

*and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up"*

*Ephesians 4:11,12*

1. These gifts or functions given by God to men are designed to be used to build God's people up.
2. These people are then enabled to do works of service—ministry

*"Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied."*

*Acts 21:8,9*

1. God has female prophets—more than one can be present in God's church
2. The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognises that Ellen White, one of the founders of the movement, was inspired with the gift of prophecy

*"Do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:20,21*

1. We should not treat prophecy with contempt
2. We should test everything
3. How could we treat a prophet with contempt?

# DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 34

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

*"Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets."*

*Amos 3:7*

1. God has 'secrets'
2. Those secrets are meant to be revealed—through God's prophets
3. Would you trust a prophet?

*"he said, "Listen to my words:"When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams."*

*Numbers 12:6*

1. God reveals himself to prophets in dreams and visions
2. Do you think your dreams come from God?

*“ 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.”*

*1 John 4:1*

1. There will be true prophets.
2. There will be false prophets.
3. We are to test these spirits

*“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.*

*Isaiah 8:20*

1. The primary means of testing a prophet is whether they speak according to ‘the law and the testimony’ - the Bible.
2. People led by a prophet will seek to follow all of God’s word.
3. Will this mean that the church they belong to will seek to follow all of God’s law—and follow prophetic guidance?

*“ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”*

*Revelation 12:17*

1. Satan is angry with people who obey God’s commandments and who hold to the testimony of Jesus
2. Have you any experience of this kind of assault? How could you resist such an attack from Satan?

*“At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

*Revelation 19:10*

1. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

*“ Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.”*

*1 Corinthians 14:1*

1. Christians are encouraged to ‘follow the way of love’
2. We are to desire spiritual gifts
3. The gift we are most to desire is the gift of prophecy
4. Does this sound as though God still wants to reveal His secrets through his servants the prophets?

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors*