

SESSION 3 = THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

prophecy, gift, verses, god, church, prophesy, prophetic word, outworking, people, prophet, life, revealed, outwork, scripture, corinthians chapter, spirit, direction, talking, role, learning

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Welcome to session three. And we're looking at part of the gift of the Spirit, which is the gift of prophecy. So this session is to give us a little bit of insight and understanding of the gift of prophecy, but also just learning some processes of how to outwork and how to walk, the gift of prophecy in and out through your life. It's one thing in understanding what the gift of prophecy is. But it's then it's another well how do I put the gift of prophecy into practice, how do I live it outside of my life. And the biggest thing that I've found is maintaining a balance. You know, we don't just want to be of heavenly good, but we want the things of the heaven to be of earthly good. Where we outworking, and we're putting into practice the things of heaven into the things of the earth. God always says

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'Thy Kingdom Come on earth as it is in heaven.' And part of the foundational you know, the five-fold ministry and the foundation of the church is these particular gifts that God has given us. The church is built upon the gifts of the apostles, the prophets, the pastor, the teacher, and the evangelists. Not only that, but as I was speaking, you know, before, it's also got to do with the motivational gifts that God gives us, gifts of leadership, gifts of faith, gifts of mercy, gifts of giving, gifts of prophecy. And so we're just going to walk through this, and we're going to gain a better understanding, more insight, and more knowhow, with the gift of prophecy outworking in our lives. So what is prophecy? Prophecy is part of the supernatural utterances in a known tongue. God manifests Himself supernaturally to the spirit of man to bring a message to his church, to his bride and to his people. We can see that in 1 Corinthians chapter 2, verses 9 to 10. And it talks about where the spirit will reveal things to his church, he'll reveal things to us, where his church. A church isn't a building, its people. And so the revelation comes through hearing the voice of the Spirit. One of the gifts is prophecy that God gives to man to his church, his people found in Romans chapter 12, verses 4 to 8, and let's just have a look at that particular scripture. And if you've got your bibles there now, so turn to Romans, chapter 12, verses 4 to 5. It's great to know the Scripture, I always say to people who are moving in the gifts of prophecy, don't just give me figures and images and all sorts of natural things. I want to hear something that's coming from the word. I want confirmation from the Word of God on what the Word of God is actually saying about particular things. So I back up my prophecy with scripture. So this particular gift that we're talking about today, the gift of prophecy, how do we walk out the processes of bringing about and living, the prophecy or the gift of prophecy in and through our lives, Romans chapter 12, verses 4 to 8.

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4 'As we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. So we be in many are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them, if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith. So there's a particular level of faith that God gives us as individuals. Hey maybe because I've been a Christian longer than you or maybe because I might have been trained. So my level of faith could be at a different stage than you. You may be just starting off and wanting to know more about the gifts of prophecy. So it's got to do with the faith that God puts within us. So this particular gift of prophecy, it's also one of the mantle. It's one of the mantle gifts. The five-fold ministry gifts, the foundation of the early church as it was being established in the New Testament in Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 10 to 13. And we know that it talks about the five-fold ministry and, and the Prophet, the Prophet is one of the key foundations in verse 11. We're looking at Ephesians. We'll start from verse 10, 'He who descended is also

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ascended far above all the heavenly, that he might feel all things.' It's talking about Jesus, not only did he go to sit down at the right hand of the Father, but he descended into hell and he got the keys of life and death from Satan in verse 11, it says, 'And He himself self gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors, and some teachers. So that's the five-fold ministry and prophecy is a key ascension gift, it's a mantle, it's a gift that God endures and puts upon people's life upon you or upon me, but it's a gift for us, is something that we can't just work up and, you know, try to stir it up. If you're not given that gift. Some people are walking in that gift. So we're looking at the prophecy and we're looking at what are the purposes? What is the gift of prophesying purposes, Paul tells us that it is important, and its purpose is for some particular things. Let's have a look at 1 Corinthians chapter 14. As we look at the scripture, you know, I'm confirming the role and the purpose of prophecy in our and outworks in the church. It's not just something that's just for me, it's who the church is for the body of Christ. You know, it's there. 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 3 to 5. Are you with me, following me as we go through this, we're all going to get a deeper understanding of the outworking in the process and the living out of the gift of prophecy and understanding of it. Hey but how do I live in and how do I work it out in my life, especially not just my own life. But how do I see it at work in relation to helping the church helping individuals. 1 Corinthians, chapter 14, verses 3 to 5. But he who prophesies speaks edification, and exhortation, and comfort to men. So he's saying, these are some of the functions and the role of prophecy. And as we understand it, it says, in that scripture, that when we prophesying, I'm speaking, edification. Edification, meaning aye, I am bringing enlightenment is something I'm bringing instruction. Hey I am bringing improvement into the heart of the church, or into the heart of a particular person. And it's bringing elevation, it's edifying them. It's not putting them down, but it's actually lifting them up. 1 Corinthians, we find it in chapter 3. And we're talking about the gift of prophecy and its purposes, hey, in what it is, therefore, not just for my own use, but for the use of the church for the use of edification of others. 1 Corinthians chapter 3, verses 11. Here we go. 'For no other foundation can anyone laid and that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus. Now, if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay straw, each one's work will become clear. For the day we'll declare it because it will be revealed to us by fire, and the fire will test each one's work

