

False or Wrong Prophets

A man or woman of God can be wrong and will be from time to time. This should not be a surprise to anyone. No man has perfect doctrine. Only Jesus did. No man has complete revelation, only Jesus did. God is working and moving through imperfect people who, though they are born again, have souls and flesh that could hinder or even sabotage the flow of God's power and what He wants to do.

God has never had a perfect vessel to use, and you are not going to be the first one. He uses us in spite of us, rarely because of us. Even on our best day, in our own selves, we still come short. Only Jesus has qualified us.

The Word of God has lots of warnings against false prophets. Let's look deeper and see what that would mean.

[15] Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves

- These false prophets were wolves in sheep's clothing.
- They were fakes.
- They were wolves, not sheep.
- Wolves come to kill and eat the sheep, not protect them.
- Sheep is a term used to refer to believers.

Jesus was warning us about them because they were misleading people into entering through the wide gate and the broad way.

In Matthew 7:15-23, Jesus' warning was not against wrong prophets, but **false prophets**.

False prophets do exist. However, because one misses it, it does not make them a false prophet. There is a difference between a false prophet and a wrong prophet or teacher. The false prophet is intentionally deceiving, using, and preying on the people for personal benefit.

And in many, if not all cases, is not born again and has no relationship with the Lord, whereas the wrong teacher is simply having a knowledge problem, while maybe still wrong—in all their sincerity, their heart is right, but the mind is wrong. It still causes damage to minister or lead from a place of lack of knowledge. People do perish when a wrong teacher is running things, but God can and has used a wrong teacher—not a false teacher, to advance His kingdom.

- Wrong teachers do not draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:30).
- They do not sow doubt, confusion, and division.

We will examine some folks from the Word who were wrong, yet not false.

Peter

- a) Matthew 16:17,22-23 ^[17] *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.* ^[22] *Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.* ^[23] *But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*
 - i) Peter, after receiving a powerful revelation from the Father, was very wrong in the following verses. He was opposing Jesus going to the cross to the point that Jesus had to rebuke him—the Satan that was speaking through him. Notice it says Jesus said unto Peter. Peter had allowed Satan to use him as a vessel, and the rebuke was for both.
- b) John 18:10-11 *Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. [11] Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*
 - i) Peter did not stop at what happened in Matthew 16. He went on to cut off Malchus' ear again in opposition to Jesus being taken by the band of soldiers. Peter was wrong again, but not false.
 - ii) He went on to curse and deny the Lord. Peter was wrong, but not false. The Lord later restored him and used him mightily.

Was Peter a false prophet, false disciple, phony teacher? Of course not! He was just a wrong one—very wrong on many occasions.

We need to be careful not to overly criticize ministers and call them false preachers of the Devil if they do stupid stuff. What does that make you when you yourself are wrong? Are you too of the Devil? Are you a false prophet? False believer?

Apollos

Acts 18:24-26 *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. [25] This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. [26] And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

- a) Apollos was a serious man of God.
 - i) He was instructed in the way of the Lord.
 - ii) Fervent in the Spirit
 - iii) Spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord.

- b) He missed one thing:
 - i) He knew only the baptism of John. His revelation was incomplete. Was Apollos a false teacher?

Paul

- a) Acts 15:36-39 *And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. [37] And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. [38] But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. [39] And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;*

- i) Paul was in contention so sharp between him and Barnabas. This can be taken by some to say, a prophet—a real prophet cannot behave like this. If he does, he is false, right? Wrong!
 - ii) Being wrong does not mean you are not a man of God.
- b) Romans 9:1-3 *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, [2] That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. [3] For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*
 - i) Paul wished that he could be accursed so that his brethren would be saved. This sounds like a noble statement, but it is very damn. He was elevating himself to a place that only Jesus occupies.

