

## How to Give and Receive Prophecy

**"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy...But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."** (1 Cor. 14:1,3). In the Bible, God not only suggests, but actually commands us to both pursue love, and seek after the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And, as we're desiring spiritual gifts, He said to pursue especially the gift of prophecy, because when we prophesy the word of the Lord, we will be encouraging and comforting people, and helping them to grow in the Lord. Later on in verse 39 of this same chapter, God tells us to, **"desire earnestly to prophesy.."** Perhaps what we're seeing in the New Testament is an answer to Moses' prayer, who cried, **"Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!"** (Numbers 11:29). In Acts 2:17, the Apostle Peter proclaimed, **"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams."** We will briefly consider three things today: (1) the purpose of prophecy, (2) how to give a prophetic word, and (3) how to receive a prophetic word.

### THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY:

**"But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you."** (1 Cor. 14:24-25). When we begin to move into the realm of the prophetic, hearing God's voice clearly, it will convince and convict unbelievers and draw them to Jesus. If you are praying for someone, and God gives you a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom about a situation in their life, it will stir up their faith to believe God to bring freedom and deliverance into their situation. When the secrets of their heart are revealed, the Bible says they will fall down on their face and worship God, and recognize that God is present in His power and glory. We need more people to move into the prophetic! It's time to step out in faith and believe God to speak to us a prophetic word for those around us! **"For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."** (1 Cor. 14:31). This Scripture is a promise that we can stand on that says that ALL of us can prophesy, and we can do it so that we can grow in the prophetic, and encourage one another. Here are just a few simple guidelines when it comes to ministering in the prophetic that will help you to know what to do to give and receive a word of prophecy from the Lord.

HOW TO GIVE A PROPHETIC WORD: When God gives you a prophetic word for someone, sometimes it will be a Scripture verse, a single word, a thought, an impression, or even a picture. If you feel God is showing you something about a person, always ask God if He wants you to share that with the person, and then ask the person that the word is for, too. We must grow in love towards others, too. First Corinthians chapter 13 tells us that genuine love for people must be our motivation in ministering in the prophetic. Finally, avoid negativity, and if you're new to the prophetic, stay away from direction and correction. The primary purpose of prophecy is to build up, strengthen and comfort, not tear down or destroy.

### HOW TO RECEIVE A PROPHETIC WORD:

**"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good."** (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). Don't despise or reject the word of prophecy--but test it. Does it line up with the written word? The Holy Spirit will never tell you to do something that violates the written word of God. Realize that personal prophecy is conditional--it refers to the possibility, not inevitability. If you test the word and believe that it is from the Lord, hold fast to it, and pray about it, and believe God for it to come to pass in your life.