

Small Group Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “prophet” or “prophecy?”
2. Have you ever had someone tell you that God had given them a “word” to share with you? If so, what happened?
3. Have you ever had any experiences of receiving a word or “sense” from God that proved to be true?
4. Why is prophecy important even for our church today? What do the following Scriptures have to say about this?
 - Ephesians 4:11-13
 - 1 Corinthians 14:1, 39
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
 - Ezekiel 37:7-10
5. Paul was correcting a lot of misguided thinking in 1 Corinthians 14. What did he have to say about prophecy? What are some possible applications for our church today? For this small group? For you personally?
6. How would you go about testing a “prophecy” or “word from God” you think you may have received – or if someone else asked you to help them test what they had received?
7. Spiritual gifts – and specifically prophecy – seem to be given in 3 ways:
 - By the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
 - By church leadership (often by the laying on of hands) – 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6; Romans 1:11
 - By personal prayer for gifts – 1 Corinthians 14:1

Spend some time in prayer as a group praying together and for one another to receive whatever spiritual gifts God’s Holy Spirit desires to bestow upon you.

Is Prophecy for Today?

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy...”
Acts 2:17

The supernatural ability to speak the mind of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

1. What is Prophecy?

Not so much about the foretelling future events, but forthtelling the mind of God!

“For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”
Rev. 19:10

3 forms: Blessing
Direction
Correction

2. Why is Prophecy Important?

a. A gift given to build up the church
Eph. 4:11-13

b. We are to seek prophecy
1 Cor. 14:1

c. God warns us not to reject prophecy
1 Thes. 5:19-22

d. Prophecy releases the life and power of God
Ezek. 37:7-10

e. It is one way God speaks to and through us
1 Cor. 12:7-11

3. 1 Cor. 14 - Practical Advice

a. It's all about growth (:1-5)

3-fold purpose: Strengthen
(14:3) Encourage
Comfort

b. Primarily for believers; can touch unbelievers
(:22, 24-25)

c. It should be weighed carefully (:29)

↳ Does it glorify Jesus? 1 John 4:1-3

↳ Does it align with Scripture? 1 Tim. 3:16

↳ Does it build up or tear down? 1 Cor. 14:3

↳ Do others agree it is prophecy? 1 Cor. 14:29

↳ Does it lead to confusion? 1 Cor. 14:33

↳ "By their fruit..."

Matt. 7:15-16

"Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything
that is said." 1 Thes. 5:20-21

4. Levels of Gifting

a. Simple Prophetic

b. Prophetic Gifting

c. Prophetic Ministry

5. Types of Prophetic Gifts

a. Prophecy

b. Tongues and Interpretation

c. Words of Knowledge

d. Discerning of Spirits

e. Prophetic Intercession

Next Steps