Elijah

1 Kings 19:13-14 *And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? [14] And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

- a) Romans 11:1-4
- b) Elijah was a classic example of a prophet used mightily by God, but he was wrong on some things. Here, he thought the Lord had no one else left but him. Elijah was deceived. He was wrong. Being wrong does not mean he was a false prophet. He was a wrong prophet in some things, but not a false prophet.
- c) Prophets hidden by Obadiah
 - i) 1 Kings 18:3-4,13 *[3] And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly: [4] For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) [13] Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an*

hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

Christ is preached

- a) Philippians 1:15-18 [15] *Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: [16] The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: [17] But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. [18] What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*
- i) We have been given a reason to rejoice. Some have criticized Justin Bieber, Kanye West, R. Kelly, and many more public figures, but the truth is of Christ is preached even amidst their controversies; He can use that to draw people to the light.
 - ii) All these guys may not have renewed their minds, but that doesn't make them false, but wrong.

Below is a good comparison between Bad Teaching Vs False Teaching, partly courtesy of Barry Bennett

a) Wrong teaching subjects by Wrong prophets

- i) God is in control of everything
- ii) God allows bad things or causes bad things.
- iii) Sickness can be God's will.
- iv) God is judging our nation because of our sin

b) False teachings by false prophets

They are usually lone rangers, they are accountable to no one, oppose authority, sow discord and division, and their teachings are false

- i) No hell, no sin
- ii) Universalism—Every man is saved, or everyone will ultimately be saved.
- iii) The Bible is not God's Word
- iv) Divinity of Jesus (Jesus is not God)
- v) No sowing and reaping in grace
- vi) Jesus did not die physically. He died spiritually
- vii) Question the authenticity of the Bible
- viii) Deny Deity

Characteristics of false prophets as seen in 2 Peter 2, which warns that there shall be false prophets among you.

- Bring in damnable heresies privily. They do not do this publicly.
- Denying the Lord
- Bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- Many shall follow their pernicious ways: By reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- Covetous
- Feign words
- Make merchandise of you
- Whose judgment lingered not
- Their damnation slumbered not.

Evil Fruits

We were also told how to know them. This is talking about how we shall know the false prophets—by their fruits—evil fruits/bad fruits.

- a) The word “evil” doesn’t always mean demonic. It can also mean “bad or corrupt” (as used in this passage). We all know that fruits can’t be demon possessed in a way the word evil has come to mean in our present day and age.
- b) Because they bring forth corrupt or evil fruit, they will be hewn down and cast into the lake of fire. We all know the lake of fire is for **unbelievers**, not believers. We can also conclude that these false prophets were not believers.
- c) Good fruit that one needs to bring forth, or else they are cast into the lake of fire, is a relationship with Jesus, which begins by believing on Him. Those who have not believed in the Lord have no **relationship with Him** and do not have or aren’t bringing forth **good fruit**.
 - i) Relationship with the Lord by believing on Him = Good fruit.
- d) Some people take fruit to mean:
 - i) Miracles performed
 - ii) Number of the following congregants or churches

- iii) Size of their ministry
- iv) Money
- v) Major movements. Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, the Jesuits, and many more have turned out to become major movements; yet they are false. **That's right, I said it!** If you are surprised, I have more for you. I have written a book to address these movement fallacies.

All these things that people run after can be artificial, if not superficial.

But all these can be faked and staged. There's got to be a better definition of fruit that is not based on big numbers, money, and wealth.

Let me submit to you what the fruit is based on the principle of Scripture interpreting Scripture.

a) General Fruit

- i) Believing on Jesus that He died for your sins and God raised Him up from the dead. This is the general fruit.
- ii) Once we eat the general fruit, then we can bring forth the specific fruit which others eat.

b) Specific Fruit

- i) Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
- ii) Notice:
 - o It's not talking about what many call fruit. It's a character. Huge difference.
 - o If you are walking in these, then you are one heck of a fruity person. No tree eats its fruit.
 - o This is how we measure fruitfulness. To the degree that we walk in the fruit of the Spirit is to the degree that we are fruitful.

