

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
WORD GIFTS
Tom Singer
May 17, 2009

"The Lion has roared, who will not fear; the Lord God has spoken, who can but prophesy" Amos 3:8 We must have a conviction that the Lord wants to speak to his people and that he will find people to speak through for the benefit of his people.

We must increase our faith in the prophetic word that the Lord wants to speak!
The Word Gifts are to include Prophecy, Words of Knowledge & Words of Wisdom.
Prophetic: *The Lord God speaks a word into a specific situation.*

PROPHECY

"Make love your aim, earnestly desire the spiritual gifts especially that you may prophesy" (1Cor 14:1)
To build up the Body of Christ – manifestations for the common good. (1 Cor 12: 7)
All Christian prophecy should: 'Everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their edification (upbuilding), encouragement and comfort (1Cor 14:3)
'If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?' 1Cor 14:8

The Prophet Haggai 1:5 "Consider your ways, you have sown much, but harvested little; you eat, but never have enough; you clothe yourselves, but are never warm"
Call to repentance: 1:8 "go up to the hills and bring wood and build my house."
1:12 'then the king Zerubbabel, the high priest Joshua obeyed the voice of the Lord'
Edify: 1:13 "I am with you, says the Lord".
Encouragement: 2:4 Yet now take courage, Zerubbabel, Joshua and all you people.
Consolation: 2:9 "The latter splendor will be greater than the former"

Two kinds of prophecy

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|----------------------|---|
| Inspirational | saying what is known at the prompting of God, under His anointing. "I love you, my people!" |
| Revelational | a. saying what is unknown at the prompting of God, under His anointing. "Many people will come to you for healing!"
It can empower for <i>radical discipleship</i> (Lk. 5:10-11).
It brings correction and warning (as gifts of love). (Rev 2 & 3)
Prophecy can <i>motivate repentance or praise</i> in a gathering
b. "utterance of knowledge", which usually takes the form of inspired teaching. (<i>Fr. Francis during a homily speaking for the Lord</i>) The preacher speaking in the name of the Lord – 1 st person |

How does prophecy/word of knowledge come?

When should we expect to look for prophecy?

The Lord wants to speak to his people! We must be pregnant, like Mary, with the Word of God.

1. In your personal prayer.
2. When meeting or praying with someone. (praying over LSS)
3. In a larger gathering (SNPM).
4. In a liturgical celebration

Seeing/ visions (Eyes open or closed)

Unremarkable vision

God speaks to us through every day things (Jeremiah 1vs 11,12). "What do you see?" "A branch of the watchful tree". Through people and events.

So in my heart when I am praying for someone or for the body in general – often I ask the Lord to show me his heart for this person or situation. I know the Lord wants to work in this person's/people's life.

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Supernatural Vision – Peter & Cornelius in Acts 10. Paul & Ananias in Acts 9
See an event/ person doing something – I saw a person dancing or in a bridal gown.
Symbolic pictures in the mind's eye or imagination – first time climbing a wall

Hearing

Still small voice

(1King 19.11-13) = a whisper

Audible voice

Can be very ordinary (1Sam 3)

Interior voice

"My son, my son..." You know it is interior yet it can seem "loud".

Scripture

The Holy Spirit enlivens a verse or passage.

Prophecy in tongues

Interpretation or translation required.

Impression

Inner conviction strong or faint. What and how does the Lord want to communicate this. Pray over a period of time.

Dreams

- (1) Dreams from God e.g. to Joseph in New Testament.
- (2) Interpretation of dreams e.g. Daniel in Old Testament.

A sense for the Lord

In prayer, we can receive a sense that the Lord is trying to say something – or we're in a situation that doesn't feel comfortable and we need to beg the Lord for insight.

We must step back, wait and pray, asking God questions about what we have received and what He wants to say about what we have received.

Go to someone whom you respect and share the sense that you are receiving.

Then pray about how to deliver it. Like correcting a child.

When you have a prophetic sense, ask for wisdom on how to share the message. The prophet Nathan spoke a story to David about a rich poor and a poor man to get David to see the injustice he had done. If he had spoken directly to David about his sin, would he had been able to hear it?

Things to avoid

- It is more important for us to share God's love for a person than His knowledge about them.
- It is essential that we minister with humble and loving hearts.
- Finally love God with all your heart and be a servant.
- "Make love your aim and eagerly desire spiritual gifts". (1Cor.14.1)

PROPHETIC MINISTRY

It is clear from scripture that a prophet is called by God. Jer. 1:4; Is. 6:6-8;
You don't go to school to get a degree in prophecy because you feel attracted to it.

The Value of Prophecy – the prophetic

"Surely the Lord God does nothing without revealing his plans to his servants the prophets" Amos 3:7

As I believe the Lord wants to pour out all kinds of gifts on his people, I believe he wants us to desire prophecy – the prophetic. We need to take this word from Amos seriously if we want to hear the Lord and follow him!

He will reveal unmistakably what he wants from each of us!

- It can provide direction for individuals and communities. (Acts of the Apostles)
 - Acts 2:16ff – from the prophet Joel, Peter's proclamation at Pentecost

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- Acts 11:27ff – Agabus foretelling a famine; Antioch Christians sending relief to the brothers in Judea
- Acts 13:1-3 – among the prophets the people fasted and prayed and the Spirit spoke: Set aside Barnabas and Saul for the work...
- Acts 15:15 - The O.T. prophets confirm the choice of the Gentiles.
- Acts 15:32 – The church sent Judas and Silas, prophets, to encourage and strengthen the brothers.

Questions

1. Do you believe the Lord wants to speak to you personally either in your own prayer and/or through another brother or sister?
2. How have you been edified, encouraged and consoled when you responded to a Word the Lord spoke to you?
3. Do you believe the Lord wants to use you with prophetic gifts? How are you receiving encouragement to exercise those gifts? Have you received confirmation/discernment for prophetic words you have given?