

## Week 3 "The Gift of Prophecy"

### 1 Preparation:

\* Pray from your heart. Stop and recognize that the Lord is with you. Ask for the grace to come closer to the Holy Spirit and to realize his plan for your life.

\* Look up the "Focus Verse" in your Bible.

\* Underline the verse in *Brown = God's Word*

\* Work to commit the verse to memory.

### *Focus Verse*

**1 Cor 14:1**

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

### 2 Review of Talk:

Definition of the Gift of Prophecy:

"the gift whereby God speaks to a person or the Church through one of the believers. Prophecy Encourages, Edifies, and Exhorts"

Prophecy is first person, meaning it is the Lord Himself speaking and it sounds like this:

"Thus saith the Lord, my people..."

"My people, I would say to you..."

"For the Lord would say..."

"Hear me, for I am the Lord, and I say..."

**1) True Prophecy** - Comes from God and leads to God. It is also submitted to the authority of the Church

**2) Non-Prophecy** – Pious thoughts coming from a good heart. Comes from human desires rather than the Holy Spirit.

**3) False Prophecy** – Pulls away from God and points to a false God. False prophets are not submitted to the authority of Church leadership.

### The modes through which prophecy can occur:

- 1) **Heart Burn:** You are at a prayer meeting, your heart starts pounding and it will explode if you do not say something. Step out and speak. Let the Church discern if it is a words from the Lord. We cannot figure it out until you get it out.
- 2) **Catch Phrase:** Maybe just a words, a phrase comes to you over and over, but you do not receive any more than a few words. Step out and speak. Let the Church discern if it is a words from the Lord. We cannot figure it out until you get it out.
- 3) **Visions:** Some people begin to see a vision of what God is doing. Step out and speak. Let the Church discern if it is a words from the Lord. We cannot figure it out until you get it out.
- 4) **Journalled Word:** Always bring your bible and journal to a prayer meeting or time of ministry. As the group is praying you might begin to receive something from the Lord. Write out what the Lord is speaking to your heart. Share what you have written with the group. Remember: We cannot figure it out until you get it out.
- 5) **Puzzle Piece Prophecy:** You are in prayer and an image keeps coming to you and it does not make sense to you. Step out and speak. Let the Church discern if it is a words from the Lord. We cannot figure it out until you get it out. Another person might have a scripture. Another person might have some words. When you put them all together, like a puzzle they make sense.
- 6) **Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues:** Sometimes a believer delivers a prophetic word comes in another tongue. The meeting should not move on until there is an interpretation. All should begin to pray and say, "Holy Spirit, do you have the interpretation for me to deliver?" The interpretation is not a translation of the tongue which means that it need not

sound as if it were word for word. It could be just a few words for a word spoken in tongues that was many words.

## How to practice the gift of Prophecy:

- 1) Begin to keep a journal and spend time everyday listening for God to speak to your heart. Shares this with your spiritual director or prayer group so that the words that you are receiving can be discerned as to if they are:
  - a. The Lord
  - b. Yourself
  - c. The enemy
- 2) When at a prayer gathering and it is time for the prophetic gifts to be sought, step out in faith and say, "I the Lord would say to you..." and let the Holy Spirit will in the rest. Remember, Christianity is about being out of control, but under the control of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Spend time around people that have this gift and watch and listen how the Lord uses them.
- 4) Ask those with the gift of prophecy to lay hands on you for an impartation of the gift of prophecy.

## Guidelines for Prophesying:

- 1) Avoid dogmatism by saying, "The Lord told me..." Say rather, "It seems to me that the Lord ... I believe the Lord would say ...I sense the Lord is saying to you ..."
- 2) It is good to have someone record the prophecy either in written form or as an audio file. This record can be used for two things: \* Discern the authenticity of the prophecy. \* To build the person's faith as they wait on the fulfillment.
- 3) If you sense that you have a word of prophecy, speak it out and let the church discern it. The community should have the attitude of love where you can make mistakes such as getting nervous, stuttering, stopping in the middle of a word you have begun, etc.
- 4) Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as to whether this is something to be shared or just prayed through in the quiet of your heart. The Lord does not humiliate people. Just because the Lord tells you something it does not mean you should tell others.
- 5) Use the gift of tongues before you enter into this ministry as God will reveal things through interpretation of tongues.
- 6) Avoid trying to be dramatic in your ministry by seeking only the things that are shocking. Words from God might seem simple to us but might strike the one being prayed with to the core.
- 7) Ask questions of the Holy Spirit and the person if you are not sure.

"\_\_\_\_\_ is coming to me. Does this make sense to you?" "Holy Spirit, I am not clear on what you are showing me. What does it mean/what should I do with this?"
- 8) Always encourage the person to discern what has been ministered. *See Prophetic Discernment Guidelines. These would be good to handout to the person.*
- 9) Always submit to Church leadership.
- 10) Work in ministry teams where others can add to the prophetic ministry and others can discern all that is shared.
- 11) If you have mis-spoken, ask for forgiveness.

# Lectio Divina

**Lectio** (To Read) Read the passage slowly, two or three times believing that God is going to speak into your life. Notice the words or phrases that speak to you.

**Meditatio** (To Meditate) Allow this Word to begin to sift through your life. What is God speaking to you?

**Oratio** (To Speak) Now that God has spoken to you through His word, what is your response? Use the ACTS of prayer: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, Supplication? Speak to God freely.

**Contemplatio** (To Contemplate) Read back over the passage and review your dialogue with God. Become quiet and turn your heart to His heart for you. Is there anything that He personally wants to speak to you?

1<sup>st</sup> Day Num 11:29

2<sup>nd</sup> Day 1 Thes 5:19-20

3<sup>rd</sup> Day Ps 85:8

4<sup>th</sup> Day 1 Kgs 19:9-12

5<sup>th</sup> Day 1 Sam 3:1-10

6<sup>th</sup> Day Jn 10:27

Review

Spend time listening during your prayer time. Pull out a journal and write down what you believe the Lord God is speaking to you.