- If fruit is just size, money, and numbers—then a lot of believers are not fruitful. But we know it's not true. Believers are fruitful and have the ability to bring forth this specific fruit, just like the preacher.
- If fruit is not the external things, then there is no boasting

The end of the false prophets

These passages then go on into those crucial verses after telling us how they are to be known.

Lord, Lord

Don't be carried away even if they say Lord, Lord. Saying Lord is not what would grant them access to His Kingdom of Heaven, it is doing the will of the Father.

These false prophets will confess; Lord, Lord, but does it mean anything?

Confessing the Lord or saying the name Jesus does not mean anything if one has not believed in their heart that God raised Him from the dead. I have seen on the internet believers trying to interview some celebrities (Elon Musk), and they are focused on getting them to confess Jesus, and once they do, there is a celebration in the studios. Nothing can be further from the truth! Confessing Jesus ≠ believing on Him.

- A. Romans 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- a) The key point being made here is **not** confessing but **believing**. One must believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, then they shall be saved.
 - b) Notice it does not say believe in your heart in Jesus or the Lord Jesus, although it sounds right. Also, this does not say believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord or believe Jesus as Lord, but believe in your heart. What should you believe? That God raise Him (Jesus) from the dead, and thou shall be saved.
 - c) This also does not say that you confess with your mouth that ~~Jesus is Lord~~, but **the Lord Jesus**. There is a difference. Confessing that "Jesus is Lord" appears to mean

that one is making Jesus Lord, yet He is already Lord regardless. On the other hand, confessing "the Lord Jesus" indicates that Jesus is already Lord, so we confess and receive Him—believing and acknowledging Him as the Lord Who He already is. We are not making Him Lord. Our confession is not what makes Him the Lord Jesus because He has always been and is Lord—the Lord Jesus.

- d) This does not say that once one confesses the Lord Jesus, then they shall be saved. They have to do the believing in their heart first.
- e) The passages then go on to give us a reason why we need to believe with our hearts, not our heads or mouths.
 - i) Have you ever wondered why the heart?
 - ii) **Believing is of the heart. The heart is the place of beliefs.** Confessing is of the mouth.
 - o The head is a place of thoughts, not beliefs.
 - iii) You cannot confess in your heart the same way you cannot believe in or with your mouth. Soon or later, when one believes something in their heart, they will confess it.
 - iv) Confessing it does not and cannot cause heart belief. We need to confess from a place of having believed on the Lord—from our heart, not our mouth. Huge difference!
- f) The Word does not teach that we need to ask the Lord to forgive us our sins to be born again. Although many teach and believe this, you can't find that in the Word.

Although it does teach us to confess our sins to receive cleansing from the Lord (1 John 1:9)—this specific confession is not for salvation. Salvation (being born again) does not come by confessing our sins, but by believing.

Believing what?

The Word simply teaches us to believe in our hearts that God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead, and we shall be saved. When we do this, we have humbled ourselves and have as well acknowledged that we are sinners. When we believe, we instantly get healed.

- B. In Mark 16:16, *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

The key point being made is not water baptism but believing on Jesus. **He that believes not is damned, not he that is not water baptized.** Well, I guess the man on the cross who never got baptized never made it to Paradise, which Jesus promised him, right? Wrong! He made it. How do I know? Jesus' word.

But brother Rich..... Wait!

- C. 1 John 4:15 says... *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*

a) See? All you must do is simply confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Right? Wrong!

i) Context teaches that one must know the Lord and the Lord dwelling in Him. These confessing follows knowing Him and Him dwelling in you, which all point to having believed on Him.

ii) 1 John 4:1-3 *1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

b) Look at the previous verses 1 John 4:13-14 *13 Hereby know we that we **dwell in him**, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*

i) Verse 14 reveals that there was already faith or belief that Jesus was the savior of the world. Again, simply confessing does not cause God to dwell in you. It is believing on Jesus that brings us into that place of God dwelling in us.