of what sort it is.' And so we're talking about building up, we're talking about edifying. We're talking about something that's going to last into eternity. Aye, into eternity, the eternal purposes of God and we see in this particular scripture that we want to have a prophetic word that's going to edify others.

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The next thing is the purposes of prophecy is exhortation. I love that exhortation encouragement and counsel to advise and to bring strong urging. So we know 1 Corinthians chapter 14 verses 3 to 5 talks about these particular traits and attributes, edification exhortation, to encouraging and to lift up and to bring strong urging and advice to the church or individuals. The other one was comfort. We know that that's also it's a role of the Holy Spirit is a comforter and a guide and a counselor. Comfort is to ease, it's to bring relief. It's a sense of security. It's like contentment, consultation, and it's like bringing relaxation. It's about, I'm comforting the church, I'm comforting people through the word of prophecy bringing well-being. It's there in the hard times in the difficult and the hardships during difficult times in our lives. I'm bringing comfort to this person. I'm bringing comfort to the church. The gift of prophecy is there to convict and convince. It's not my role, to go around and to be judging and to be convicting and to convince people. That's the Holy Spirit's role. So another word for those is persuade. It's prophesying to bring influence. It's to win over. Prophecy helps to see people getting converted, and it's there to bring about you know, God proving what is right, not what I think is right. And we see that this is found in 1 Corinthians, chapter 14, verses

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24 to 25. We have to be very mindful and balanced, that we're not going around being judgmental and hitting people over the head with the Bible. That's the role of the Holy Spirit.

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He's there to convict and he's there to convince. 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 24 to 25. We're looking at the purposes and the role of the prophetic anointing, the prophetic gift that God gives to us as individuals, not just for our self, but it's for the church. And it's for individual people to encourage, to edify, to exhort, to comfort. 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 24, to 25. 'But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all, and thus the secrets of his heart are, of his heart, are revealed. In so falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.' So he's talking about the gift of prophecy, you know, someone comes into a church. Now may be unbeliever, may be feeling down, discouraged, somebody gets up and gives a prophecy. And aye it could be something that really hits home to his heart. It convicts him, it convinces him that God is in the house. God is working through your life. So God shows us things. He gives us a prophetic so that it may impact people's lives and it may influence people to come to God. The other thing about the gift of prophesying for instruction in learning instruction in learning is that a God wants to bring order he wants to bring direction he wants to bring about teaching and coaching us in training us in the things of God. 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 31. 'Instruction and learning for you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

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And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.' You know, God doesn't come down and say I'm taking over your life.

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You know, he gives us the ability to choose, there's a will. And so in all of this His instructing us and His saying to us, we have got to learn

