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# Your Sons and Daughters Will Prophecy

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**D**oes the mention of *children* in Acts 2:39 mean *young* children? That, as we learned in the previous article, was not the point Peter was making. He wanted them to see that the promise was for the next generation—and the next and the next without limit. However, if we go back to the story of Samuel, the fact that he did not yet know the Lord in a personal way tells us that God was bringing him into that personal knowledge so he could give God's message and speak for God. If children are to be used by the Holy Spirit, they must be old enough to come into the personal knowledge of Jesus as Lord and Savior, so they can open their hearts and minds to God the Holy Spirit.

was older, she found the same woman who remembered and confirmed that to her. Other children were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. My sister was baptized in the Spirit when she was eight years old and had a marvelous experience.



## The Gift Is for Children

In the Azusa Street revival in 1906 in Los Angeles, California, my mother was eleven years old when she was baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. People were coming from all over the world to that meeting. An African-American woman from one of the French-speaking islands told her she was speaking in French. When my mother

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter took speaking in tongues as the equivalent of the prophesying promised in Joel. Today many children are receiving the Holy Spirit in our Sunday Schools, churches, children's revivals, and children's camps. If they are old enough to understand what it means to come to the Lord and be saved, they are certainly old enough to seek and receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

## Prophecy Is for Encouragement

In what other ways can children prophecy (other than speaking in tongues)? We must remember that prophecy in the Bible is speaking *for God to* people "for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort" (1 Corinthians 14:3).

It is not primarily a matter of prophesying the future. It is *forthtelling*, rather than *foretelling*. A good example is found in Acts 15:32 where "Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers."

We should encourage children and young people to be open to the Holy Spirit, not only to be baptized in the Spirit, but to be used by Him. He can use them to encourage and strengthen one another spiritually, as well as to give comfort and encouragement in the midst of the difficulties and temptations of the world around them.

## Prophecy Is for Witnessing

Remember, too, the Spirit comes to make us Christ's witnesses (Acts 1:8). Children and young people are most open to

