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# Words of Truth

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## I Know You're Not A Prophet Because...

By: Brian A. Yeager

On Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> we had a man walk into the building here where the congregation worships. You may remember him. He was a black man, wearing all white, and had long hair. He came in about five minutes into the sermon. At first glance, I was not sure whether the man was a normal neighborhood man (typically a drunk, mentally ill person, or a drug dealer – not that everyone in the neighborhood we assemble in is such, just that generally those who walk in late are of those types). I noticed he had a book in his hand. I was not sure at that point if we had a visitor with Bible in hand or with a Koran. There certainly would be concern for all of our safety if it were the latter. Shortly after the man sat down, he appeared to be saying a prayer. That caused me some concern. After that, he opened his book as I mentioned Scriptures to turn to. I could then tell it was a Bible in his hand and many of my concerns were put to rest.

Following our worship service to God the man said he wanted to talk with me. When he began to talk, he said that he was a prophet sent from God. He said he came all the way from West Africa to talk to me. He said that God showed him me standing and preaching in a vision. As we all know, we get visitors from time to time that are from a mentally challenged group home in our neighborhood. With those people, you have to sort of pacify them to keep them calm. That was my first approach. At the same time, I was trying to examine the man and judge righteous judgment on who he really was (Matthew 7:15-20 and John 7:24). I let him talk. He spoke of his “visions”, “prophecies”, and a few Scriptures. It began to be clear that he was not honest, but I still was not sure if this was due to a mental illness or if he was just a false prophet. It became clearer as he wanted to heal Evan’s broken foot. That’s when the discussion needed to turn and he needed to be told, “I know you’re not a prophet”.

### Biblical Reasons That Show This Man Was Not A Prophet Of God

The first reason that we know this man was not a prophet from God is that there are no such men today. Notice: *“Charity never faileth: but **whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity”* (I Corinthians 13:8-13). We now have that which is perfect [complete]. We have the perfect word of God, fully revealed (II Timothy 3:15-17 and James 1:25), therefore prophecies and other miracles that were used to confirm the word (Mark 16:15-20) are no longer happening.

This man's long hair is another reason we know he wasn't a prophet. Notice: *"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. **Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.** 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. 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. 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. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? **Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?** But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering"* (1 Corinthians 11:3-15).

A third reason we know this man was not a prophet was due to how he was willing to "prophesy" without another prophet present. Notice: *"Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace"* (1 Corinthians 14:29-30).

When I told this man he had to stop these false prophecies he told me that I was unlearned in the Scriptures. He said that if I knew anything about prophesying I would know that he had no control over what God was saying through him. This ignorance is the fourth reason we know he was not a prophet. Notice: *"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets"* (1 Corinthians 14:32).

The fifth reason we know this man was not a prophet, filled with the Holy Spirit as he said he was, is that he did not know the Scriptures. In fact, he did not even know any of the Scriptures we looked at in this article, as he had to look them up as I mentioned them to him. If a man is truly a prophet, filled with the Holy Ghost, he would not need to open his Bible to know what God said. Notice: *"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord... But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him"* (1 Corinthians 14:37 and 1 John 2:27).

### Conclusion

God wants us to test those men who claim to be teachers of God (1 John 4:1). False teachers are a reality (2 Peter 2:1-3). It is not hard to know a man claiming to be a prophet is a liar. This man was easy to identify as a false teacher. Clearly, all of the brethren here knew what he was very quickly and dismissed all that he said. The question is, what if a false teacher comes in and is not such an easy one to identify. Brethren, they will not all be "off their rockers" (so to speak). We need to understand that, like this man, others will come. However, unlike this man, they will not be so obvious. They will try to creep in (Jude 3-4). Let's stay awake to the real threats that may come our way!