**What is the Spirit of Prophecy for?**

**Why It Was Given**

There are some among us who say the Spirit of Prophecy should be used for encouragement, but not for instruction. They say it should not be used in the pulpit. Sequeira declares it should not even be used privately to help and encourage Advent believers.

Here is the correct way to share these invaluable counsels: **We should not refer to the Spirit of Prophecy as a basis for proving doctrine to Bible study interests. But, after they come into the faith, we very definitely are to study and share it with one another, on all levels of communication. We should read them together in family gatherings.** **We are also told that Spirit of Prophecy books should be freely loaned or given to unbelievers, and they should be encouraged to study them.**

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. **There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue.**”—*4 Testimonies, 147-148.*

“The first number of the *Testimonies* ever published contains a warning against the injudicious use of the light which is thus given to God’s people. I stated that some had taken an unwise course; **when they had talked their faith to unbelievers, and the proof had been asked for, they had read from my writings instead of going to the Bible for proof.** It was shown me that this course was inconsistent and would prejudice unbelievers against the truth. The *Testimonies* can have no weight with those who know nothing of their spirit. They should not be referred to in such cases.”—*5 Testimonies, 669.*

“There are matters in the testimonies that are written, not for the world at large, but for the believing children of God, and it is not appropriate to make instruction, warning, reproof, or counsel of this character public to the world. The world’s Redeemer, the Sent of God, the greatest Teacher the children of men ever knew, presented some matters of instruction, not to the world, but to His disciples alone . . He also had some special light and instruction to impart to His followers which He did not impart to the great congregation, as it would neither be understood nor appreciated by them . . The Lord Jesus thought it necessary to make many things clear to His disciples which He did not open to the multitudes.”—*Testimonies to Ministers, 34-35.*

“[In his evangelistic meetings to non-Adventists] Elder Haskell enters into no controversy with opponents. **He presents the Bible** so clearly that it is evident that anyone who differs must do so in opposition to the Word of God.
“Friday evening and Sabbath forenoon **he spoke upon the subject of spiritual gifts, dwelling especially upon the Spirit of Prophecy.** Those who were present at these discourses say that he treated the subject in a clear, forceful manner.”*—Evangelism, 257 (1906).*

“In his teaching Elder\_\_\_\_showed that the Spirit of Prophecy has an important part to act in the establishment of the truth. When binding off his work, he called for me . . to speak to the people.”—*Evangelism, 257 (1906).*
“**The volumes of Spirit of Prophecy should be in every family, and should be read aloud** in the family circle . . The *Testimonies* contain instruction which meets the case of all, both parents and children.”—*Sons and Daughters of God, 178.*

“Parents, your children are in danger of going contrary to the light given of heaven, and **you should both purchase and read the books, for they will be a blessing to you and yours. You should lend *Spirit of Prophecy* to your neighbors and prevail upon them to buy copies** for themselves . . Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because **they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings.**”—*4 Testimonies, 391.*

“If you really believe that the voice of God has spoken to you, pointing out your dangers, do you heed the counsels given? **Do you keep these testimonies of warning fresh in your minds by reading them often** with prayerful hearts? . . You will be held accountable for every one of these appeals and warnings.”—*3 Testimonies, 362-363.*
“**Do all you can to have my writings placed in the hands of the people in foreign lands.**”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education, 549.*

“The volumes of *Spirit of Prophecy,* and also the *Testimonies,* should be introduced into every Sabbathkeeping family, and the brethren should know their value and be urged to read them . . **They should be in the library of every family and read again and again. Let them be kept where they can be read by many, and let them be worn out in being read by all the neighbors**.”—*4 Testimonies, 390.*

A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God. **MH 176.3**

**Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy Have Same Author—The Holy Ghost is the author of the Scriptures and of the Spirit of Prophecy.** These are not to be twisted and turned to mean what man may want them to mean, to carry out man's ideas and sentiments, to carry forward man's schemes at all hazards.—Letter 92, 1900. 3SM 30.3

**Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy Have Same Author**—The Holy Ghost is the author of the Scriptures and of the Spirit of Prophecy. These are not to be twisted and turned to mean what man may want them to mean, to carry out man's ideas and sentiments, to carry forward man's schemes at all hazards.—Letter 92, 1900. 3SM 30.3

**Ellen White Calls Her Writings a Lesser Light**—Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light.—The Review and Herald, January 20, 1903 (Quoted in Colporteur Ministry, 125.) 3SM 30.4

**Testimonies Never Contradict the Bible**—The Bible must be your counselor. Study it and the testimonies God has given; for they never contradict his Word.—**Letter 106, 1907. 3SM 32.3**

If the Testimonies speak not according to the word of God, reject them. Christ and Belial cannot be united.—**Testimonies for the Church 5:691. 3SM 32.4**

The testimonies themselves will be the key that will explain the messages given, as scripture is explained by scripture. **1SM 42.2**

I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several Testimonies for the Church, given for the people of God. **5T 664.3**