

Is receiving a prophetic word fortunetelling?

Certainly not. The ministry of the prophet is both Old Testament and New Testament. Prophets in the New and Old Testaments were not fortunetellers and neither are today's New Covenant prophets. God continues to speak through prophets as He has always done. Christian prophets are not telling fortunes. They are speaking the word of the Lord as it is given to them by the Holy Spirit in the same way that New Covenant prophets did in the New Testament. The Apostle Peter says this of prophecy:

For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:21)

Prophecy and New Covenant prophets are God's ideas. We didn't invent prophets, God did. Christian people who believe in New Covenant prophets are in a strong harmony with the New Testament. We also take it seriously that Christ taught that prophets would be judged by their fruit not their gifts. Christ said:

"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes*, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. (Matthew 7:15-20)

We understand "fruit" to mean "character" and the related "outcome of their character." The prophets that we associate with are all very focused on Christ, the Bible and preach the Good News. They are "born again" believers of good Christian character and beliefs. We would never invite someone who had "bad fruit." We do know that this will not satisfy those who are being used of the devil to accuse.

Christ Himself was criticized by the Pharisees as doing supernatural deeds by the power of the devil. His response was:

"And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished!" (Mark 3:24-26)

We make a similar response. If prophecy encourages, exhorts, comforts and directs believers in a godly way but is coming from the devil, then the devil has lost his mind and is destroying his own kingdom. If prophecy is coming from "born again" people who believe that Christ is the light of the world, love the Scriptures and are committed to the Church and yet is coming from the devil, it does appear that the devil has risen up against himself. No! This is the good word of God coming through New Covenant prophets to encourage, exhort and comfort His children.

How does prophecy differ from fortunetelling? Prophecy comes through committed and gifted believers. True prophecy does not contradict the New Testament. Christian prophets are committed to Christ and the Good News. They would be against witchcraft in all its forms. Christian prophets speak as the Spirit gives them utterance.

Fortunetelling does not come from committed and gifted believers. Fortunetelling will contradict the New Testament. Fortunetellers "read" people. They give "readings." They are not ministering prophecy through the Holy Spirit but getting things likely from demonic activity. They are not likely to be against witchcraft.

Finally, what is the true nature of fortunetelling? The fortuneteller is obviously a demonic counterfeit of the Christian prophet that is designed to confuse people about the Christian prophet and discredit this amazingly wonderful ministry. Don't fall for the counterfeit. Don't fall for a false accusation. Hold fast to what the New Testament teaches. Stay open to prophecy coming from godly Christian prophets and other believers.