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We've got to learn how to move and how to out this particular gift in our lives' prophecy. Sometimes we just make it so complicated. But hey we have to keep it simple, down to earth. So I'm not just of heavenly years but over the years. So there are two functions that is outworked through the gift of prophecy. These differences are shown in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Old Testament prophecy is foretelling future events, or present events that needed direction or needed an answer. Functioning in this role, as defined by the kingdom rule operating with the positions of a king. So in the Old Testament, we see that the king, they were the one in charge, they have the authority and the power. And in the New Testament, we see that that person is the apostle. In the Old Testament, we see the priest, hey, the priest in the king walking together, aye to bring worship and they bring order and to bring direction into have an answer when they were in really difficult times when nations are coming against the nation of Israel, the king, the priest and the prophet, they worked together to outwork what God was saying and what God was wanting them to do, in the midst of wars and in the midst of difficult time. So this particular role, as we see in the Old Testament, as a prophet, it actually relates and it's called the office of a prophet. The office of a prophet is someone that has influence and has relationships, and they're called upon by kings like prime ministers and people in higher places of influence and people in higher places of leadership. They're called up on these people to pray and to bring an answer into the heart of difficult times and dark ages. So it's a role, which is outworked and called office of a prophet. And we see these outworking really sort of strategically in the Old Testament. Prophets were called upon to meet with the king to give them an answer, when they were in times of difficulties, in times of war, and in terms of selecting a new king. Solomon was selected as a king. This area of functioning is in the arena of the governmental realm. It's a governmental realm, which is got to do with order, got to do with laws, got to do with instruction, and it pertains to rules and orders. And also direction. You can find this about King Solomon being selected as a king called up for the Prophet and the priests was there for their anointing. It's found in 1 Kings chapter 1, verse 34. We see the direction part in 1 kings 18, there was a battle for the throne with Elijah. Obadiah was the priest and Ahab was the king. And so there's a battle going on, and the three came together to seek God and to get an answer and to get direction in how to fight this battle. Read it in 1 Kings chapter 18. So here we are, where we see the office of a prophet, being outworked with the king, and with the priest. So it's the apostolic, the pastor and the prophet working together, to bring order and rules and instruction and directions, and to outwork, the voice of God, and to bring direction into situations, into selection of leadership, into dark times and in the place where they may be in war. In the New Testament, we see the prophecy is concerned with the life of the church, and not so much the world. So this is when the church has been set up. So a prophet will prophesy, but not who will prophesy are prophets. So we got the Office of the prophet and we got someone who's got the gift of prophecy. And we read it in 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verse 31, so there's a gift, a prophetic gift. You can prophesy, you know, and Paul talks about his desiring us all to prophesy.

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You know, he said instead of tongues and inter, he said he wanted everyone to be able to prophesy. Because at least everyone can understand it in English, what the prophets, the prophet or what someone is prophesying. That's found in 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 31, we did read it before, for you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophet. Hey, we have control knowing when to stop and knowing when the Holy Spirit say that's enough. When you prophesying too much, it could be too much. So these are the particular outworking of prophecy, someone carries an offer of Office of a prophet and someone as the gift of prophecy. We all have a measure of this gift of prophecy in our lives as a child of God. And we know that all of us can outwork prophecy in us, because it says in Revelation 19, that Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. Hey, its part of the DNA of the church prophecy is there within the heart of the church. It's just not all of us understanding, how to outwork it in our lives. You know, and Paul, Paul wants us all to prophesy. 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 19, and it's a gift. Yet in a church, I would rather speak five words with my understanding that I might teach others also then 10,000 words in a tongue. So he's saying, 'Come on, I desire you to have the gift of prophecy. I desire you to be moving in that gap in prophesying words that everybody can understand.' Let's look at 1 Timothy chapter 4. And we know that teaching and edification and you know, being in a place of comfort, working out the prophecy and encouragement and in exhorting and helping others to grow in their gift. Somebody may be looking for direction and they're unsure and someone prophesied something in the sense to confirm and answers, you know their prayer. 1 Timothy chapter 4, verses 12 to 16. We're talking about outworking in the life of the church, the gift of prophecy. 1 Timothy chapter 4, verses 12 or 14, 'Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity, till I come. Give attention to reading, to exhortation to doctrine, do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the leadership. Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.' So he's saying, hey, prophecy to give from the church. And sometimes people don't realise that they're carrying this gift. But someone could lay hands on you or just pray with you. And they say, 'Oh, you've got the gift of prophecy.' And so it's in all of us. It's in the heart of the church. It's a gift that God gave the church which is prophecy, because of the influence of Jesus. Jesus is the cornerstone of the church, and he carries this spirit of prophecy. And so in our lives and in the heart of the church, yes, we know the prophecy is part of the foundation. Our prophecy reveal to us sometimes is this spontaneous utterance, a word, a vision and impression of scripture, something that is revealed by the Holy Spirit from within us.

