

DOES THE LORD CALL WOMEN TO PREACH, TEACH, OR PROPHECY?

THEME: Scriptural Answer - to:

1 Timothy 2:11-15: ¹¹ *Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.*

¹² *But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

¹³ *For Adam was first formed, then Eve.*

¹⁴ *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

¹⁵ *Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in Faith and Charity and Holiness with sobriety.*

1 Corinthians 14:34-35: ³⁴ *Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the Law.*

³⁵ *And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

There is much controversy today as to whether God calls women to preach, prophecy or teach. The Scriptures will clear up this question, like all dividing issues if we will but study, search out, and believe the Bible.

In the Gospels, for example, there were several women messengers who proclaimed the Good News.

As told by **MATTHEW:**

Matthew 28:1-10: **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to the sepulchre**

¹ *In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*

² *And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the Angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.*

³ *His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:*

4 And for fear of Him the keepers did shake, and became as dead
5 And the Angel answered and said unto the women, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, Who was crucified.
6 He is not here: for He is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
7 And go quickly, and tell His Disciples that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you."
8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring His Disciples word.
9 And as they went to tell His Disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "All hail." And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.
10 Then said Jesus unto them, "Be not afraid: go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see Me."

As told by **LUKE**:

Luke 24:9-11: The Women who had brought spices to the sepulchre

9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.
10 It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.
11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them *not*.

As told by **JOHN**:

John 4:28-30: The Woman at the Well met Jesus

28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,
29 "Come, see a Man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"
30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him.

John 20:16-18: Mary Magdalene stood at the sepulchre

16 *Jesus saith unto her, "Mary." She turned herself, and saith unto Him, "Rabboni;" which is to say, Master.*

17 *Jesus saith unto her, "Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God."*

18 *Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that He had spoken these things unto her.*

THEY WERE COMMISSIONED BY OUR LORD TO DO SO.

Acts 2:17: *"And it shall come to pass in the last days," saith God, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall Prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:"*

Joel 2:28: *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:"*

Here we have a prediction that God would pour out of His Spirit in the last days ***upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy.*** Prophesying is explained as "speaking unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."

1 Corinthians 14:3-4:

3 *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

4 *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

The following passages prove to any unbiased mind that **prophesying is for the church:**

1 Corinthians 12:1-12:

1 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*

2 *Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.*

3 *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.*

4 *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

5 *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*

6 *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

7 *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

8 *For to one is given by the Spirit the Word of Wisdom; to another the Word of Knowledge by the same Spirit;*

9 *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the Gifts of Healing by the same Spirit;*

10 *To another the working of Miracles; to another Prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of Tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

11 *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

12 *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

1 Corinthians 12:24-27:

24 *For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.*

25 *That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*

26 *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*

27 *Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.*

1 Corinthians 14:1-6:

1 *Follow after Charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

2 *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries.*

³ But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

⁴ He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

⁵ I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

⁶ Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

Notice in 1 Corinthians 12:7,11 the words “**every man**” does not exclude women for in the following verses starting with 12, the words “**all**” will show from the illustration of the “body” that **all parts are to work together**. We are not independent of one another. We need each other.

God filled Elizabeth with the Holy Spirit and she prophesied without anyone forbidding her. It is God alone who gives this gift and He knows what He is doing.

Luke 2:41: Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

We read that Philip had **four daughters that did prophesy, or preach** in the early church in:

Acts 21:8-9: ⁸ And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

⁹ And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

This is fulfilling a previous scripture:

Acts 2:17: “And “it shall come to pass in the last days,” saith God, “I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:”

Joel 2:28: *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:”*

God is the one who gives the women this gift, and prophecy is for the church to edification as we found earlier in 1 Corinthians 14. God is not crossing Himself up.

There are Phebe, Priscilla, Mary, Junia, Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persis . . . all female names . . . mentioned in the local church in Philippi. They were referred to as *“those women who labored with me in the Gospel.”* I want you to know that *“In Christ”* there is neither male nor female for we are all one.

Galatians 3:28: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

We read about women in the church in the following verses. They were not there merely to warm the seats.

Romans 16:1-2:

¹ I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

² That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

2 John 1:1: *The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;*

Paul speaks of the **Corinthian women prophesying and praying in the church.**

1 Corinthians 11:4: *Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.*

1 Corinthians 14:1-5:

¹ Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

² For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries.

³ But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

⁴ He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

⁵ I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

1 Corinthians 14:24-26:

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

²⁵ And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

²⁶ How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

It is permissible for them to use their gifts but with one restriction. Their heads must be covered, a sign of subjection.

When Paul said for “women to keep silence in the church,” he was not speaking of women prophesying or praying. He referred to asking their husbands things at church. He said, “If they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home,” and not in the church.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35:

³⁴ Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the Law.

³⁵ And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

Why? As long as a lady keeps her proper place, there is no restriction on her service to Christ. The passage in 1 Timothy is for those women who abused their privilege. Women there became too bossy and tried to lord it over the men and this is contrary to God's Word. **But, that they could speak, prophesy, and pray in church is clear from the Scriptures.**

Acts 2:16-21:

16 But this is that which was spoken by the Prophet Joel;

17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days," saith God, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

19 And I will shew wonders in Heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable Day of the Lord come:

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved."

God's Word refers to women exercising authority over the man and these ladies who spoke in our services Dale Evans and Kathryn Kuhlman did not. We asked them to speak and they were a real blessing.

1 Timothy 2:12: But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Note how Paul tells us clearly a woman can prophesy, but her head must be covered. This is a sign of subjection to the man who is the head of the woman, as Christ is Head of the church.

1 Corinthians 11:3-16:

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the Head of Christ is God.

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8 For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.

9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Women have been used of God in all ages:

***Exodus 15:20:* And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.**

***Judges 4:4:* And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.**

***2 Kings 22:14:* So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.**

2 Chronicles 34:22: *And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college:) and they spake to her to that effect.*

Isaiah 8:3: *And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, "Call his name Mahershalalhashbaz."*

Luke 2:36: *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;*

Luke 1:39-56: *And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;*

⁴⁰ *And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.*

⁴¹ *And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit:*

⁴² *And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.*

⁴³ *And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*

⁴⁴ *For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.*

⁴⁵ *And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."*

⁴⁶ *And Mary said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord,*

⁴⁷ *And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

⁴⁸ *For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

⁴⁹ *For He Who is mighty hath done to me great things; and Holy is His Name.*

⁵⁰ *And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.*

⁵¹ *He hath shewed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

⁵² *He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.*

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.

54 He hath helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy;

55 As He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.”

56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

To say the least, God is sovereign and can use a woman when He pleases. He does not have to ask some man whom He should use. If more of us men would obey God and more fully consecrate our all to Jesus today, the church would be further ahead. **It was a group of women who went outside the city by a river bank to pray that gave birth to the church at Philippi.**

Acts 16:13: And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

And Lydia a lady merchant opened her heart and home to the ministers of Christ. The last verse of the chapter shows her home was a meeting place for believers.

Acts 16:14: And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

At another lady's home, a prayer meeting was held that brought deliverance to Peter in Prison.

Acts 12:12: And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Matthew 18:20: For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.

Note the greetings to the women:

Priscilla:

Romans 16:3: Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

1 Corinthians 16:19: The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Apphia:

Philemon 2: And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

Women are not downgraded in the Gospel, but given a place of honor. May I repeat, for in Christ Jesus, there is neither male nor female, for we are all one. However, in the home - the husband is the HEAD.

1 Corinthians 11:3: But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the Head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 5:22-24:

²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body.

²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

And in the Church, Christ is Head, then follows the man.

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