

The gift of Prophecy

Greg Haswell | 12 July 2017

**This is the gift
we encouraged to use and desire
more than any other**

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

6 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction?

1 CORINTHIANS 14:5-6

1 Corinthians 14:12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

1 Corinthians 14:39 Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

Every believer is urged to excel in this manifestation gift.

It is available to any believer who desires it.

Like all gifts given by God, these gifts are to be used wisely and within a framework that is clearly outlined in the scriptures.

Guidelines and Protocols

Guidelines

1. Its about them

Deliver the word courteously and on time

Don't brag, try to appear spiritual or seek attention

How many witnesses would be best for them?

How much detail?

ITS ABOUT THEM, NOT YOU

"The Lord is going to help you with the deep seated fear that has gripped you," it may ease their fear, but also make them feel belittled.

Worse yet, I could say "God wants to deliver you of your cowardice,"

ITS ABOUT THEM, NOT YOU

Guidelines

2. Its always for Edification, Exhortation and Comfort

3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:3-5

Governmental prophetic ministry is for proven ministers in offices in church

You don't want to be stepping into that arena where discipline is taking place - humble me and I will be grieved

ITS ABOUT THEM, NOT YOU

Old Testament prophecy worked in conjunction with the Law

New Testament prophecy works in conjunction with Jesus and His grace

ITS ALWAYS FOR EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION AND COMFORT

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

MATTHEW 11:12-14

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

HEBREWS 1:1-2

Guidelines

3. Keep it simple and clear

Less is more - simple is better - surface more to be desired than enigma

Unspiritual minds are looking for offenses to justify their way out

KEEP IT SIMPLE AND CLEAR

6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? 7 Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? 8 For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? 9 So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:6 -9 NASB

Protocols

1. Submit it (to recipients)

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.
9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-10

To the person receiving it - Act like you know in part and only prophesy a part

I believe the Lord is saying . . . offering you . . . encouraging you with . . . please check this out with mature people you trust / elders

Does any of this make sense to you?

SUBMIT IT TO THE RECIPIENT

Protocols

1. Submit it (to elders)

1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. . . 11 "I am the good shepherd.

JOHN 10:1-2, 7, 11

They watch over people as those who must account

They have walked with those people - the long faithful walk is more important than the short gifted moment - both are necessary

This will often validate your ministry a lot more

SUBMIT IT TO THOSE IN GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

Protocols

1. Submit it (to the body)

29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:29-32

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Protocols

2. Testify where possible

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

GALATIANS 6:6

What part of a story will preserve dignity, highlight God's goodness and make His praise glorious?
Can it inspire others?

TESTIFY WHERE POSSIBLE

Receiving a prophetic word

Record it - Habakkuk 2:2

Review it - 2 Peter 1:19

Pray for it

Fight with it - 1 Timothy 1:18

WHAT TO DO WHEN RECEIVING A PROPHETIC WORD

Is it consistent with Scripture?

Is it consistent with the character of God revealed in the gospel?

Does it strengthen the centrality of Jesus i.e. Does it draw a sincere heart toward or away from Christ?

RECEIVING A PROPHETIC WORD - ASK YOURSELF

Does it confirm what I believe God has been saying to me?

Does it bring strength and unity to the church?
Sometimes however if people are in rebellion the word may seek to bring separation. Even Jesus said that His ministry would bring division sometimes.

Does it edify, encourage, and comfort?

RECEIVING A PROPHETIC WORD - ASK YOURSELF