and teachers, focusing on 2 Peter's urgent warning for the last days. Peter contrasts true Spirit-inspired prophecy—which always points to Jesus—with the rise of deceptive voices within the church. We'll explore how Scripture is our sure foundation, how the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus, and why discernment is critical in an age of charismatic confusion. From YouTube "prophets" to supernatural hype, learn how to recognize what's real and what's counterfeit.

Why This Series Is Important

a) An Influx of Content

- Jesus said that many would come in His name and mislead many.
- He said many false prophets would arise and mislead many—not a few, but many.
- Perhaps even the majority of Christians will be misled in the end times.
- This danger is amplified by social media and YouTube, where heresy is easily accessed.

b) Discernment Is Needed

- Unless you are equipped from Scripture to discern, you will be deceived.
- Discernment must be based on a deep familiarity with the authentic Word of God.
- As bank tellers train with the real to recognize the counterfeit, so must we.

c) My Responsibility as a Shepherd

- Equip you to discern false prophets and teachers.
- Help you judge rightly without dishonoring true messengers.
- Guard you from both naivety and cynicism.
- Point you to Jesus as the center of all true prophecy.

d) Jesus As the Center of All True Prophecy

- Today we will look at 2 Peter, especially the foundation of true prophecy (1:19–21).
- Before we look at 2 Peter, it's important to first establish this vital foundation: the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10).

The Testimony of Jesus Is the Spirit of Prophecy

a) The Spirit of Prophecy

- Revelation 19:10 declares, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
- This statement reveals both the source and purpose of true prophecy.

- Prophecy is not merely about predicting events—it unveils the person, nature, glory, and work of Jesus Christ.

b) The Role of the Holy Spirit

- The “spirit of prophecy” refers to the Holy Spirit, the One behind all true prophetic revelation.
- The Spirit always speaks in alignment with the testimony of Jesus, magnifying Christ and drawing hearts to Him.
- True prophecy reveals Jesus’ glory and calls people into deeper relationship with Him.

c) The Spirit Promotes Christ

- He testifies about Jesus (John 15:26).
- He glorifies Jesus (John 16:14).
- He guides us into all truth (John 16:13).
- He brings to their remembrance all Jesus said (John 14:26).

d) The Intent of Prophecy

- The “testimony of Jesus” is the essence of all true prophetic messages.
- Whether it’s a word of encouragement, correction, or foresight, all prophecy should exalt Jesus and reveal His heart.
- True prophecy reveals not only what Jesus has done but who He is—Bridegroom, King, Judge, Savior, and Lord.
- Prophecy that does not align with the testimony of Jesus, regardless of its sensational nature, is not truly of the Spirit.

e) The Book of Revelation as the Ultimate Example

- Nowhere is the testimony of Jesus more clearly displayed than in Revelation.
- Revelation is not just about apocalyptic events—it is the unveiling of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1).
- It presents Him as the Lamb who was slain, the glorified Son of Man, and the reigning King who is returning in power.
- The Spirit speaks to the churches, calling them to return to their first love and to see Jesus rightly.
- Revelation as the unveiling of Jesus (Rev. 1:1)
 - Ch. 1: Glorified Son of Man, holding the keys of death and Hades.
 - Chs. 2–3: Bridegroom Shepherd calling His Church to devotion.
 - Chs. 4–5: Lion and Lamb, worthy to open the scroll.
 - Chs. 6–19: Righteous Judge and King.

- Ch. 20: Reigns in the Millennium.
- Chs. 21–22: Bridegroom-King dwelling with His people.

f) The Central Message for the Church

- The testimony of Jesus is both the message and the means of prophecy.
- The Spirit is consistently pointing the church back to Jesus in every generation.
- Jesus is the center of prophetic revelation, the focus of Scripture, and the one to whom all hearts must return.
- When we truly hear the Spirit, we will see Jesus—and when we see Him, we will never be the same.

