

**Encouraging the Gift of Prophecy-**

 **within your Congregation**

1. Make known God’s promise of New Covenant Prophecy
	1. Joel 2.28-29: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.”
	2. Acts 2.14-16: 4 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:”
	3. Jeremiah 31.3: “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”
2. Make known why New Covenant Prophecy is vital!
	1. **The Bible Shapes us**: The Bible (the Logos) makes known the ways of God, the nature of God, the values of God, and the priorities of God
		* 2 Tim.3.16: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
	2. **The Spirit Leads us**: Prophetic words lead us into the specifics of God’s will and leading.
		* Isaiah 30:21And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.
	3. **The prophetic envisions us:**1 Corinthians 2:9 ‘But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him.”’
	4. **Prophecy comforts and strengthens us**: 1 Cor. 14.3 ‘But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.’
		* Isaiah 35.3-5 ‘Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not!”’
	5. **Prophecy more of Jesus**:
		* Revelation 19.10: ‘For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy’
3. Making space for prophecy- *What we don’t make time for we don’t truly value!*
	1. 1 Cor. 14.1: ‘Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.’
	2. 1 Cor. 14.31-33: ‘For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.’
	3. Possible Moments for *Prophetic Pauses*;
		* Praying for people who have a birthday that month.
		* Praying for those with outstanding needs
		* Pausing after, or during worship
		* Simply asking if anyone has a word.
		* Praying for those who may be in transition, or at a crossroads.
4. Biblically assessing a prophetic word
	1. Is the word consistent with Biblical values and principals?
	2. Does the word build people up and encourage the recipient, or does it condemn and manipulate?
	3. Is there accompanying peace and joy in the Holy Spirit even if the word is challenging?
	4. Do 2 or 3 mature witnesses confirm it?
	5. Is the word cooked up, or is did it *spring up*?
5. Encourage Risk Taking within the context of *encouraging* *accountability*.
	1. 1 Corinthians 14:29 ‘Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.’
		* In Old Testament (old covenant) times the weight was on the prophet to be completely accurate. In NT times the weight is on the recipient of the word to weigh the word.
		* We are all, as the sons and daughters of God, to be prophetic, but very few are called to be a prophet!
		* Avoid words regarding marriage, babies, the healings
	2. Psalm 37.23-24: ‘The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he falls, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.’