

HOLY SPIRIT: PROPHECY

DESCRIPTION

The Holy Spirit gift of Prophecy is distributed by the Holy Spirit when believers are gathered together for their edification, exhortation, comfort. To prophesy simply means to speak by divine inspiration as God's representative.

As followers of Christ, any one of us can be enabled by the Holy Spirit to speak the words of God. This could be in the form of a simple phrase, a picture that we see with the eyes of our heart, a sense that we know something that we have no other way of knowing, or an impression that comes to mind about or for those we prophesy to. As we prophesy, we cooperate with God in order to accurately communicate what He is saying to the recipient. We must be careful not to add to God's words or leave anything out.

When we receive prophetic words from others, we listen with our spirit in order to discern the words of God. As a general guideline, the Holy Spirit speaks truth, encourages faith, testifies to eternal hope, imparts God's unconditional love, and conveys God's work on our behalf for our good. On the other hand, words of guilt, shame, fear, punishment, accusation, curse, or manipulation to have personal desires fulfilled are not from the Holy Spirit. We can receive words from the Holy Spirit as the words of God Himself to us and we should reject words that are not from the Holy Spirit, rendering them powerless in our lives by the blood of Jesus.

Practicing the Holy Spirit Gift of Prophecy is about listening to God with one another so that everyone is strengthened in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Corinthians 14:26b, 29-31 NIV - When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. ... Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.

GROUP PRACTICE

1. Start your time as a group with worshipping the Lord and praying in the Spirit for at least 20 to 30 minutes
 - Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as a group or to any individuals within the group that the Lord may highlight. Wait upon the Lord with your spiritual ears open to Him.
 - Open the floor for prophetic words.
2. When anyone in the group believes that they have a revelation or a word from the Lord, they can share it. Speak one at a time so everyone can hear. Examples include:
 - Scripture verses or passages that come to mind.
 - Simple phrases which seem to come into your mind (whether they make sense to you or not.)
 - Pictures or visions you see with the eyes of your heart (which you must then describe to the group.)
 - Discernment God's purpose for the group.
 - Instructions from God for what the group is to do next.
 - Warnings of danger ahead.
 - A scene or prophetic act the Lord wants you to do to demonstrate His message.
3. After the person has shared their insight from the Lord, pause for a moment to weigh what has been said.
 - In your Spirit, do you sense a "Yes" or a "No" to this?
 - Does this agree with what God has been speaking to you?
 - Does this apply Scripture and revelation of God's ways?
4. Continue to wait upon the Lord and share with one another what He is speaking to you.
 - Sometimes what one speaker says prompts confidence in others to share their insights. Try not to leave words unsaid.
 - Try to discern if there is a theme to what the Lord is saying.
5. Praise God for His insights and for speaking to and through you!

PURPOSE:

Listen to God speak to you by His Spirit as a group.

Speak forth what God is revealing to your group or its members.

Encourage one another with words from God.

GROUP SIZE:

Any size group.

SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Corinthians 14

1 John 4:1

Amos 3:7

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Acts 2:17

Joel 2:28