

Prophecy

MAGH

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Thank you Ps Lakers for the opportunity to share today.

A) Introduction

On Monday we heard from Bro Josh the importance of encouraging others and ourselves. To encourage ourselves in the Lord and His Word to be comforted and strengthened. This word encouraged me to share what I am sharing today.

Yesterday we heard from Ps Lakers a powerful word on how we have been made kings and priests. We were reminded to consider how we are building and if we are building with a kingly mindset.

To be kings and priests and to build with a kingly mindset, we have been given amazing gifts by the Holy Spirit we can leverage.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NIV

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

*⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, **to another prophecy**, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

1 Corinthians 14:1 NIV

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

I find it so interesting that this scripture ends with “especially prophecy”.

Why “especially prophecy”?

To understand this, there are some great guidelines and examples from Scripture we can draw from regarding the gift of prophecy.

B) Definition:

Prophecy is the ability, granted by the Holy Spirit, to a believer, to speak words from God that do not come from the believer’s own understanding or reasoning or education.

Through prophecy, a believer can become a channel of the counsel of God; of the purposes of God, through words that come from God and not from the believer. They are given supernaturally by the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament has a whole lot to say about the exercise of this gift.

First of all, we look at the **purposes** for which it is given. Paul states in:

1 Corinthians 14:3 NIV

“But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.”

Or, in contemporary language, the purpose of prophecy is to **build up, to stir up and to cheer up!** Anyone who uses prophecy in any other way is misusing the gift. And for this reason, the Scripture states very clearly that all prophecies are to be subject to judgment.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 says:

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good.”

Paul guards against two mistakes. The first is treating prophecies with contempt and/or rejecting them altogether. The second is just believing all of them without any examination.

He says don't despise them and don't quench the Spirit. But, on the other hand, when a prophecy comes, examine it carefully and hold fast only to that which is good.

***Join me in prayer.

C) Dr Michael Maiden

On 5 June my wife and I attended a business leader conference in KL. We knew that renowned pastor, Dr Michael Maiden was attending. That was exciting enough as we'd seen him prophesize over a conference of 5k people at Leader's Advance last year. What we didn't know was that he would be prophesising over those who attended – including over Paola and I.

The session of the prophesy he shared with my wife and I was recorded and for the last 3 weeks I have sat on it not knowing whether to show it to anyone.

Initially I thought to keep this private but I've been stirred to share it. My wife has also agreed to share it.

We share it not for self promotion but share it humbly and in order to magnify His name and to glorify God.

It is a bit long so I cut it to almost half length - but I am happy to share it with anyone who would like to listen to the whole nearly 8 mins. Here it is:

[Play the Video]

D) What does this all mean?

Firstly, as Apostle Paul mentioned in the scripture above, it is so encouraging - the language is one of God being proud of us, of being curse breakers, or being on the right path. As I heard these words I felt my spirit soar. It was just so lovely.

Secondly, we were shocked by some of the truths being revealed. Some that could not have been known to Ps Maiden or those in the room.

[JP testimony on the pattern of building and leading in our family men; what happened when I was 12 to 14; and my wife's breaking the curse of the angry woman].

I have learnt so much through hearing this prophesy. It has been an incredible unexpected blessing.

We are so grateful.

More importantly, is the impact it's starting to have.

[JP testimony of sharing the video with parents – my father's disbelief.]

It's this impact which is the reason why I'm sharing it with you men. I don't know what impact it will have on you but I'm leaving that to the Holy Spirit who I trust and love with all my heart. Thank you God.

***Join me in prayer.

Take Aways:

For all of us there are take aways when hearing a prophesy:

1. Ask yourself, does the prophecy agree with Scripture?

Remember the Holy Spirit is the author of Scripture and the Holy Spirit never contradicts Himself. So the Holy Spirit will never say, through prophecy, something that is contradictory to Scripture.

2. Does the prophecy uplift Jesus Christ? The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church is to **reveal and uplift Jesus Christ**. Anything that does not uplift Jesus Christ is not from the Holy Spirit. **Revelation 19:10** tells us this specifically: *"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* All true prophecy centres in the person of Jesus.

3. Does the prophecy encourage God's people? Remember that that was the one primary purpose: encouragement of God's people. If the prophecy doesn't build up, doesn't strengthen, doesn't encourage God's people, then there's no reason to believe that it's from the Holy Spirit.

We should also include a word of warning about any directive prophecy you receive. It should not be the only means of guidance in your life.

Paul says in:

2 Corinthians 13:1

"In the mouth of two or three witnesses let every word be established."

We should not act *only* on a prophecy. Let it be *one* of the means which will guide you into God's will. Another powerful aspect of prophecy is, whenever we've been discouraged, oppressed or wondering whether we could make it through a situation, we can recall prophecies that have been given to us in the past and allow them to encourage and strengthen us.

An examples of this in Scripture is when Paul writes to Timothy in **1 Timothy 1:18 NIV**:

"Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well."

Paul is saying: "Remember the prophecies that went before you. Remember that God is with you, and though you may have opposition and trouble, nevertheless, God is going to fulfill what He has promised!"

Have you ever received a prophecy that you knew was from the Lord?

Did it, "build up, stir up and cheer you up?"

I pray what I shared with you today has encouraged and glorified His name.

***** Join me in prayer.**

Would anyone like to share?