

# SERMON | GIFT OF PROPHECY

## SERIES | PRAYER & FASTING

STUDY GUIDE | RYAN ROMEO | SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

### SERMON SUMMARY

Prophecy is not fortune telling. It isn't airing other people's dirty laundry. It never contradicts Scripture. It's a gift of God, not something you can do on your own. Prophecy is Spirit-led insight, that goes beyond human intuition. It requires a familiarity with the voice of God and is helped incredibly by Biblical saturation. Prophecy is a manifestation of the Spirit, that God chooses to bestow on His church to build it up (1 Corinthians 14:12).

Prophecy is when the Lord gives insight into His heart for His people. At times, that may include a peek into future events. In other ways, the Lord uses prophecy to speak through His people to build up the Church and at times convict. Prophecy is the act of speaking God's heart by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Prophecy is available to everyone.**

- Earnestly desire prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1).
- Anyone can prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:5).

#### **Prophecy has a purpose.**

- It's the revealing of the heart, rooted in love (1 Cor. 13 - 14).
- It builds up, encourages, and consoles (1 Cor. 14:3-4).
- It's a sign to the unbeliever (1 Cor. 14:24-25).
- Prophecy is seeing a snapshot or into a dimly lit mirror (1 Cor. 13:9, 12).

#### **Prophecy has rules.**

- Prophecy needs to be orderly (1 Cor. 14:29).
- Prophecy doesn't interrupt (1 Cor. 14:30).
- You don't have to say it (1 Cor. 14:32).
- It's not to be used to impress or to confuse (1 Cor. 14:4, 33).
- It is to be sifted and judged by the hearer (1 Cor. 14:29).
- It must edify the church (1 Cor. 14:6, 12).

The spiritual gift of prophecy was desirable in the life of the church to serve in a way that edifies the entire church. Spiritual gifts are always for the benefit of others, never self. Paul is trying to show the people of Corinth, that in contrast to the counterfeit pagan speech that worshipped false deities, normalized in surrounding culture, was the gift of genuine prophecy. It produced the building up in truth, the encouragement to obedience, and the comfort in trouble that God desired for His church.

# SCRIPTURE READING

**READ THIS WEEK'S BIBLE PASSAGES: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 1 Corinthians 14:1-40 (ESV)**

## The Way of Love

**13** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

**4** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**8** Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

**13** So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## Prophecy and Tongues

**14** Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. **2** For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. **3** On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. **4** The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. **5** Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

**6** Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? **7** If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? **8** And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? **9** So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. **10** There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, **11** but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. **12** So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

**13** Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. **14** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. **15** What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. **16** Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? **17** For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. **18** I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. **19** Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

**20** Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. **21** In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners

will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” <sup>22</sup> Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. <sup>23</sup> If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? <sup>24</sup> But 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.

### **Orderly Worship**

<sup>26</sup> What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. <sup>27</sup> If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. <sup>28</sup> But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup> Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. <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.

As in all the churches of the saints, <sup>34</sup> the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. <sup>35</sup> If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

<sup>36</sup> Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? <sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. <sup>38</sup> If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. <sup>39</sup> So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. <sup>40</sup> But all things should be done decently and in order.

### **BIBLE PASSAGE QUESTIONS**

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do we learn about the heart of God from these passages?

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Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP**

1. Did you grow up with prophecy being normal in your church tradition?
2. Have you ever received or given a prophetic word?
3. What does it mean to edify or build up the church?

## **PRAYER**

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

