

# Comments About Romans 12:6

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of June 1, 2019.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul’s writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts, whereas the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

Last week, we discussed in Romans 12:4-5 how there are various functions among the Body of Christ. Romans 12:6-8 continues by mentioning seven gifts among the Body of Christ. This article will discuss Romans 12:6 and the gift of prophecy.

## **Positive words**

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:6.

*Romans 12:6*—“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.”

## **Inspired utterance**

How do you define the gift of prophecy?

The noun *prophecy* in Romans 12:6 comes from the Greek word *propheteia* (No. 4394 in *Strong’s Concordance*).

Here are two ways that Bible students view the concept of prophecy.

- A direct message from God
- An inspired utterance

## **Warning about false messages**

Here are some warnings in the Old Testament about false messages.

*Deuteronomy 18:20*—“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”

*Jeremiah 23:16*—"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD.' "

*Jeremiah 23:21*—"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied."

### **Warning about messages that come to pass**

Notice a warning in the Old Testament about a message that comes to pass.

*Deuteronomy 13:1-3*—"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams . . ."

### **Value of prophecy**

Understand the value of true prophecy.

*Acts 2:17-18*—"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy."

*1 Corinthians 13:8-9*—"Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part."

*1 Thessalonians 5:20*—"Do not despise prophecies."

*2 Peter 1:19-21*—"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."