

# I do Not Want to Presume to Speak for God!

## Addressing The Authority of The Believer

By B. D. Tate

I have heard a disturbing statement from some politicians when questioned about God issues (such as whether or not we can determine which side God is on in war or when does life begins, etc.): ***“I do not want to presume to speak for God.”*** In the case of Abraham Lincoln he answered (concerning the Civil War) it wasn't an issue of deciding which side God is on but figuring out how to be on God's side. Regardless, I have heard this statement trickling down into our meetings as well; therefore, as a pastor I want to address it.

My first response to such a statement is that the enemy of our souls wants us to shut up. More than that, the enemy wants us to never speak in God's name or in His authority. That was what was so powerful about Jesus:

John 7:46 the officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

And,

Mt. 7:29 for “He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

What gave Jesus such authority? One might argue it was because Jesus is God. That is certainly true yet the reason Jesus came was to be one of us, live like us, and show us the way, the truth, and the life—as an example (Phil. 2:5-8 & I Pet. 2:21). This example includes the fact that Jesus speaks because **he knows**

**God.** He is not presuming to speak *for* God; but because He knows God wants Him to speak, He speaks.

There is the *other side* of presuming, this is the side that does not want to over step, or add or take from God's word. If someone is being cautious, respectful, and reverent in motivation and does not want to speak for God for these reasons that is understandable—but **it is missing a great deal.** The enemy would want to undercut our authority in Christ so that we do not exercise it. If he can convince us that it is not our place to speak for God then he wins. **This is the great danger of accepting this idea that we are not supposed to speak for God.**

If we are stopped in our spiritual tracks by the reasoning that speaking for God is *off limits* or if done is a very dangerous thing; then **we are without power.** For it is the very Word of God in our mouth being spoken **that releases God's power** and will into our lives (Rom. 12:6). If I will not speak for fear of presuming to speak for God then:

- Then do not prophesy!
- Then we will not be obeying God!
- We will be robbed of our inheritance!
- We will be stolen from our gift of grace in His Authority!

If I do not speak for God then **prophecy** which is inspired speaking empowered by the Holy Spirit, *lays dormant.* If I do not prophesy God's word then I am disobeying God's will for my life. **God commands us to prophesy, to speak in His name, to preach, and to share our faith (I Cor.14:1).** Think about this, someone prophesied to us when they shared the gospel of salvation. **We would not be saved today if someone didn't speak for God to us.** The great blessing of salvation continues in all areas of our life as we acknowledge everything that is in us in Christ Jesus (Philemon 1:6). That acknowledging includes speaking, sharing, preaching, and teaching the Word of God. As sons and daughters of the Most High, we have been given the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead (Rom. 8:11); with this Spirit

we believe and because we believe we speak (II Cor. 4:13). God's grace flows and manifests in our lives as we are willing to accept it and speak it into our lives. God's grace will lie dormant in many ways if we keep our mouth closed. Simply said our faith is activated when we speak (Mark 11:23).!

**Think about this truth.** No one is the possessor of an original thought, idea, plan, or agenda. Every good thing, thought, idea, or plan comes from God (James 1:7). **In essence we are thinking God's thoughts after Him.** All bad, evil, or wrong ideas or thoughts are the perversion of God's thoughts. Humanity is not the source of anything we are channels, vessels, conduits in everything we see, say or do. Therefore, right now whenever we make statements of opinion, facts or truths, we are speaking *for* someone else!

There is God's agenda or the world's agenda. The source of the world is Satanic (II Cor. 4:4). When we speak assertively about anything, what we believe, say, or do, it comes from another source. **We are to examine our words and deeds to determine whom are we representing.** What influence has us that we believe and speak what we do? In applying this understanding then look at the statement: *"I do not want to presume to speak for God!"*

When someone speaks about not wanting to presume to speak for God where does this idea come from? Is it piety and humility? Is it righteousness and truth? By who's command or whose source does this idea come from? By whose will is this idea being put forth?

