

# Praying Prophetically

## Genesis Church Prayer School

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**Praying Prophetically:** seeking and listening to the voice of God for divine wisdom and insight for the purpose of building up the Church

- Can be used in solitary personal prayer (to build up oneself and others in prayer)
- Can be used within the Body of Christ
- Can be used for those outside the Church, the lost and seeking
- Some examples of wisdom gained through prophetic prayer:
  - A word of knowledge
  - A word of encouragement or edification
  - A word of wisdom
  - Divine wisdom, understanding and perspective in a situation
  - Strategic direction for prayer (sometimes including insight into the enemy's plans)
  - Hints at what will happen in the future
    - Hope and encouragement in a time of need/struggle/doubt
    - Information about occurrences in the future\*
  - Exposure of sin for the purpose of moving toward freedom\*
  - A word of warning\*

\*regular prophetic use DOES NOT include these things! When we operate in prayer ministry on a Sunday morning, we will NOT be doing these things during prayer time. If we feel something like this, it will go through Pastor Tim first, and may then later be brought to a person.

## It all starts with love.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-2**

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.

### **1 Corinthians 13:8-12**

**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.

### 1 Corinthians 14: 1-4

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.

### 1 Corinthians 14: 24-25

**24** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, **25** 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.

## Old Testament Prophecy VS. New Testament Prophecy

God's covenant was with a people group and He spoke to that group through a prophet - starting with Moses - although He wanted to speak to all from the beginning.

### Exodus 20:18-21

<sup>18</sup>All the people heard and saw the thunder and lightning, the sound of the horn, and the mountain smoking. And when the people saw it, they shook with fear and stood far away.

<sup>19</sup>They said to Moses, "You speak to us and we will listen. But do not let God speak to us or we will die." <sup>20</sup>Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so you may have enough fear of Him to keep you from sinning." <sup>21</sup>The people stood far away, while Moses came near to the cloud where God was.

## Old Testament Prophecy VS. New Testament Prophecy

OT ...	NT...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● A few have access to hear God's voice directly (Exodus 4:12; Deut 18:18; Ezekial 2:7)</li><li>● Prophets act as God's mouthpiece - He puts words in their mouths (Jeremiah 1:9)</li><li>● Responsibility of the word on the prophet (2 Peter 1:20-21)</li><li>● Without error. Prophet dies if word does not come to pass or is not a prophet (Deut 13:2, 18:20-22)</li><li>● "Thus saith the Lord..." (Amos 1:3)</li><li>● Most often words for large people groups</li><li>● Draws God's people back to Him</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● All have access to hear God's voice directly (Acts 2:17)</li><li>● All can prophesy (Acts 2:17-18, 11:28, 21:4, 21:8-9; Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:-11, 14:1-10; Eph 2:20; 1 Thess 5:19-22)</li><li>● Shared responsibility on the word - receiver tests (1 Thess 5:21-22)</li><li>● Most often words for individuals used for teaching (1 Cor 14:31), provide direction (Acts 13:1-3), identify or impart gifts (1 Tim 4:14), etc.</li><li>● Word is tested (1 John 4:1)</li><li>● "I feel or hear the Lord saying..."</li><li>● Used to edify and encourage</li><li>● Draws people to Christ (1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7-11; Rev 19:10)</li></ul>

To be used safely, those who prophecy should be under authority even still (1 Cor 14:36-38). We are accountable one to another. We prophesy one to another to encourage and edify and help one another, not out of authority over or control over one another. Prophecy is revelation that is confirmed by Scripture.

**Revelation 19:10** - "it is the spirit of prophecy that bears testimony to Jesus."

## **Responsibility in Delivering and Receiving a Prophetic Word**

The first and most important responsibility we have in hearing from the Lord prophetically is to remember that **what we hear does not belong to us - it belongs to God**. We need to ask Him how to steward what He has spoken to us, and then obey with love and grace. Remember - we see only in part and **God's complete purpose for the word is wrapped in mystery**.

