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**In this issue:** *Short basic teaching by Charles Whitehead on the prophetic gifts, given at the European Prophetic Consultation in Assisi 2018.*

## THE PROPHETIC GIFTS

### 1 The Background

The prophetic gifts are found in Scripture and in the teaching of the Church.  
 See 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; Ephesians 4:11-12; Romans 12:6-8

2. Also see **Lumen Gentium** (Vatican II) Section 12, October 1963, reported on pages 81-82 in my book *Towards A Fuller Life in the Holy Spirit*.

3. **Pope Saint John Paul II:** See his public address in St. Peter's Square, May 30th 1998 (page 82 in my book).

4. **The Catechism of the Catholic Church:** See sections 799, 800 and 2003 on the charisms (page 83 in my book).

### 5. The Beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

The Sovereign action of the Holy Spirit on February 17th 1967 at the retreat weekend for American students from Duquesne University, held at the Ark and the Dove Retreat House.

### 6. A prophetic witness is at the heart of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the Papal Household, says:- *"The main service I believe that we of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal are called to give to the Church is a prophetic one. Without it we would have no more reason to exist". "Ours is a humble service, but indispensable"*.

There is always the danger that in order to make the Renewal more "acceptable" to other people, we compromise and do not talk about the gifts of tongues, prophecy, discerning of spirits, miracles etc. This compromise would restrict the work of the Holy Spirit and we must avoid falling into this trap.

7. **Prophecy is one of the ways God speaks to us.** He speaks through the words of a person who is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and gives direction, brings comfort, challenges us,

encourages us, or gives us strength and commitment.

In addition to words, prophecy can come to us through pictures, a passage of Scripture, or a strong inner conviction.

A "**Prophetic Witness**" is not only something we say, it is also what we do and the way we live our life day by day.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit should transform us totally in every area of our lives.

8. "**Discerning of spirits**" is a charismatic gift which equips us to know through the revelation of the Holy Spirit which spirit is at work when a prophecy is given. It can be the Holy Spirit (God speaking to us), the human spirit (me, my own good ideas), or an evil spirit sent by the Devil to destroy the work of the Holy Spirit and to lead us astray.

### 9. Using the Prophetic Gifts

Prophecy is all about hearing from God and then being able and having the courage to pass on to others what we are hearing. We need to have the expectation that God will speak, and a commitment that we will listen for a prophetic word from Him. When a word is given, we need to have time to reflect and discern it before another word is given.

A word of prophecy can be for an individual person, for a group or community, for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, or for the whole Church.

10. **Scriptures for reflection:** 1 Samuel 13:10; John 8:47; Isaiah 40:8; ! Corinthians 14:1. My book is: *"Towards A Fuller Life in the Holy Spirit"* (ISBN 978 1 903623 50 3)\* chapters 4 and 5.

John Charles Whitehead

\*Translations and publications of *"Towards A Fuller Life in the Holy Spirit"* in different languages:

"Towards a Fuller Life in the Holy Spirit"

Publisher: New Life Publishing, Luton, UK

"An Invitation to the Spirit-Filled Life"

Publisher: The Word Among Us Press,  
Maryland, USA

"Vers La Plenitude d'une Vie dans L'Esprit"

Publisher: Editions des Beatitudes, France

"Zu Einem Leben in Fülle im Heiligen Geist"

Publisher: Dr. Erik Diewald, Linda, Austria

"Ku Pełniejszemu Życiu W Duchu Świętym"  
Stowarzyszenie Mezczyzni Świętego Józefa,  
Kraków

"V Sile Ducha"

Publisher: Karmelitan Nakladatelstvi, Kostelní  
Vydří

It is translated into Spanish but we are  
waiting for the publisher to sign a contract.  
It is not yet in Italian.

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