## **Does God's Word Tell Us Not to Presume to speak for Him?**

In the Old Testament and New God warns us about *false prophets* presuming to speak for God. In fact God says they prophesied lies, misrepresenting the truth and distorting God's Word (Jer. 23:26). Jesus said:

Mt 7:15 “Beware of **false prophets**, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Mt 24:11 “Then many **false prophets** will rise up and deceive many.

**Certainly false prophets are presuming to speak for God!** Anyone sensitive to the authority of God would not want to speak falsely for God. There is an application of this statement that *could or would* come from God; when it is addressing false prophets. Keep in mind: For there to be false prophets **there must be genuine prophets of God!** Let’s look at false prophets.

### **Who are false prophets?**

Taking a quick survey of scripture the following serves as a list of characteristics attributed to false prophets:

- They look like religious people (Matt. 7:15)
- They talk religiously (Matt. 7:15)
- They speak deceit (truth & lie at the same time) (Matt. 24:11)
- They hang out in religious circles (Matt. 6:5)
- They desire to be heard and admired (Matt. 24:24)
- They want to be spoken well of... (Luke 6:26)
- They teach heresies and deny Christ (2 Pet. 2:1)
- They do not have the spirit of Christ (I John 4:1)

Selfish ambitions, seeking praise and admiration, wanting influence and power, wanting all men to think well of them...at the core motivation of a false prophet is their own agenda and satisfaction. When Satan fell from heaven his heart had embraced the idea *of making himself to be like God*, pride was found in his heart and God removed him (Isa. 14:13). False prophets seek to be in positions of power and influence for their **own agendas**. At the heart of false prophets is pride and self interest. Jesus said we would know them (false prophets) by **their fruits**:

Mt 7:17 “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

Mt 7:18 “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.

### **Where does good fruit come from?**

John 15:4 “Abide in Me, and I in you; As the branch cannot **bear fruit of itself**, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

### **What is good fruit?**

The following would be a solid list of spiritual activities, traits, and motivations that would manifest from abiding in Jesus—good fruit:

- Salvation of souls*—being born again (John 3:16)
- Repentance*—the daily walk of denying self! (Mark 8:34)
- Humility and fruit of the Spirit*: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self control, meekness (Gal. 5:22)
- Submission to the Word of God*—Bible; Jesus is Lord! (Luke 4:4)
- Love neighbor as self; **attitude of service*** (Luke 10:27; Gal. 5:13)
- Love God and seek first His kingdom* (Matt. 6:33)
- Being beyond reproach* and approachable (Col. 1:22)
- Not providing for sin & evil* (Rom. 13:14)
- Resisting temptation* and overcoming the flesh (Gal. 5:16)
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit* (Eph. 5:18)
- Grateful heart*, praise and thanksgiving always to God (1 Th. 5:18)
- Submission and respect for others* (Eph. 5:21)
- No condemnation of people; yet deals righteously with sin* (John 8:11)

Someone speaking for God is not going to lead others into legalism or liberalism; he/she is not going to lead them into condemnation or unconditional freedom. **When anyone is speaking for God it will always be about Jesus with the same mind and attitude described in Phil. 2:5-7** (Jesus emptied himself took on a servants heart, resisted evil and temptations, denied his own life even unto death...let this mind be in us as was in Christ).

As to the matter of whether the man or woman of God should speak for Him; let's continue to consider Jesus.

## **What About Jesus?**

The following verses are typical of what Jesus said about his own life and ministry. If Jesus spoke for God and He is our example then we too should speak for God as He did.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they are life.***

John 7:17 "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether **it is from God or *whether I speak on My own authority.***

John 8:26 "I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; **and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.**"

John 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, **and *that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.***

John 8:38 “**I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.**”

John 12:50 “And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, **whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.**”

Jesus was completely under God’s authority and exemplifies the will of God in all manner of being. In fact, the scripture teaches us that God was pleased to have the full deity manifest in his person.

Col 1:19 “For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell...”

