

PROPHECY AND PRAYER

How to understand and share prophetic words

OLD TESTAMENT FRAMEWORK

Prophet – appointed by God
to the people

“I will pour out my Spirit”

- prophesy
- dream
- visions
- men & women
- young & old

Joel 2:28-30

Change...

- From particular to general
- From some to all people
- Hierarchy to egalitarian
- Limited to abundant (pour)
- Occasional to consistent
- Infrequent to a practice

GIFTS

Manifestation (1 Corinthians 12)

“This is one way the Holy Spirit expresses Himself through the church”

- Dynamic vs static
- Included vs excluded
- Everyone vs some
- Relational vs mechanical

“Prophecy (or any gift) is not an end in itself, it ALWAYS functions for the benefit of others and in the context of the body of Christ.”

HOW TO EXPERIENCE WORD GIFTS

WORDS GIFTS IN SCRIPTURE

Helping others first, define gift second

Scripture Examples

- John 4 – Samaritan woman
- John 11 – death of Lazarus
- Acts 9 – Ananias and Paul

I Corinthians 12:7-11 (a continuum)

- ✓ Knowledge – information revealed by the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Prophecy – revelation of God's heart to a person
- ✓ Wisdom – how to behave or respond in a situation

HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE GOD'S 'VOICE'?

- Practice listening
- Willing to make mistakes
- Humility – “love does not insist”
- Community – offer it to others
- Practice stillness
- Focus on Jesus
- Pay attention to spontaneous thoughts
 - The first thought is the Lord, the next thought is the devil (Quaker saying)
 - spontaneous thoughts can light upon the mind
 - an impression that comes out of nowhere
- Imagination – Both/And

WAYS WE HEAR GOD

Common ways we God communicates during healing prayer

- a. Pictures - “see” what God wants to “say” to us
- b. Inner impressions
- c. Scripture
- d. Compassion
- e. Sympathetic pain
- f. Spontaneous words

seeing

Mental image
Abstract
Body part

hearing

Words
Phrases

feeling

Sync emotions
Feel physical pain

speaking

Words tumble out
Bypass the mind

knowing

Inner sense
Like a 'hunch'

reading

Written on or above

Scripture
Dreams
Visions
Sensation
Scents

WORD EXERCISE

PRACTICE WORDS

HOW TO DISCERN WORD GIFTS

General Principles of Discernment

- **POOR QUESTION** - Is this from God?
- We are to become like Christ (1 Cor 11:1)
- We have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16)
- The Spirit dwells in us (1 Cor 6:19,20)
- Is the **Word Gift** a means to bring the Fruit of the Spirit

Specific Principles of Discernment (1 Cor 12-14)

- Does it edify, build-up, or encourage?
- Does it express love?
- Do the Fruit of the Spirit confirm it?
- Can it be expressed humbly, compassionately, kindly?
- Is it confirmed by others in the faith community? (submitted)
- Is the speaker willing to be responsible & accountable?
- More than 40 mentions



Caution in sharing & receiving

strength of relationship

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WORD GIFTS

HOW TO GIVE WORDS

- Focus on connecting the person receiving to Jesus
- Humility – “love does not insist”
- Community – offer it in the presence of at least one other
- Confidentiality
- Clarity (not a “clear word” but clear about this word)
- Interpret with caution
- Apply with caution
- Instruct or counsel with caution
- Create a positive God-moment for that person
- Be responsible and accountable

HOW TO RECEIVE WORDS

- A single prophetic word does not drive a decision, action, or relationship
- Use it as one piece of understanding how God is at work
- Counsel from your community
- Always in the midst of others (community)
- How does it encourage, build faith, & mend relationships?
- Take responsibility
 - To interpret
 - To apply

HOW TO PASTOR THE PROPHETIC

- Create a community
- Require accountability
- Be flexible
- Be a learner
- Build trust
- Do not be intimidated or overwhelmed