The John the Baptist Principle

a) John's Unmatched Endorsement by Jesus

- Jesus said, "Among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist" (Matt. 11:11).
- Remarkable when compared to prophets like Moses, Elijah, and Isaiah.
- John's greatness was not due to signs, wonders, or written prophecies.

b) John's Unique Prophetic Role

- His ministry prepared the way for the Messiah.
- Fulfilled his purpose by pointing directly to Jesus.
- Declared, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).
- Identified the Messiah in the flesh—not a distant promise, but a present person.

c) The Highest Purpose of Prophecy

- The highest form of prophecy is not prediction—it is revelation.
- It is not merely to foretell future events, but to reveal Jesus Christ as He is.
- John's prophetic act was not prediction but revelation.
- True prophecy exists to reveal Jesus Christ as He is.
- Revelation 19:10: "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
- Whether addressing future, present, or spiritual realities, prophecy should magnify Christ.

d) John as the Model for Prophetic Ministry

- John fulfilled his calling with clarity and humility.
- Prepared hearts to receive Christ—the center of God's eternal plan.

e) The Prophetic Calling Today

- Every prophetic voice should aim to turn eyes to Jesus.
- The goal is not to elevate the prophet, but to exalt Christ.
- True prophetic ministry highlights Jesus—His beauty, kingship, cross, and return.
- “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30) is the heartbeat of authentic prophecy.

Modern-Day Prophecy Versus True Prophecy

a) A Shift Away from Christ-Centered Prophecy

- Modern prophetic circles often drift from the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10).
- Focus is increasingly on earthly agendas and platform-building trends rather than Christ.

b) Common Themes in Today’s “Prophetic” Culture

- Political predictions (e.g., election outcomes, rise/fall of leaders)
- Seven mountains mandate (dominion over culture)
- Timelines for “the next great revival”
- Promises of wealth transfer and prosperity
- Vague spiritual phrases like “acceleration,” “new doors,” “shifting atmospheres”
- Flattering words with no call to repentance or holiness
- Mystical concepts: portals, spiritual mapping, revival wells, prophetic alignments
- Hebrew year codes (e.g., “5067 is the year of glory corridors”)
- Numerology, symbols, dream interpretations, unclear geographic prophecies

c) Charismatic Clue

- I don’t enjoy naming names but sometimes I do.
- But when I don’t name names, I feel like we’re playing Charismatic Clue.
- You have probably played the board game Clue. You know, Professor Plum in the study with the candlestick. Well, this series sometimes feels like Charismatic Clue because you are trying to guess who I’m talking about.
- It was Paula White, in the livestream studio, with a PayPal button, claiming the \$777 donation appeal was a word from God.

d) The Problem with These Trends

- Often rooted in extra-biblical revelation, dream imagery, or symbolic interpretation.

- May contain some truth, but usually lack clarity, Christ-centeredness, and biblical grounding.
- Distract believers from Scripture, the cross, and intimacy with Jesus.
- Elevate mystical experiences or personal breakthrough above holiness and surrender.
- These experiences have no power to transform you from the inside out.
- These types of words have no ability to transform you.

e) Paula White Example

- Claimed specific Passover donations would unlock seven blessings from Exodus 23.
- Promised prosperity, long life, healing, an angelic assignment, and favor for higher donations.
- Tied spiritual blessings to material gifts (e.g., Holy Land communion sets, crystal crosses).
- This is prosperity gospel manipulation and misuse of Old Testament promises.

f) Other Examples

- One prominent “prophet” recently claimed on TV that his prediction about the Ark of the Covenant being discovered was fulfilled—because the CIA released a document stating that remote viewers saw it in Ethiopia.
- The Elijah List – I stopped looking at this about 15 years ago because it seemed like God changed His mind every hour.

g) What’s at Stake

- The true heart of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10).
- Man-centered prophecy loses sanctifying power and becomes hype, not holiness.
- Many modern messages lack the gospel, the cross, and the call to obey Christ.

h) The Biblical Pattern of Prophetic Ministry

- John the Baptist: “Behold, the Lamb of God”—not vague, not self-promoting.
- Prophets of Scripture: called people back to covenant, revealed God’s character.
- Prophetic words were Christ-revealing, clear, weighty, and demanded a response.

i) The Purpose of True Prophecy

- Not to predict but to reveal Christ
- Edify the church
- Glorify Jesus
- Align God’s people with His eternal purpose

- Carry clarity, conviction, and Christ-centered focus

j) The Need for Prophetic Reformation

- The Church needs voices rooted in truth, not trends.
- True prophetic ministry makes Christ the message, goal, and center.
- Anything else—no matter how exciting—falls short of the Spirit of prophecy.
- The Charismatic church elevates the people who predict but devalues the ones who reveal.

Peter's Final Words: A Warning to the End-Time Church

- 2 Peter 1:19-21 echoes Revelation 19:10—the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
- 2 Peter contains Peter's final recorded words before his death (2 Pet. 1:14).
- These are not casual reflections but the solemn message of a dying apostle.
- He urges the church to grow in grace, remember the truth, and remain steadfast.
- Peter's final words are a warning to the end-time church to heed.

