



The Good News

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Living as a Prophet of God

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When some consider the prophets of God they immediately think of miracles and signs, the miraculous works that God wrought through the likes of Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, and others. However, the terms in both the Hebrew and the Greek define “prophet” as “*an inspired speaker*” with attention upon that which is spoken. So, while the attention of some focuses only on the works which proved the words spoken, the attention should be upon the words themselves that were spoken. The works simply proved the words as being from God. While we, as Christians, are not miraculously inspired by God as the prophets were, we still have the “God-breathed” words recorded for us that we can share with the world. In relation to this, it is important to notice certain attributes from the lives of the prophets from which we can make applications to help us in our lives. While we cannot consider a complete list here, let us consider just three such attributes:

Let your devotion always be properly placed! We find in almost every example of the prophets that their goal was to please God according to His truth. We do have a few instances where certain prophets, such as Jonah, do not start out with the proper mindset of devotion and therefore do not please God as they should. We find in **Matthew 7:21-23** Jesus teaching concerning misplaced devotion. He mentions those who are spiritual, who “*do many wonders*” in the name of Jesus. Yet they were not devoted to doing all things according to God’s authority and were therefore rejected as workers of “*lawlessness*”. We must always set our devotion to pleasing God according to His authority.

Have confidence as a follower of God! We again find in the examples of the prophets the confidence of knowing that they were serving the One True God. From the examples of Elijah and Elisha to Obadiah and Jonah, while there were missteps here and there, they all served God in confidence, boldly relaying to the people the words of God. Most of the time, the words that God wanted to be relayed to the people were not pleasant to hear, and therefore caused the prophets quite a bit of hardship and suffering. However, they remained true to God and rested in their confidence, knowing whom they had believed, just as Paul in **II Tim. 1:12**.

Make the choice as to whom you will serve! While never specifically referred to as a prophet, Joshua makes this point to a people who were trying to serve Jehovah and the false gods of other nations at the same time in **Joshua 24:15**. He says, “*And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*” Even as Christians, we can sometimes attempt to serve two masters by trying to serve God but still attempting to fulfill our own desires in this world. We must choose now to do what is right according to God’s word. We cannot deceive ourselves by attempting to justify ourselves in a matter of Scripture when the truth of God’s word says something different.

Let us always seek to live lives as the prophets lived, having godly devotion according to authority, having confidence as a follower of God, and always making the choice to follow God and His teaching.