**Therefore, we can confidently see that Jesus was commissioned by God to speak on God’s behalf.** Maybe it is better said that God chose Jesus to speak to us *through Him*. Jesus in turn then *commissions his disciples* to go in his name. The Great Commission by Jesus is for us to go into all the world and preach, teaching, and speaking under His power (Matt. 28:20). It is God in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit speaking through us! We aren’t speaking for God, outside of Him, next to Him, but actually being led by the Spirit to speak God’s Word. **God is literally speaking through us—that is the game plan!**

## **There is One Who Would Not Want Us to Speak!**

The religious Pharisees and the Sanhedrin ordered the disciples not to speak in His name! They were **not** inspired by God the Father to admonish the disciples. Rather the inspiration for this command is from *Satan*.

Ac 4:18 And they called them and commanded them not to **speak** at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

The disciple's response:

Ac 4:20 "**For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**"

And they prayed,

Ac 4:29 "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to **Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,**

The key here is that which they have seen and heard. In our case that which we have experienced from the Word of God! It is what we have heard in the Spirit and **seen in our hearts by revelation from God! We don't speak from our own authority but like Jesus it is what God inspires, shows and reveals to us in our spirit by the Holy Spirit.**

## **Paul the Apostle Taught Us in These Scriptures:**

1Co 2:6 However, **we speak wisdom** among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

1Co 2:7 **But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

1Co 2:13 **These things we also speak**, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1Th 2:4 But as we have been approved by **God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.**

**Tit 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

**1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies,** that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

However let us not speak for God as the world does; or use our speech to speak like the world. It is spiritual adultery for us to be speaking for someone else when God made us to speak for Him!

**1Jo 4:5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world,** and the world hears them.

## **Be Careful Who You Are Listening To!**

We must be careful to realize that we are surrounded and flooded by the wisdom of the world. Our views are influenced and tainted by the sources we listen to and take in. We are to take heed to whom we listen because it will get into our hearts and become our world view (Rom. 10:17). If we are listening to sources that are not subject to God, consider Christianity with disrespect, do not see the world from God's vantage point—the Word of God; there is no question that we are feeding from the wrong trough. Even if our source is trying to be objective, trying to present the facts as they see them, it is impossible for that source **not to be biased**. For the things of the Spirit are in opposition to the things of the flesh and vice versa; there is a spiritual war taking place and no one is neutral.

Rom. 8:5 **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 **For to be carnally minded is death**, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

7 Because the carnal **mind is enmity against God**; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

To claim an unbiased opinion would be to take oneself outside of the realm of truth. For no one is without bias the question then becomes which is the **best bias to be biased with?** Even the facts and/or statistics can be and are manipulated. Depending how a fact is presented influences its meaning. For example: “Is the glass half empty or full?” The answer is both depending upon the perspective of the beholder. Both perspectives are true; yet they present completely different meanings. Beware then, that facts can be controlled, ignored, or highlighted according to ones world view.

## **We Are To Prophecy (To Publically Speak For God By The Inspiration Of The Holy Spirit!)**

Ac 2:17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, **That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophecy**, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

1Co 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, **but especially that you may prophecy**.

1Co 14:31 **For you can all prophecy one by one**, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

1Co 14:39 Therefore, brethren, **desire earnestly to prophecy**, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

II Cor. 4:13 And since **we have the same spirit of faith**, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," **we also believe and therefore speak**,

## **We Cannot Get Saved Unless We Speak!**

Salvation is made real to us when we accept it and affirm it with our words and deeds. We believe in our hearts **and confess with our mouth—speaking the truth according to the will of God**. Like a sales deal that must be confirmed with a “yes, I will buy...” so our salvation is not truly established until we say “yes, I confess, I call out, I accept, I surrender, I give my life, Jesus is Lord, I am saved!”

Rom. 10: 6 **But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way**, "Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’" (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*)  
7 or, "‘Who will descend into the abyss?’" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

8 But what does it say? "**The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart**" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

## Consider These Truths:

We are His Ambassadors (II Cor. 5:20); His Representatives: His Body (I Cor. 12:27), we are to go in his name!

