

## INTRODUCTION

*“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy”  
(1 Corinthians 14:1, NIV, emphasis added)*

- God has called us to eagerly desire (from the Greek word *zēloō*, meaning to pursue with zeal) the spiritual gifts He gives, but this call is in the context of walking in His love (*agape*)
- Prophecy is highlighted in Scripture as one of the most beneficial supernatural gifts of the Spirit

### I. IT’S GOD’S DESIRE THAT WE ALL WALK IN PROPHETIC GIFTING

*“<sup>28</sup> ...Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”  
(Numbers 11:28, emphasis added)*

#### A. Prophecy strengthens the Body of Christ

*“<sup>3</sup> ... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.<sup>4</sup> ... the one who prophesies builds up the church.”<sup>5</sup> ... I want you all...to prophesy ...” (1 Corinthians 14:3-5, emphasis added)*

#### B. Prophecy brings the conviction of God to unbelievers

*“<sup>24</sup> ...if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,<sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.” (1 Corinthians 14:24-25, emphasis added)*

#### C. Prophecy testifies of and exalts Jesus

*“...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10, emphasis added)*

#### D. God promised the gift of prophecy to His people with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

*<sup>17</sup>“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;<sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.” (Acts 2:17-18, emphasis added)*

### **E. Many in ministry today forbid the practice of prophetic gifting - Why?**

- i. Some are so afraid of false prophets (Matt.24:11) that they “throw the baby out with the bathwater”
- ii. Some have been terribly wounded by people exercising or claiming to exercise such gifting (1 Cor. 13:2), and therefore find reasons to avoid the gifts of the Spirit
- iii. Some wrongly claim and teach that God has ended giving this gift to anyone in modern times based on their experience and one single verse (1 Cor. 13:8) taken out of the context of the rest of the Scripture

*<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)*

## **II. TYPES OF PROPHEPIC REVELATION & EXPRESSION**

### **A. Some types of prophetic revelation we see in scripture:**

- i. **Dreams** (Num. 12:6, Joel 2:28, Gen. 37:40;41;46:2, Dan. 2, Matt. 2:12;2:22, Acts 16:9)
- ii. **Visions/Pictures** (Jer. 1:11-12, Acts 2:17-18;11:5, Rev. 1:12)
- iii. **Supernatural knowledge/understanding** (Matt. 16:17, John 4:16-19, 1 Cor. 12:8)
- iv. **Audible voice of God** (Num. 7:89, 1 Sam. 3, Acts 9:4)
- v. **Angelic encounter** (Gen. 16, Ex. 3:2, Judges 6:12, Matt. 1:20, Acts 8:26)

### **B. Some types of prophetic expression we see in Scripture:**

- i. **Spoken word**
- ii. **Written word**
- iii. **Prophetic song/prayer** (Psalms, 1 Sam. 2:1-10, Luke 1:46-55)
- iv. **Physical demonstration** (Ezekiel 4-5, Acts 21:11)

## **III. STEWARDING AN JUDGING THE PROPHEPIC**

### **3 parts of stewarding the prophetic:**

- 1) **Revelation** – Receiving something prophetic from the Lord
- 2) **Interpretation** – Understanding what the revelation means
- 3) **Application** – What we do with the revelation and understanding once we have received it

- A. Humility and grace are key when stewarding the prophetic! We usually aren't going to have the full picture of what God is giving to us (1 Cor. 12:11), and we can make mistakes.

***“For we know in part and we prophesy in part” (1 Corinthians 13:9)***

***“<sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good.”***  
***(1 Thessalonians 5:19-20)***

- B. Lean on leadership, and those in the Body of Christ around you as you process the prophetic (both receiving and giving)

***“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.” (1 Corinthians 14:29)***

- C. Even when overwhelmed by revelation or prophetic encounter, God gives us the ability and self-control to release the prophetic appropriately for His glory, and to build others up.

***<sup>30</sup> If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, <sup>32</sup> and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.***  
***(1 Corinthians 14:30-33)***

- D. When stewarding the prophetic, prayerfully consider:

- i. What am I hearing, seeing, sensing, etc.?
- ii. Should I write this down/record this?
- iii. What might this mean?
- iv. Who should I get counsel from/share this with?
- v. When is the right time to share this?
- vi. What is the right way for me to share this?
- vii. How am I responding to others' reactions?

***As you minister and receive, always “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)***