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Prophecy could be revealed to us through dreams and visions. While we're in our prayer time, in our private time, in a church or in my reflection in many meditating times, of devotion with God, it's God's place in timing when he wants to speak to us regarding particular things going on in our lives, or going on in the lives of others as we begin to pray. We know that Isaiah 6 talks about that Isaiah was in position in a place of prayer in the temple, you know, the supernatural dimension, Dream and visions. Hey heaven just open up, you know he was awake. And the visions of God just came to him and received the same thing in Acts chapter 9 verses 10 to 12. We know that hey, the voice of God was heard audibly, and begin to speak to Soul at that time he was persecuting the church. And he came to a place of salvation because of a supernatural vision. But it was audible. God spoke to him and gave him directions in what to do. So the prophecy is great, in seeing salvation of people, you could be

praying for the unsaved and suddenly God just revealed something to you, by the Holy Spirit, something prophetic about that person, or something that's going on in that person's life. It's the gift of prophecy. So prophecy can be revealed to us through messages in angels. John was the closest friend of Jesus out of the three and he was used to write the book of Revelation, which is made known to him by visitations of angels. John had all these hidden mysteries of the kingdom. He had all was disclosed to him. Audible, visible, sight, touch and smell. The five senses, everything of the prophetic word of the book of Revelation. God downloaded it to John through messages, through the angels, he saw the things that were coming up ahead, and so that's how prophecy was revealed to him. Prophecies can be revealed to us through songs poetry and natural sources, while you singing. Prophetic words can come through your life in a song while you're walking while you're in the environment with God and he can reveal his words to encourage you and to lift you up, and to comfort you and show you somebody's face in the midst of prayer when you're alone with God in your private time making a place with him and he begins to reveal things to you. The other ways prophecy can be revealed through art and artistic gifts. God reveals Himself to us as individuals through the gifts that He has given us. And the things that we best relate to what flows from our lives, what things were connected even our personality types. God uses us as individuals to speak to us and also uses prophecy corporately, from the body of Christ, to release a prophetic word, Delivery and expression of prophecy. Everyone is different. And God uses us as individuals, through our different personalities. It's important to respect each other in the delivery and expression of each other. It's so important that we are in a place of speaking and verbalising the prophetic word, the prophecy to encourage to lift up and to edify under the unction of the Holy Spirit. Aye, it's not about me, but it's about the people that God wants to encourage. It's about the people that God wants to speak to. Speak to you as well as he wants to speak to others. Acts chapter 21 verses 8 to 13. 1 Corinthians chapter 14, verses 19. Understanding that we need to be able to have a heart of humility, and to be working out of a heart of compassion for each other. Writing or recording for present or future references, especially for when individuals or the corporate body of Christ needs encouragement or direction. Jeremiah chapter 36, verse 10, and Jeremiah chapter 36, verses 17 to 19.

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There are also some practical lessons that I've learned over my many, many years of being a Christian, and many years of operating and walking and asking, God to increase my capacity to become a person of the Spirit, not just to be a person of the Spirit, but to increase the prophetic edge of my life. We all are people of influence. We all have the ability to impact the lives of people for the good. We also have the ability to impact people's lives for the not so good, causing them to either falter or trip up. So prophecy and how we're delivering it is really important. But we're about building the kingdom of God in the earth. And these are some of the lessons that I would really love to champion you about the gift of prophecy. One, be yourself, who God made you to be, don't compare yourself with others. God uses us all as individuals. Two. Don't shout, learning to control your emotions, and allow the word to flow naturally not allowing your desires to take over, not allowing your emotions to take over. Stay on track, or you will trip up or you will get confused or you will sort of, you know, maybe delivering something that's of the flesh and the carnal nature instead of the Spirit. So learning to control your emotions, and allow the spirit to flow the word naturally from out you. The Bible says, 'Out of your bellies shall flow rivers of living waters.' It's not something that I have to force. It's not something I have to make happen. But it's saying 'God, I'm in a place of willing to be used by you, Holy Spirit flow out of me, the prophetic word.' Number three, let the word flow don't force it. And it comes naturally to you from the throne of