**Object Lesson:** Prophetic Word as a gift marked "God's Property"

Notes:

### **Acts 21: 8-14**

**8** On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. **9** He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. **10** While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. **11** 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[c] at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" **12** When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. **13** Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." **14** And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

## Our Responsibilities in Delivering and Receiving Prophetic Words

When delivering ...	When receiving...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hear without assumption of understanding (1 Cor 13:9)</li> <li>● Ask God for interpretation and understanding</li> <li>● Ask God what to do with it               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For prayer only</li> <li>○ To be delivered</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Ask God when to deliver</li> <li>● Ask God how to deliver (i.e. written down or verbal)</li> <li>● Ask the person if it's okay before delivering</li> <li>● Deliver with love and grace, free from control, manipulation, pride, or judgement (do a heart check)</li> <li>● Release the word completely to the other person</li> <li>● Encourage the receiver to test the word in prayer (1 Thes 5:20-21)</li> <li>● Use wisdom when asking the person if the word has meaning to them.</li> <li>● Refrain from discussing it with others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Receive the word with grace and love - remember that we are all just humans and only see in part</li> <li>● Test the word through prayer and waiting on the Lord (1Thess 5:20-21)</li> <li>● Hold on to what is good and forget (and forgive) what isn't</li> <li>● Record the word - write it down in a journal or keep record of it somewhere</li> <li>● If it doesn't seem to apply now, save it for later.</li> <li>● Hold the word loosely with open hands - only God knows the complete purpose of that word for you</li> <li>● Seek company of trusted brothers and sisters in Christ to pray and seek understanding if you desire</li> </ul>

## How to Test a Word

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-21

**16** Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **19** Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not despise prophecies, **21** but test everything; hold fast what is good.

I (Claire) like to use the metaphors of **tasting** and **sifting** when I test a word that has been delivered to me. Oftentimes, most of it will feel right on, but a small part might have been a little skewed through the process of delivery (we only see in part!).

1. Write down or record the word and mull it over in your mind and spirit with the Holy Spirit.
2. Ask God for interpretation and understanding. Sometimes prophecy is metaphorical, and we need to make sure we are asking God about meaning instead of assuming meaning. (This may take some time.)
3. Taste and sift the word. (See "Discerning the Voice of God") Keep what is "God-flavored" and forget what is not. (1 Thess 5:21 "hold fast to what is good.") Make

sure not to harbor unforgiveness in your heart for what needs to be forgotten. Forget and forgive.

4. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how He wants to use this word in your life.
5. Invite a couple trusted brothers or sisters in Christ to pray with you and test the word together. It is important to choose people who love you, have your best interest in mind, and will not control or manipulate you in the process of testing the word. If the situation you are praying about is of very great importance, try to choose people who do not have a stake in the outcome to pray with you.
6. Continue to come back to the word as God leads you over time.

## When People Get Hurt

As human beings, we are far from perfect. We are all learning, and often, learning involves making mistakes. Using prophecy in the Body of Christ needs to be done within the safety of accountability, love, and grace so that hurts are minimized.

Things we NEVER do at Genesis church when we are operating in personal prophecy and I would encourage you NOT to do, maybe not ever....

- No dates, no mates, no babies
- No sin finding/shaming/pointing out
- No "fortune telling"
- No "readings"

These kinds of things can stem too easily from control and judgement and can cause deep wounds and misrepresentation of God.

### People can get hurt when:

The Person Delivering ...	The Person Receiving...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Speaks without asking God if or when to speak</li> <li>● Does so without love or in a manner that is not loving</li> <li>● Does so with judgement, control, manipulation, or pride</li> <li>● Does so with a bias for a desired outcome</li> <li>● Presents the word as though they completely understand it</li> <li>● Does not give room or permission for the receiver to test the word</li> <li>● Does so with strings attached</li> <li>● Uses an exposure of sin to condemn or judge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fails to test the word with the Holy Spirit and keep what is good, forget what isn't</li> <li>● Forces the interpretation to mean what they want to hear</li> <li>● Places too much importance on the person delivering the word or on the specific details of the word</li> <li>● Thinks they understand completely without inquiring of God</li> <li>● Expects a specific outcome in a specific timeframe</li> <li>● Fails to steward the word over time</li> </ul>

# Hearing and Discerning the Voice of God

## How I can hear God’s voice (just a few ways):

- Scriptural direction - content of a verse or a reference
- Dreams (Num 12:6)
- Visions - can be seen with the eyes or in the mind’s eye/imagination (1 Sam 3:1,15; 2 Sam 7:17; Isa 1:1; Ezek 11:24)
- A clear thought or phrase
- A deep and certain “knowing”
- Mental pictures
- An emotion or feeling

You have your own “language” that God uses to speak to you. No one “language” is better than any other - just different. It takes time and experience to learn how God speaks to you, and **the best place to start is with a surrendered and quiet heart/mind.**

We have three different “voices” at play in our hearts and minds: our own human voice, the voice of the evil one, and the voice of the Holy Spirit. Over time and relationship with God, we learn to discern His voice.

## Hearing and Discerning the Voice of God

What the voice of God can “sound” like:	What the voice of the evil one (sometimes my own human thoughts) can “sound” like:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grace</li> <li>● Love (sometimes tough love)</li> <li>● Conviction that leads to freedom</li> <li>● Freedom</li> <li>● Trust</li> <li>● Alignment with Scripture and God’s ways</li> <li>● Eternally focused</li> <li>● Generosity</li> <li>● Strengthening</li> <li>● Nourishing</li> <li>● Order</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Blame</li> <li>● Pride</li> <li>● Condemnation</li> <li>● Guilt</li> <li>● Shame</li> <li>● Control</li> <li>● Fear/worry/anxiety</li> <li>● Alignment with the world’s ways</li> <li>● Temporally focused</li> <li>● Entitlement</li> <li>● Stinginess/Greediness</li> <li>● Dread</li> <li>● Confusion</li> <li>● Our own fleshly desires</li> </ul>

## Mark Virkler - Four Keys Hearing the Voice of God

- 1) Quiet yourself down
- 2) Fix your eyes on Jesus
- 3) Tune to the flow of the Holy Spirit
- 4) Write

# Personal Prophetic Prayer

**Personal Prophetic Prayer:** Asking God for His divine insight, wisdom, and perspective in prayer for yourself or for others.

An example of how to use prophetic prayer personally (for those who like step-by-step instructions):

1. Start with love and surrender
  - a. Tell God how you feel and think about the situation (clearing your mind of what you think needs to happen).
  - b. Worship God and surrender the situation to Him, to His ways and His timing
  - c. If conviction comes to you in this time, confess and repent, and accept forgiveness.
2. Ask God for His insight (some options for questions to ask God):
  - a. Holy Spirit, please show me how to pray.
  - b. Jesus, what do you think about me/this situation/this person?
  - c. Holy Spirit, please align my heart and perspective with Yours.
  - d. What strategy can I use in prayer that aligns with Your perspective, God?
  - e. God, what should I do?
  - f. Lord, what should I focus on?
  - g. Father, what questions should I ask?
3. Wait on the Lord - this is a very important step!
  - a. Keep your mind and heart at peace and pay attention to the thoughts that cross your mind. Take your time.
  - b. Jot down anything that comes to mind.
  - c. Prayerfully explore any direction you receive.
4. Seek interpretation from the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what it means.
  - b. Timing?
  - c. Action needed?
5. Follow the direction you receive.
  - a. Pray the way the Holy Spirit has shown you.
  - b. Ask God if any part of the insight is meant to be shared.
6. Thank the Lord for sharing His perspective with you.
7. Remember that we only see and understand in part, not wholly.

If you have questions or would like to talk more about these topics, feel free to email Claire or Leslie: [clairearoth@gmail.com](mailto:clairearoth@gmail.com) or [leslie.abshier@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.abshier@gmail.com). Talk to Pastor Tim, talk to your pastor, speak to others you trust and explore these notes, verses, and topics for yourself.

## Exercises for Activation

### Personal Prophetic Prayer Time

Think of a situation in your life for which you need divine wisdom and insight. Tell God about it, then ask the Holy Spirit for a prophetic word. Quiet your mind and wait on the Lord. Jot down anything that crosses your mind. Later, you can come back to what you wrote down and sift through it with the Holy Spirit.

**TIP:** Be mindful that if you already have a desire that you could end up praying/prophesying to yourself through an idol. “Lord, I love this person, are they my husband?” I find it best to ask general open-ended kinds of questions like “Lord, I need guidance to know what to do here, please lead me. What would you say to me?”

**Notes:**

## **Group Prophetic Prayer**

Divide into groups of three or four to take turns being the focus of prophetic prayer.

- Designate the first person to be the focus
- One person pray out loud and ask God for prophetic words of encouragement for that person.
- Wait quietly for several minutes - listen and wait on the Lord. Make a note of anything you hear or that crosses your mind. Ask God if it's okay to share (in these situations, almost all words are for sharing because that's what we are specifically asking for - words to share).
- Share what you heard with the person who was the focus of prayer. If you're comfortable, share also the way in which it came to you - a word or phrase, a feeling, a scripture reference, etc.
- The focus of prayer should record the words - jot them down or record on your phone to come back to later.
- Repeat with the next person as the focus of prayer.
- If time allows when everyone has had a turn, feel free to return to a word if it needs more prayer for clarity and insight.
- Take your prophetic words home and test them with the Holy Spirit.

**Notes:**