1 John 4:15 says... *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*

- John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*
- John 14:17 *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
- Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you*
- Romans 8:9 *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

Confess = Homologeō (Greek). This comes from two Greek words: Homo—which means the same, and Logos—which means something said. Together, this word means: Saying the same thing. Saying the same thing as the Lord. We need to be in agreement with the Lord not only in what we believe, but also in what we say.

Confessing is more than what we say. It is rather a reflection of our heart posture and disposition. You can confess without using the word “confess.”

Another passage we can look at about confession is 1 John 1:9-10. This is speaking of confessing our sins to receive cleansing. Again, the same Greek word is used here.

Will of the Father

What does it mean to do the will of the Father?

- a) Matthew 12:50 *For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*
- b) John 6:39-40 *39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. [40] And*

this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

- i) **The Father's will is believing on Jesus the Son.** These false prophets were saying Lord, Lord but had not believed on Jesus. Their sayings amounted to nothing.
- ii) These passages reveal and prove that these false prophets were not born again.

Prophesied

They prophesied. What a big deal! No, it's not. Satan can prophesy. They cast out devils? Big deal! Miracles are not the only acid test of fruit. Character and integrity come into play more than miracles. This does not mean they were inspired by God.

Acts 19 speaks of the seven sons of Sceva. They had been casting out demons before, but we all know they had no relationship with the Lord, and if they were to show up and point to their demon casting out, they would be rejected.

2 Corinthians 11:11-15 *[11] Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth. [12] But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. [13] For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. [14] And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. [15] Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

- a) Not only do we have false prophets, but we also see that there are false apostles. These are deceitful workers, and they do transform themselves into apostles of Christ. The point is they can and do fake it. We should not be deceived.
- b) Satan transforms himself into an Angel of light, yet he is darkness and of darkness.

I never knew you

This is one of the most misused passages in the Word. People say that some believers or preachers will stand before the Lord and He will say to them, **"Get away from me, I never knew you."** People say this because they see these people living an ungodly life. What they do not

know is that this was speaking about false prophets who were not believers. A believer living an ungodly life will not be rejected by the Lord. The Lord does know them. They are His children if they believed on Him and He will not say to them, "I never knew you", if He did.

Jesus said to the false prophets that He never knew them. Notice the words NEVER! These false prophets had never been in a relationship with the Lord. **There had never been a time when the Lord knew them.**

The Lord knows those who are His. He knows all His children—by name, and He knows everything about them inside out. He even knows the number of the hairs on our head (Matthew 10:30). That is some serious detail. Wow!

- a) Acts 9:11 *And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,*

The Lord knew the address of Paul. He knew where he was. He knew:

- i) The street address by the name of Straight.
 - ii) He knew the house of Judas.
 - iii) He knew Paul was in there.
 - iv) He also knew where Paul was from. In case there were others called by the same name, the Lord made a clear distinction to Saul of Tarsus.
 - v) He also knew what he was doing. He was praying.
- b) Revelation 13:8 *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*
 - i) Notice that our names are written in the Book of Life of the Lamb. We are known by God.
 - c) Isaiah 43:1 *But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*

2 Corinthians 6:9 *As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;*

Acts 19:11-17 [11] And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: [12] So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. [13] Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. [14] And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. [15] And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? [16] And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. [17] And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

- a) For believers, we are not only known by God, but by Satan because we are a destruction to his efforts and kingdom of darkness. This doesn't add anything to us, but we are known by our adversary. Being a child of God puts us in opposition to the devil.

You are known on earth, under the earth, and in heaven. Satan will be careful not to mess with us.

- b) Satan kills his own. **He hurts them (John 10:10)**. Trusting the devil is one of the dumbest things one could ever do. He not only hurt believers; he hurts his own.

Satan does not know and does not care for his own, even though they work for him. Look how he treated the *seven sons of one Sceva*. He used them and dumped them. **This should cause anyone to quit serving Satan.**