

Week 4: Women Prophecy and Testify

1) Focus

Jesus' pattern with women, Pentecost & Joel's prophecy, "in Christ" equality (Gal 3), and NT gifts/offices—including Philip's four prophetess daughters.

Jesus and the New Testament shatter man-made limits on women in ministry. Jesus **disciples** women, **commissions** women with the resurrection message, and **uses** women as evangelists. Pentecost confirms Joel's promise: **sons and daughters** prophesy. In Christ, distinctions like **male/female** don't determine access to calling or gifts—**the Spirit does**.

2) Key Scriptures (KJV)

Jesus & Women

- **Luke 10:38–42** — *Mary* sits at Jesus' feet as a **disciple**; Jesus affirms her choice over cultural expectations.
- **Matthew 28:7–10; John 20:16–18** — The risen Jesus **appears to women first** and tells them, "go tell my brethren."
- **John 4:27–42** — The **Samaritan woman** testifies; many believe "for the saying of the woman."
- **Luke 2:36–38** — **Anna the prophetess** recognizes the Messiah and speaks of Him.

Pentecost & Joel

- **Acts 2:14–18** (cf. **Joel 2:28–29**) — "I will pour out of my Spirit upon **all flesh**... your **sons and your daughters** shall prophesy... upon my **servants and handmaidens**... they shall prophesy."

"In Christ" Equality

- **Galatians 3:26–28** — "For ye are **all** the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus... there is neither Jew nor Greek... bond nor free... **male nor female**: for ye are **all one** in Christ Jesus."

Gifts & Offices for the Whole Body

- **Romans 12:3–8** — One body, many members; gifts include **prophecy, teaching, exhortation, leadership**—given to the **whole church**.
- **1 Corinthians 12:7–11** — “The manifestation of the Spirit is given to **every man** [each one] to profit withal... distributing to **every man** [each one] **as He wills.**”
- **Ephesians 4:7–12** — Christ **gave gifts** (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) **for the saints** and the **work of ministry**.
- **Acts 21:8–9** — Philip the evangelist had **four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy** (prophetesses).

3) Key Teaching Points

A. Jesus sets the pattern

1. **Mary at Jesus’ feet** (Lk 10) — posture of a **rabbinic disciple**; Jesus **endorses** her learning for future **teaching**.
2. **Resurrection witnesses** (Mt 28; Jn 20) — Women are the **first heralds** of the gospel to the male disciples—**commissioned by Jesus**.
3. **Evangelist at Sychar** (Jn 4) — A woman’s testimony brings a **city**; Jesus breaks social and gender barriers to reach people.
4. **Anna the prophetess** (Lk 2) — Prophetic recognition and proclamation at the temple.

Point: Jesus **forms, authorizes, and sends** women as disciples, heralds, and proclaimers.

B. Pentecost proves Joel’s promise (Acts 2; Joel 2)

1. **All flesh** means **all ages, statuses, and both sexes**: “**sons and daughters** shall prophesy.”
2. **No Spirit hierarchy** by gender; the outpouring is **equal and universal**.
3. **Collective masculine** language in Greek/ancient usage includes mixed groups; the context shows **women included**.

Point: The **age of the Spirit** is an age of **shared prophetic ministry**.

C. “In Christ”: the ground is level (Gal 3:26–28)

1. **Clothed with Christ** → identity in Him supersedes old divisions.
2. “Neither... **male nor female**” → **status** before God and **access** to inheritance/gifts are **equal**.
3. To deny women’s ministry while affirming Galatians 3 creates a **theological contradiction**.

Point: Union with Christ removes status barriers; the **same inheritance** means **the same access** to Spirit-empowered service.

D. Gifts and offices belong to the whole church (Rom 12; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4)

1. **Romans 12:** If God gave you a gift—**use it** (prophecy, teaching, leading included).
2. **1 Corinthians 12:** The Spirit distributes manifestations to **each one** “**as He wills.**”
3. **Ephesians 4:** Christ **gave** (to the church) apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers —for **equipping the saints** (not just men).
4. **Case study—Acts 21:9:** Philip’s **four prophetess daughters**—explicit New Testament example of women exercising **prophetic ministry**.

Point: The Spirit is the **giver**; the church is the **steward**—we dare not restrict what God **distributes**.

4) Application

1) Christological lens:

If **Jesus** disciples, commissions, and receives ministry from women, the church should **reflect Jesus**, not override Him with selective readings.

2) Pneumatological authority:

The **Spirit** gives gifts and power; the church recognizes fruit and faithfulness, not **gender**.

3) Missional urgency:

Like the Samaritan woman, some of the most **effective evangelists** the Lord uses are women. The harvest calls for **every** worker.

4) Integrity in interpretation:

We accept the collective masculine as **inclusive** for salvation (“he who believes”)—we should read gifting texts with the **same consistency**.

5) Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus' affirmation of **Mary at His feet** teach us about women's discipleship and future teaching?
2. Why is it significant that **women** were the **first heralds** of the resurrection? How should that inform church practice today?
3. How does **Pentecost** (Acts 2) answer debates about who may prophesy or minister?
4. Where have we allowed tradition to trump the **Spirit's distribution** of gifts? What needs to change?

6) Personal Reflection & Prayer

- **Search Me:** Am I resisting the **Spirit's gifting** in my life—or in others—because of preconceived roles?
- **Availability:** “Holy Spirit, I yield to Your call—**use me** however You will.”
- **Intercession:** “Lord, help me honor and make room for every gift You've placed in Your body—women and men.”

7) Sticky Statement

“The Spirit calls, sends, and gives gifts without a gender filter.”

8) Memory Verse:

“In Christ there is neither male nor female... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28

9)Notes: