Notes…

COVENANT of GRACE

We exist to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

July 7, 2018

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SEMINAR

Mark Prater

Welcome!

Schedule

9:00 – 10:00 Session 1
Encouraging the Gift of Prophecy in Your Church
10:00 – 10:45 Ministry Time
10:45 – 11:00 Break
11:00 – 12:00 Session 2
Pursuing and Growing in the Gifts of the Spirit (include Q&A)
12:00 – 1:00 Ministry Time
Closing

Session 1: Encouraging The Use of the Gift of Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 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. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 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."

I. The Gift of Prophecy: A Normal Expression of the Spirit's Activity

"In 1 Thessalonians 5:20 we find the earliest mention of prophecy or prophetic utterance in the NT. Although not a frequent term in the Pauline corpus, it occurs in the earliest and latest of the letters: Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10; 13:2, 13:8; 14:6, 14:22; 1 Timothy 1:18, 4:14 strongly suggests that this was a normal expression of the Spirit's activity in the early Christian communities." [1]

[1] *Gordon Fee, God's Empowering Presence, Hendrickson Publishers 1994, pages 59-60*

5. Sharing Prophetic Words That Seem More "Corrective" In Nature
   - Share with care and gentleness
   - Don't prophesy to those whom you are angry with, jealous of or in conflict with.
   - Never trust your "impressions" for those who are sinning against you.

6. Avoid Using "Thus Sayeth The Lord" Language

Notes…

III. Thoughts on Getting Started

1. Pray
    - Pray throughout the week
    - Pray before Care Group
    - Pray before the Sunday meeting
    - Pray when you're hanging out with people

2. Step Out In Faith
    - Step out and share.
    - Your word doesn't have to be eloquent or long

3. Get Input From Those Around You

IV. Giving Prophetic Words

1. Remember God's Purpose: Edification
    - Will my prophetic word edify, or strengthen the group or the individual I'm sharing it with?

2. Ask God If He Wants You To Share The Prophetic Word

3. Don't Presume To Know The Interpretation And Application
    - Be content to share your impression and then leave the person to pray, seek godly counsel, discern its validity, its interpretation, and finally any application
    - The most important thing you can do is to connect the person with God

4. Share Your Prophetic Word With Humility
    - Deliver your word with strength, but hold it loosely
    - Allow mistakes to cultivate humility
    - Humility is important because how we share prophetic words can be as important as the content of the word we share.

Notes…

II. Six Ways to Encourage the Use of The Gift of Prophecy

1. Have A Biblically Informed Definition for The NT Gift of Prophecy

- **Definition of prophecy:** *Prophecy is the human report of a divinerevelation*

  (1) *"What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation."*(1 Corinthians 14:26a)

  (2) *"If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged."* (1 Corinthians 14:30-31)

"The 'revelation' which comes…is thought by Paul to be of divine, not human origin. This is evident, first from the fact that the word Paul uses for 'revelation'…occurs forty-four times in the New Testament and never refers to human activity or communication. Rather whenever the New Testament speaks of a 'revelation' it is always given by the activity of God."[2]

2. Be Convinced of God's Desire to Edify Your Church

  • Six times in this chapter the language of the "church being built up" is used (vv. 3, 4, 5, 12, 17, 26)

  • These verses capture God's heart for His people, that through the work of the Spirit, God desires to manifest His presence and build your church up as He speaks to you and your church through the gift of prophecy.

2 Wayne Grudem, The Gift of Prophecy in the NT and Today, (Wheaton: Crossway, 200) 116-117.

Notes…

Four Ways To Pursue and Grow in the Spiritual Gifts

1. Pursue God *(cont'd)*

    ▪ We can be vulnerable to set up a false dichotomy where we view Scripture as hindering our experience of the Spirit because it's too confining when actually the opposite is true.

    "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)

2. Pursue Love

    "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy." (1 Corinthians 14:1)

    ▪ If you are growing in your love for people, so that when you give prophetic words, they will be marked by patience, kindness and humility (attributes of the love described in 13:4), then you will not only be effective, it will encourage the use of the gift of prophecy in your church.

    ▪ Our experience has taught us that it's not just the content of the prophetic word that is shared, but how the word is shared that can be edifying and God-honoring.

3. Pursue Faith

    "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith." (Romans 12:6)

4. Pursue Opportunities

    ▪ Prophesy at home.
    ▪ Use your gifts in Community Group meetings, prayer meetings, etc.
    ▪ Be open to using your gifts with unbelievers in wise ways: share impressions with them, pray for healing, etc.

Notes…

Six Ways to Encourage the Use of The Gift of Prophecy (cont'd.)

3. Keep the Gifts Connected to the Gospel

4. Use the Gift of Prophecy Aware of its Limitations

   • **First Limitation:** The gift of prophecy is affected by our finite and fallen humanness.

   "For we know in part and we prophesy in part." (1 Corinthians 13:9)

   Practical implications:

   1. Need to take any word you receive today and submit it to Scripture, prayer and wise counsel

   2. We don't want people making decisions about their lives based on prophetic words alone

   • **Second limitation:** The gift of prophecy has no authority if its own.

   Practical implication is that you must evaluate prophetic words in light of Scripture.

   In light of these limitations, the gift of prophecy is to be governed.

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

   "But all things should be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40)

   Practical implication:

   1. Government doesn't constrain those with prophetic gifting; it actually releases them into their gifting.

Notes…

Session 2 : Pursuing and Growing in the Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 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. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 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."

I. Earnestly Desire the Spiritual Gifts

"So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues." (*1 Corinthians 14:39)*

"But earnestly desire the higher gifts." *(1 Corinthians 12:31)*

"Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you." *(1 Timothy 4:14)*

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands." *(2 Timothy 1:6)*

II. Four Ways To Pursue and Grow in the Spiritual Gifts

1. Pursue God

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

- Pursue the gifts by pursuing the One who gives the gifts.

Notes…

Six Ways to Encourage the Use of The Gift of Prophecy (cont'd.)

5. Have A Biblically Informed Understanding of Personal Prophecy

"While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, 'Thus says the Holy Spirit, this is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" (Acts 21:10-11)

*"This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience." (*1 Timothy 1:18-19)

6. Pray for the Gift of Prophecy to be Used in Your Church

III. **Conclusion**

Notes…