Luke 24:47 “and that repentance and remission of sins should be **preached in His name** to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, ***do all in the name of the Lord*** Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**There is this Warning: Do not add nor take from His Word! That would be PRESUMPTION!**

De 12:32 “Whatever I command you, **be careful to observe it**; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Pr 30:6 **Do not add to His words**, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Re 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

We are not to speak *falsely* about God’s word or will; we are not to add to it or take from it that would **be presumption**; but we are to **BE CAREFUL TO OBSERVE** his word and speak it!

**What Does This Mean?**

If we are His ambassadors wouldn't it be silly for us not to speak? The ambassador for the U.S. to any foreign country visiting the leaders of that country and when asked about U.S. policy answers by saying, ***"I do not want to presume to speak for my country!"*** Isn't that exactly why ambassadors are sent? They represent and speak for the country **ACCORDING TO THE NATION'S POLICIES!** Likewise, we speak what the Word says, what the Holy Spirit directs, but it is our voice speaks!

### **What Does This Mean?**

If we are His representatives wouldn't it be silly for us not to speak? As a sales representative calling on customers and when asked about the products the company sells the representative says, ***"I do not want to presume to speak for my company!"*** Isn't that exactly why representatives are sent? They represent the company and present the products speaking, teaching, sharing what the products can do and what the company will offer. Sometimes a sales person might add or detract from the company line and when they do it usually means a reprimand or an apology. **Yet, sales persons can present with great confidence and authority WITHIN the given authority of their company!** Likewise, Christians have **great confidence and authority to present, claim, stand, teach, preach, and speak in Jesus' name and power.**

### **What Does This Mean?**

If we are His body wouldn't it be silly for us not to speak? As the temple of the Holy Spirit and a witness for Jesus in the world, when someone asks about the truth, the way, and the life in Christ (that is the Word of God for this world), is that person to answer, ***"I do not want to presume to speak for God!"*** Isn't that exactly what God is after? **As the body of Christ in this world God wants to speak through us to reach the lost, save, heal,**

**deliver, guide, direct, help, etc.!** It is the devil who wants God’s people to refrain and to not speak—especially not in Jesus’ name!

### **An Analogy:**

Have you ever been in conversation with someone and your spouse or best friend in life becomes the subject (although they are not present) and a question arises about what they might think or do? Did you ever answer for them? Isn’t that presumption? Or did you answer with confidence and authority because YOU KNOW THEM? It is true that we might get it wrong but most likely we’d get it “spot on!” We are to speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. There may be times when in our enthusiasm we might be wrong a bit; but regardless, God’s desire is for us to obey him and speak on his behalf. If we are wrong in speaking for God we have God’s grace, forgiveness, and his mercy to repent, try again, and go forth. As we learn to be bold we might miss it here or there; but God’s game plan is for us to learn to hear God’s voice, speak in His name, come under His authority and thereby operate in that authority.

### **Conclusion:**

We are to speak to ourselves the Word of God (Eph. 5:19); speak to our families; speak in our homes, offices, neighborhoods, churches, and relationships so that His Will can be manifest! We are the body of Christ and His prophets! The whole body of Christ (all the members), are **now prophets**, a holy nation, and royal priesthood before Him. The Spirit of prophesy is Christ and Christ dwells in us! Therefore in His name and boldness of the Holy Spirit speak, prophesy, command, teach, preach, share, pray...

1Pe 2:9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a **holy nation**, **His own special people, that**

**you may proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Col. 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles:  
**which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**

Rev. 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**"

**We need to put two and two together and realize what God has done** through His grace and through the cross for anyone who is born again! Christ is in us and the testimony of Christ is the spirit of prophecy, we are a royal priesthood to declare (speak) his praises and command his will be done on earth as it is in heaven—restoring true dominion at least in our personal world.

Re 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and **by the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death." We are to speak in His name!

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