

FIREPLACE 5

Prophecy: 'Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening'

GOD WANTS TO SPEAK

Joel 2:28–29 → The Spirit HAS BEEN poured out; we should not be SURPRISED by PROPHECY.

1 Corinthians 14:1, 5, 39–40 → EAGERLY DESIRE prophecy.

2 Timothy 1:6 → FAN the GIFT into FLAME.

What do these passages tell us about God's desire for His people to hear & respond to the Holy Spirit?

What do you think it means practically to 'eagerly desire' prophecy?

TWO PRINCIPLES OF NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY

1. Prophecy comes in Various WAYS & FORMS

- * A SINGLE WORD, PICTURE, VERSE, THOUGHT.
- * Inspiration may come through SCRIPTURE, WORSHIP, NATURE, SOMETHING ORDINARY.
- * It may not be DRAMATIC, IMPRESSIVE, ELOQUENT.
- * Prophecy is intended to make COMPLEX things SIMPLE.
- * Prophecy isn't FORMULAIC, although you may recognise PATTERNS in how God speaks to you.

Have you ever had an experience where something unexpectedly 'stood out' to you and you wondered whether God was drawing your attention to it?
What might make us dismiss something like that too quickly?

2. REVELATION, INTERPRETATION, APPLICATION

REVELATION: What God SHOWS you, no more, no less.

INTERPRETATION: What it MEANS.

APPLICATION: What we should therefore DO.

The Advice: Only share WHAT you've ACTUALLY been given.

Offer prophetic words HUMBLY & GENTLY.

Make recipients feel like a PARTNER, not a TARGET.

Why do you think it is important to keep these three things separate?
What dangers might arise when we move too quickly or even carelessly from 'I think God showed me ...' to 'Therefore, God wants you to ...?'

FOR THE FIREPLACE

1. Prophetic CAN-OPENERS ... e.g. Jesus & Nathanael (John 1:47–49).

- * God can use Words of Knowledge & Wisdom as SPARKS, CATALYSTS & ATTENTION-GRABBERS ... to OPEN hearts.

How did Jesus use words of knowledge or wisdom?

How might they serve as 'can-openers' & what might they open people up to?

2. God WANTS to SPEAK ... Are you LISTENING?

- * You are not trying to MANUFACTURE something; you are MAKING SPACE to RECEIVE something.
- * Learn what helps you move from MENTALLY OCCUPIED to SPIRITUALLY ATTENTIVE.
- * QUIET the MIND (Ps 46:10) ... If your mind is OVERACTIVE, full of NOISE, it's easy to MISS the GENTLE WHISPER.
- * Prophecy rarely comes from STRIVING. Learn to notice the sudden POP: a person, picture, verse or phrase.

What tends to fill your mind with 'noise?'

What helps you become more spiritually attentive?

Read Psalm 46:10. What might 'being still' look like for you in practice?

3. Ask the Lord to REVEAL His HEART for them

- * 1 Cor 13 sits at the heart of 1 Cor 12 & 14: LOVE is the foundation & goal.
- * NT prophetic ministry should bring EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION & COMFORT.
- * Ask: Does this sound like the HEART of JESUS?
Does it line up with SCRIPTURE?
Is it NEW COVENANT or OLD COVENANT?
Does it produce the FRUIT of LOVE?

Why is the change from 'Lord, give me a word for them' to 'Lord, show me Your heart for them potentially so powerful?

How does love change the way we should approach prophetic ministry?

The DREAM: A PROPHETIC CULTURE

- * Not a place where everyone feels COMPELLED to give a prophetic word.
- * A place where we EXPECT God to SPEAK when we gather.
- * Where we are consciously ATTENTIVE, the gift is ENCOURAGED & we intentionally MAKE ROOM.

What would a genuinely healthy 'prophetic culture' look like in our Connect group?
What could we do differently to create more space to listen to God?