

## **QUESTION: When people say, "I feel God is telling me you need to...," is that right for others to think they can prophesy your life?**

**ANSWER:** God gets blamed for a lot of things that He really has nothing to do with. Some people are "busybodies" in other peoples' lives, and if they are Christians, **it sounds so much more spiritual to say "God told me"** to tell you this, than just to be honest and realize they are meddling in someone else's business. Jesus said, "Judge not, lest you be judged. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank (log) in your own eye?" He is talking about the kind of "judging" that involves going around **trying to "fix" everybody else's life**, when your own life is still messed up! Notice, Jesus says **FIRST** remove the plank or log from your own eye, and **THEN you will see clearly** to remove the speck from your brother's eye. That means there **IS** a time and place for one to "see clearly" and judge someone else's life, but Galatians 6:1-4 says that only **those who are "spiritually mature"** should try to restore a brother who has fallen into sin, and that it should be done in a spirit of humility and **not in pride**. Unfortunately, I have seen all too often, that people who fall into the "God told me this and that" habit, become **full of pride**. Also, be careful, because when you start **seeing nothing but the faults in others**, it is usually God's "wake up call" that you need to look at yourself, and work on your own issues.

- **Matthew 7:1-5** "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank (log) in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck out of your eye,' and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! **First remove the plank from your own eye**, and then you will **see clearly to remove the speck** out of your brother's eye."
- **I Timothy 5:13** "And besides, they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle, but also **gossips and busybodies**, saying things which they ought not."
- **I Peter 4:15** "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a **busybody in other peoples' matters.**"

So what should we do when there is a **REAL NEED** to restore a brother or sister who has fallen into sin? When it comes to **judging another Christian**, God is more **concerned about the ATTITUDE of the person judging** - are you seeking to **HELP** that person, and **RESTORE** them to a holy walk with the Lord? I Cor. 14:26b says "Let all things be done for edification." Edification means **BUILDING UP**, so **ALL** things, including **JUDGING SIN**, must be done for the building up of the church, or of individuals, not for tearing down. Ephesians 4:15-16 says we are to "speak the truth in **LOVE**" so that we may **GROW UP** to be like Christ, and this "growth of the body will be for the **EDIFYING** of itself (the church) in **LOVE.**"

- **Galatians 6:1-4** "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, **you who are spiritual restore** such a one **in a spirit of gentleness (humility)**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone **thinks himself to be something (PRIDE)**, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another (not in comparing yourself to others)."
- **Romans 14:10-13** "But why do you judge your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.....So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God**. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but determine this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."
- **I Corinthians 5:9-12** "I wrote to you in my epistle (letter) not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean the sexually immoral people of

this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company (fellowship) with **anyone NAMED a brother (calling themselves a Christian)** , who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a DRUNKARD, or an extortioner - not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with JUDGING those also who are outside (non-believers)? Do you not JUDGE those who are inside (in the church)?"

"Do you not JUDGE those who are inside?" means "Aren't you SUPPOSED to JUDGE?" or in other words, **it is our RESPONSIBILITY to JUDGE those who are in the church IF they are committing sin!** But when it comes to **something that the Bible does NOT say is a SIN**, and it is just a private conviction of one Christian, that is when another Christian should NOT judge that person, but just leave it up to God. If it does not relate to basic doctrines of the faith, we should NOT become argumentative and divide over side issues such as what foods we eat, what holidays we observe, and other minor things not related to salvation (see Romans, chapter 14).

- **Romans 14:4** "Who are you **to judge another's servant?** To his own Master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand."

**For more information on the real, biblical gift of prophecy, see study - "Prophecy and Visions According to the Word of God".**