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Understanding the Five-Fold Ministry: God's System for the Equipping, Edification, Empowerment, and Expansion of The Body of Christ.

7. The Prophet: The Pointer

Chapter 4 explains the office of the prophet: what a prophet is, how the office operates, and what qualifies or disqualifies someone to hold it. It stresses that a prophet must both hear and see, and warns that false prophets are real, so the gift must be tested by character and accuracy, not just by impressive words.

Key takeaways

- Prophet comes from the Hebrew Nabi ('to bubble up,' an inspired person); to prophesy (naba') is to speak or sing under divine inspiration.
- A true prophet must be able to hear AND see, not just speak. Old Testament prophets were first called 'seers.'
- God reveals himself to prophets three ways: visions, dreams (night visions), and his voice.
- 'Dark speeches' are coded messages (parables, numbers, symbols) for others; to his prophets God speaks plainly. Often God gives one person the dream and sends them to the prophet for interpretation, keeping people dependent on each other.

- A gift doesn't make you a prophet — God and man both have to qualify you, and process/cultivation stand between being 'called' and being 'chosen.'
- Three things disqualify a prophet: false prophecies (a track record of misses), false gods (idolatry, denying salvation through Jesus alone), and false love (a reprobate state where the gift is loved more than God).
- God can fire a prophet. Holding the position doesn't guarantee God's continued favor — remember Saul. If a prophet stops seeing and hearing, God has fired them.

Passages worth keeping

“When we love the gifts more than we love God, we are in big trouble.”

Names the core danger of a prophetic age — treasuring the gift over the Giver.

How it connects

The chapter's through-line is discernment: because the same age that pours out prophecy also breeds false prophets, love for God and proven accuracy — not the raw gift — are what keep the office genuine.

Scripture referenced

- **Numbers 12:6-8** -- How God makes himself known to prophets — visions, dreams, and speaking mouth to mouth, not in dark speeches.
- **1 Kings 19:11-13** -- Elijah waits and hears God not in wind, quake, or fire but in a still small voice.
- **Daniel 2:24-49** -- Nebuchadnezzar's dream shows a prophetic dream points a person to the prophet, not that the dreamer is one.
- **Deuteronomy 18:9-22** -- Accuracy as the test of a true prophet; false prophecy disqualifies.
- **Deuteronomy 13:1-5** -- Prophetic signs used to lead toward false gods must be rejected.
- **Amos 3:7** -- God reveals his secrets to his servants the prophets.