

## Guidelines



# Lesson 5: Prophetic Guidelines and Good Practice

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## 1. Prophesying 'decently and in good order'.

Read through 1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14 in which the Apostle Paul gives very detailed principles about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their operation in the Body. These are guidelines for us to keep in mind when delivering prophecy. Look up the following scriptures and write down in your own words what instructions are given.

- ✓ 1 Cor 12: 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 12: 4-6: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 12:8 -10 \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 12: 12-26: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 13: 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 13: 9 and 12: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 14: 26: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 14: 27: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 14 29: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 14 32: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 1 Cor 14: 40: \_\_\_\_\_

Add your own:

- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Guidelines for receiving and handling your personal prophecies.

The Bible has plenty to say about how we should handle personal prophecy in a wholesome, safe and life giving way.

*'Do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.'* 1 Thess 5:20-21

*'Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.'* 1 Tim 4: 14-15

*'Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.'* 1 John 4: 1

We are instructed in the above scriptures to weigh or judge the prophetic words we receive. How do we do this?

### 1. Record the word.

- a. There is a biblical precedent for writing down or recording the prophetic words we receive.

➤ Habakkuk 2: 2: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Isaiah 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_

- b. What are some of the benefits in recording the word?

➤ you will have a record for the future

➤ we only remember 1/10 of what we hear

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_



## 2. Test and weigh up everything

We are instructed to judge, weigh and evaluate prophecy and to respond properly.

There are two wrong responses – to reject all prophecy as 1 Thessalonians 5:20 tells us not to ‘despise prophecy’. Neither it is correct to accept all prophecy as 1 Thessalonians 5:21 tells us to ‘Prove (test) all things’ (Includes prophecy and other spiritual experiences)

*‘Do not treat prophecies with contempt. **Test everything.** Hold on to the good.’ 1 Thess 5:20-21*

*1 John 4: 1: ‘Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.’*

*‘Let two or three prophets speak and **let the others judge,**’ 1 Cor 14:29*

Find one of your prophecies from the past. Use the following check list to evaluate, test and ‘judge’ (dissect) it:

- ✓ Does it line up with scripture? If not, do not bother with further evaluation.
- ✓ Does it encourage, strengthen or comfort you?
- ✓ Does it reflect the heart of the Father?
- ✓ Can I hear the Love of God in this word?
- ✓ Does the prophecy ‘ring true’ with your spirit? Is there an ‘inner witness’?
- ✓ Is the source from God, yourself or from a demon? (discernment of spirits)
- ✓ Are there any facts from the past that are verifiable? ( words of knowledge)
- ✓ Was it delivered in an accountable way?
- ✓ Does it glorify Jesus and draw attention to Him? When Holy Spirit comes he would speak about himself but he would focus in on and concentrate on Jesus :John 15:26 and John 16:13.
- ✓ Is there instruction or direction? How will you take this forward?
- ✓ Is it confirmation or a new perspective?

## 3. Pray and meditate

*‘Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. **Meditate on these things;** give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.’ 1 Tim 4: 14-15.*

Meditate mean to focus one's mind for a period of time, in silence or to think deeply about something.

There is a biblical precedent to think about and pray over the word. Ask God to speak to illuminate further details, timings, how to respond and whether He is highlighting any aspect of the prophecy.

- ✓ Psalm 19:14:

✓ Proverbs 2: 1

**4. Conditional nature of prophecy**

Are there any specific conditions in the word?

What might be some other conditions?

**5. Confirmation of two or three witnesses**

2 Cor 13:1 confirms the need for 2 or 3 witnesses.

Write down other witnesses to the word.

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Wise Counsel**

➤ Is there any mature believer or leader who could go through it with you?

**7. War a good warfare**

What part or parts do you need to 'wage a war 'over? How will you do this?

8. In a nutshell (one sentence), summarise what God is saying to you:

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