God. Number four, just practical lessons be focused on God. Be focused on God's word that he wants to release. You are his vessel, he gets the glory and we stay humble that we can be his servant, His Messenger, Amen. Practical tip, lesson number five, use wisdom and no timing. Just because you get a prophetic word, doesn't mean to say that, hey, now is the time to release it. So understand and know that God is a God a time and season. Use wisdom. Maybe it's for another time or another service, maybe it's something you just have to weigh up and meditate on. Maybe there is a particular timing when God wants you to release this prophecy, or this prophetic word. Read Ecclesiastics chapter 3, where it talks about times and seasons. Second practical tip is be prepared to mess it up. If you're new at it, hey, we're all gonna mess up. Have a go. Just because you might get it wrong. That's alright. It's not about us anyway. We are all human and we make mistakes. Don't be down on yourself, self-pity, self-focus, get your eyes of self. Stay focused on Jesus. Jesus is who we are to reflect even in our times of mistakes, keep on loving people. You know, and, you know, I'm you know, I'm, I've been there a few times. And I just say, well, I'll just pray about it a bit more. And I may have messed it up. But hey, I'm not going to give a prophesying because I made one or two mistakes. Check your heart, your motives and your attitudes. Why do you want to move in the gift of prophecy? Flow from a place of love and compassion. Jesus was moved with compassion for the crowd. The lost and the enemy was taken to the cross. He's been defeated. It's not about us looking good. It's not about me trying to move up the leadership ladder. Aye it's not about look at me, I'm the Prophet. So we got to understand our motives and our attitudes. We have to be flowing out of a place of compassion, that's the heart of God. Practical number eight, respond always with a heart that reflects honour and glory to Jesus. When giving compliments and be encouraged, when others are edified, comfort and exhorted. Amen, that's a great thing that God's using you. Have a heart

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that you honour God from the inside. Hey not the outside, we are able to take compliments. There's nothing wrong with that. You know, and I always say to people, thanks very much for encouraging me. You know that God has spoken to you, take compliments. Practical number nine. Have a few heart. You know guard your heart, protect your heart, be able to maintain a spirit that close with and through the Holy Spirit from a compassionate heart. Practical number 10 ask God for a scripture for the word He is releasing to you. You know, just an example. I'm in church and I'm getting this picture of an eagle. You know, and while I'm in that place, and I know that there's a prophetic word coming, God wants to show me something. So when I'm in this place of God, releasing is Word of prophetic word through me.

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I'm talking to God. I'm saying, God, Oh, what's this about? Is it for me? Or is it for the church?

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God? Is there a scripture that you want to show me about this particular vision of the eagle? I always use this one because it's very practical and easy to follow. So I see an eagle and then God just drops that scripture, you know, in Isaiah, 'They shall wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint. Hey but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.' And now I say, God is that for me, for the church, I'm talking to God, well, I'm getting this vision of an eagle. So when you move in, in the gift of prophecy, you're in that space of intimacy with God, but you saying, God, I just don't want to release or there's an eagle flying around. But I want a

scripture that's gonna back up my vision, which turns into a prophecy. And so we always got to have the scripture that's going to make the word more authentic, make the prophecy be confirmed through the Word of God. My final instruction for you today is the use of the gift. And it's part of the church's mandate to be a prophetic church. We find the scripture in 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 14 to 24. 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 14 to 24, verse 19, says, 'Do not quench this spirit.' Verse 20, says, 'Do not despise prophecies.' Verse 21, says, 'Test all things all fast, what is good.' So God is wanting us to move in the dimension of the prophecy, the gift of prophecy. My conclusion this afternoon before I go into talking about some activation time, Romans chapter 12, verse 6, and Joel chapter 2, verse 28, a time of worship and encouragement for those in meeting to move in the prophetic, and build confidence to operate in this realm and in their gift. So there are times when we're meeting with each other, and we just encouraging each other, you know, just saying to my friends, look, can I pray for you? Can I just ask God to give me a word for you? And so in our time of meeting, and our activation time, I'll have a couple other people with me when we meet together online. And we'll just go through a question and answer time together. So as you've gone through this session, write down some questions that you might have that you want to ask me and others in relation to the gift of prophecy. When we come together, like I just said, activation time, meet up with somebody, somebody you know, that also somebody that you don't know very well, even just three or four years, and you're praying together. And your just saying, Lord, show me something about the person that I'm teamed up with and that I'm praying for, write it down. And then you all just meet and to just begin to talk about what the Lord has shown you. But make sure you have confirmation of the scripture. So if God is showing you something about someone you're praying for, in this little group of four, write it down, but get a scripture, and then come back together and pray with each other and reveal to them the word that God has given you for each other. So it's learning to develop, it's learning to grow and enlarge the capacity of the prophecy in your life. Well, I hope you've learnt some things and if you've got some questions, I look forward to meeting up with you online once a fortnight and we're going to be discussing this session, the gift of prophecy, how do I live in it, how do I move in it, how do I enlarge in it, and how do the processes of understanding the gift of prophecies outwork in my life. God bless you until our next session.