

# CLOTHED WITH POWER 6

## Gifts of the Spirit 1: Prophecy

**1 Cor 12:1,4-11:** 'If it's in the BIBLE, it should be in the CHURCH.'

Starting Point: God is a GIFT-GIVER & we badly need EVERYTHING He has to offer.

→ *Why are the Gifts of the Spirit important? Can you tell us any stories from your experience of where spiritual gifts have made a real impact? What do you think God's desire is as far as your relationship with His Gifts goes?*

### THREE GROUPS OF THREE

- \* REVELATION Gifts: Words of knowledge, words of wisdom, discerning of spirits.
- \* POWER Gifts: Gifts of healings, working of miracles, special faith
- \* UTTERANCE GIFTS: Prophecy, different kinds of tongues & interpretation of tongues

→ *Which on this list would you particularly like to see in operation, either for you or through you or in the church? What role do these Gifts have in living 'clothed with power?'*

### 1. WHAT IS PROPHECY?

- \* Definition: SUPERNATURAL UTTERANCE in a KNOWN TONGUE.
- \* A WORD, MESSAGE or PICTURE from God to us, inspired, revealed, sparked by the Holy Spirit.

→ *What would you say were the key characteristics of a word of prophecy? Have you ever had any significant words spoken over you?*

### TWO TYPES OF PROPHECY

- FORETELLING: Some element of FUTURE PREDICTION.
- FORTHTELLING: Inspired proclamation of GOD'S WORD.

→ *Why is it so important that prophecy is tied to / rooted in God's Word?*

THE RELEASE: It doesn't have to be PREDICTIVE, but it does have to be INSPIRED.

→ *How does this statement make you feel?*

### 2. HOW DOES IT WORK?

#### THREE PARTS

- REVELATION = What God SHOWS you.
- INTERPRETATION = What it MEANS.
- APPLICATION = What you now must DO.

→ *How does that revelation come? How does it come TO YOU?*

KEY: ONLY GIVE the bit God shows you. Don't fall into the temptation to ADD your own EXTRAS.

→ *Why do you think people are prone to going beyond what the Lord has shown them? Why is that potentially dangerous?*

→ *"When it comes to a prophetic word, long doesn't necessarily equal good; inspired equals good. Just a single word or the right Bible verse without comment can be powerful and act as a 'can-opener.'" Discuss!*

### 3. HOW DO WE USE IT? (1 Cor 14:1-4)

The purpose, character & tone of NT prophecy (1 Cor 14:3) is to be:

- EDIFICATION = The act of BUILDING SOMETHING, HELPING IT TO GROW (1 Cor 14:12) ... "Prophets call GOLD out of the DUST."
- EXHORTATION = ENCOURAGE, SPEAK WORDS OF LIFE, IMPART STRENGTH (Prov 15:4, 12:18) ... Tells people they CAN ... reinforces WHO they are in Christ ... points them straight at the PROMISES ... reminds them WHY they're here.
- COMFORT = CALMING, CONSOLING, REASSURING (John 14:16)

→ *Why did Paul put the famous passage on love right in the middle of his seminal section on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?*

→ *"Internet trolls that call themselves prophets aren't prophets; they're carnal!" discuss!*

→ *What does Kris Valloton mean when he says, "Prophets call gold out of dust?"*

### 4. WHERE DO WE USE IT?

- ONE-ON-ONE: The KEY that unlocks the DOOR.
- CONNECT GROUP: "EVERYONE HATH" (1 Cor 14:26).
- PRAYER MINISTRY: God CONFIRMS the WORD with signs & wonders following (Mark 16:20).
- SUNDAY MORNINGS: All the way through the JOURNEY, we ask, 'WORD OF GOD, SPEAK.'

→ *What powerful contribution might a word of prophecy offer in each of those contexts? Have you seen it used in each one? How might we become more prophetically active in our groups or conversations?*