

# Mike Bickle: Don't 'Systematize' Spiritual Experiences

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially **prophecy**. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, **encouraging** and comfort" (1 Cor. 14:1-3, NIV).

There is the natural tendency in some of us to try to systematize spontaneous experiences. We sometimes think that if we discover the method-key, then we can control it. If people are successful in their **ministry** (or only appear to be), then they might start using the methods to manipulate people as well.

People who are perceived as **anointed** men or women of God possess a potential for the power of suggestion. Whether it is being suggested that people will fall down, get a prophetic word or **speak in tongues**, this is manipulative power of suggestion.

Ministers with power and **prophetic** giftings who are not in relationship with a balanced local church team often allow their method-as-power tendencies to dominate their ministries. It is simply much more difficult to get away with manipulation and pretense when you relate closely to a balanced team of people who live in the real world.

The gifts and manifestations are given as the Holy Spirit desires.

**Prayer Starter**

Holy Spirit, I love the spontaneity of Your revelations to man. Keep me from manipulation or predictability in the use of the **spiritual gifts** You have given to me. And cause me to allow others the liberty to express Your words whenever and however You choose to use them.

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