

November 5, 2023

**EMPOWERED
THE GIFT OF PROPHECY**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 22-25

Big Idea: Prophecy is a gift of the Spirit to be used for the building up of the Church and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

The Challenge: The challenge is to be open to the working of the Spirit through the prophetic, but to do so in a way that is wise, discerning, orderly, and, most of all, done in, through, and because of love.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message:

Jesus, I thank you that you promised the Holy Spirit to always be with your people, and I thank you that you fulfilled and continue to fulfill this promise. Holy Spirit, I thank you that you are active in our lives as individuals and in our communal life as your people. Help us to keep in step with you, to be people who grow in our listening sensitivity to your leading, and are courageous in our obedience to you. Amen.

Questions for Discussion:

Introduction:

- What has been your experience with that which we've been discussing in the "Power Gifts"? Thinking of those times, what feelings and emotions do you recall having at the time, and what does it stir up in you presently?
- What comes to your mind when you hear the term prophecy? What associations would you have that are more positive and optimistic? What that may be more apprehensive or fearful?

What is Prophecy?

- "Prophecy is a timely message, received spontaneously, given by the Holy Spirit, communicated through human means, to be tested in community, for the building up of the Church and for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God."
- What parts of this definition resonate with you? What parts confuse you? What parts make you feel uncomfortable?
- Looking at Acts 10-11, apply this definition of prophecy to the account of Peter and Cornelius in these chapters.
- In your own words, how would you define prophecy as you understand it?

What is Prophecy for?

- Opening up 1 Corinthians 14, how would you summarize the purposes of prophecy?
- How could prophecy be mishandled or even abused?
- Why would Paul, in verse 1, say to eagerly desire the gift of prophecy?

Who is Prophecy for?

- In Acts 2, Peter references the prophet Joel in explaining that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all God's people, and that one of the results of this is dreams, visions and prophecy. What is your instant/gut response to this?
- What would it look like for Kamloops Alliance to be operating in a way where expressions of the gift of prophecy were a "normal" part of our communal experience together?

Application

- In your own words, what does it mean to test the prophetic?
- Where in 1 Corinthians 14 do we see encouragement and instruction around prophecy being engaged with in an orderly way? What would this look like in practical and present terms?
- What would be some good questions to ask/filters to have when testing prophecy in community?
- What is your understanding of 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21?