The Prophetic Word Made Sure (2 Peter 1:19–21)

a) Overview

- This passage connects the transfiguration with the prophetic Scriptures, confirming its truth.
- This passage also lays the essential foundation to discerning the false teachers in chapter 2.

b) "So we have"

- A transition from Peter's eyewitness experience of the Transfiguration.
- Confirms Jesus as the Son of God and His second coming.
- Connects this prophetic experience to the confirmation of the prophetic Scriptures.
- Peter's prophetic experience aligned with and confirmed Scripture and Scripture is all about Jesus.

c) What is "the prophetic word"?

- Refers to Old Testament Scriptures pointing to the Messiah, His coming, His kingdom, and God's redemptive plan.
- Includes Law, Prophets, and Psalms—all fulfilled in Christ.
- The entire Old Testament—with its types and shadows, historical accounts, laws, prophecies, and psalms—all point in one direction: toward the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
- Jesus said, "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John" (Matt. 11:13).
- The Pharisees searched the Scriptures for truth, but Jesus said, "These testify of Me" (Jn. 5:39).

- After His resurrection, on the road to Emmaus, Jesus explained to some of His disciples the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures—from Moses to all the prophets (Luk. 24:27). Afterwards, their hearts burned within themselves.
- The New Testament also points to and reveals Jesus, meaning all Scripture does.
- Jesus is the central figure of the entire biblical narrative. The Gospels reveal His earthly ministry, the Epistles unpack the significance of His life and atonement, and Revelation declares His ultimate victory and eternal reign.
- The New Testament continues and completes the prophetic witness begun in the Old.

d) What does "made more sure" mean?

- Jesus' Transfiguration confirmed and strengthened the prophecies about Him in the Old Testament.
- The prophetic Scripture was already true, but it has now been further verified by the apostolic eyewitness of Jesus' glory.
- Scripture is infinitely more reliable than even the most profound, modern-day spiritual experiences.
- The written Word bears witness to the Living Word.
- Whether through shadow or substance, promise or fulfillment, symbol or reality, the written Word leads us to the Living Word.
- The prophetic nature of Scripture lies not only in foretelling future events, but in continually pointing hearts to Christ and transforming lives through Him.
- Ultimately, all Scripture is an expression of Christ Himself—His heart, His character, His purposes, and His glory.
- Hebrews 1:1–2: God has spoken to us in His Son.
- The voice of Scripture is the voice of Christ.

e) Build Your Life on Scripture—Not Experiences.

- Peter's prophetic experience confirmed the trustworthiness of Scripture.
- Therefore, build your life on the objective, inspired Word—not on subjective experiences.
- Experiences can be misinterpreted, misremembered, or even faked. But the Scriptures are unchanging.
- This is a strategic warning as Peter prepares readers for false teachers.
- Peter is drawing a clear line between what is subjective and experiential.
 - The false prophets and teachers and their destructive heresies versus what is objective and unshakable—the sure Word of God.
- Peter is preparing his readers for the rise of false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1), many of whom will likely appeal to visions, dreams, or supposed revelations to validate their message.

- When Scripture is your foundation, you won't be swayed by charismatic personalities or subjective spiritual claims.

f) Pay Attention to Scripture

- Greek word means to hold the mind toward something—that is, to focus intently, give careful attention, or be on guard.
- "You do well to pay attention" means devote yourself to Scripture.
- Know it deeply to detect what's false.
- Vital warning considering what Peter talks about in the next chapter—the false teachers who deceive.

g) A Lamp in the Darkness

- The Word is a lamp in a murky, spiritually dark world (Ps. 119:105).
- As the day of the Lord approaches, the darkness will intensify.
- The Word acts like a lamp that provides clarity, guidance, and truth in the midst of the increasing darkness of the end times.

h) Until the Day Dawns

- Refers to Christ's second coming and the dawning of His eternal kingdom.
- The "night" of sin and darkness ends and the "day" of full truth and righteousness begins.

i) The Morning Star Arises in Your Hearts

- Refers to Jesus (Rev. 22:16).
- Two applications:
 1. Full realization at Christ's return.
 2. Progressive increase of glory now through Spirit-led meditation on the Word.

j) Transformation Comes by Beholding (2 Cor. 3:18)

- Change happens by seeing Jesus clearly, not by striving.
- Spiritual revelation is required to behold Christ (Eph. 1:17–18).
- Experiential knowledge (*epignōsis*) transforms us from the inside out.
- What you behold, you become.
- Daily beholding Jesus fuels sanctification and transformation.