

## Leadership Conference 2016

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Exhort, Equip, Encourage...the saints for the work of ministry

I. Exhort...

- A. *"If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."* - 1 Cor. 14:37-39 (ESV)
- B. *"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy."* - 1 Cor. 14:1

II. Equip...

- A. *"What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up."*  
- 1 Cor. 14:26
  - 1. *Hymn* – A spiritual song. I believe this can be a timely known song, an expression of the arts, a prophetic song, or poem that is intelligible. (Ephesians 5:18, Zeph. 3:17)
  - 2. *Lesson* – A brief encouragement teaching, prompting, or exhortation. (Rom. 12:6-8a, Heb. 10:25)
  - 3. *Revelation* – A prophetic message. A report of something, visually and/or verbally, that God brings to mind that encourages, edifies, and comforts the Church. (1 Cor. 14:3)
  - 4. *Tongue* – A Holy Spirit infused utterance in an unknown tongue. (declaration of His wonders, praise, prayer, and/or thanks to God. Acts 2:11, 1 Cor. 14:15-16)
  - 5. *Interpretation* – A Spirit-led, loose translation of the tongue that is Godward in delivery to edify the Church. (1 Cor. 14:2,5; declaration of His wonders, Acts 2:11 or praise, prayer, and/or thanks to God 1 Cor. 14:15-16)
- B. Revelation (Prophecy) – something revealed.

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1. The original meaning: prophet: (Greek-NT “prophetes” - to speak forth, spokesman...for God) (Hebrew “nabi” – meaning to “bubble up, as from a fountain” or “to flow forth,” ...by inspiration of the Spirit of God.)
2. *It’s reporting something God spontaneously brings to mind* – Wayne Grudem
3. Two purposes of prophecy
  - a. All things done for building up the church – 1 Cor. 14:3, 12, 26
  - b. To reveal the manifest presence of God. *“God is really among you”* – 1 Cor. 14:22-25
4. Prophetic ministry universal to those indwelt by the Spirit – 1 Cor. 14:31, 1 Peter 4:10
5. NT prophecy’s content is not universal. It’s non-normative – 1 Thess. 5:19-21
  - a. Canon of Scripture is closed, nothing can be added or taken away.
  - b. All Scripture is prophecy – 2 Peter 1:20, prophecy is an echo of Scripture
  - c. Why allow something fallible? (1 Cor. 14:1, 39; 1 Thess. 5:19)
  - d. *“...So that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”* (1 Cor. 1:26-29)
6. Prophecy manifests corporately/individually in: (Forth-telling, Fore-telling)  
ministry)
  - a. *Affirmation* – 1 Cor. 14:3, Acts 15:32 (corporate, team prophetic)
  - b. *Confirmation* – Acts 21:11 (Personal prophecy)
  - c. *Prediction* – Acts 11:28 (Congregational prophecy)

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prophecy) d. **\*\*Impartation** – 1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Tim. 1:6 (Presbytery

e. **\*\*Direction** – Acts 13:3 (Leadership serving prophecy)  
**\*\*...manifests significantly through, and to, pastoral authority/initiation**

### 7. Prophetic Processing

a. An interrupting thought, series of thoughts, or impressions of words or images into your mind as you turn to God in Scripture, prayer, or worship.

b. Unction - *The act of anointing for religious purposes...affected or exaggerated earnestness.* It's immediate empowerment for ministry.

c. Jesus was, *"moved with compassion"* (Matt. 9:36, 14:14, Mark 1:41)

d. Distinguishing *"prophetic speech"* – JD Greear

- *Word of Knowledge* – unction of timely knowledge from Scripture, or about a person or situation from the Holy Spirit.

- \* John 4:18 – Jesus at the well

- \* Acts 5:3 – Peter with Ananias

- *Word of Wisdom* – A timely application of knowledge, or a directive from the Holy Spirit to act on knowledge

- \* Acts 16:6 – Paul kept from preaching in Asia

- \* Acts 9:10-19 – Ananias directed to serve Paul

- \* Acts 5:8 – Peter given wisdom in dealing with

Sapphira

- \* Acts 6:10 – Stephen spoke with wisdom

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- *Discerning of Spirits* – Insight into a person, or group’s motivation, and/or the spirit realm’s influence on a situation
  - \* Acts 16:18 – Paul casts out a demon from the slave girl
  - \* Matt. 16:23 – Jesus rebukes Peter
  - \* Acts 13:8-10 – Paul discerned Elymas’ attack from Satan
- *Prophecy* – Reporting something God reveals for edification, encouragement, and comfort
  - \* Acts 11:27 – Agabus prophesies a famine
  - \* Acts 13:3 – Holy Spirit said through prophets, “Set apart...”
  - \* Acts 15:32 – Judas and Silas, prophets said many things over Paul
  - \* Acts 21:11 – Agabus prophesies
- e. Distinguishing Gift Spheres
  - *Office of the Prophet*
    - \* Calling from Jesus, spokesperson for God, equipper of saints for ministry in prophecy/gifts (Eph 4:11, Acts 13:1)
  - *The Gift of Prophecy*
    - \* Consistent operation in an individual used according to the proportion of their faith (Romans 12:6, 1 Cor. 12:10)
  - *The Spirit of Prophecy*
    - \* Periodic use of an individual due to prophetic anointing of the Holy Spirit in a meeting (Acts 2:17-18, Acts 19:6)

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- f. Ways to grow in the Spirit's manifestation of prophecy
- Scripture study and meditation
  - Journaling
  - Devotional Praise and worship
  - Pray in the Spirit (tongues)
  - Prayer and Intercession for others
  - Spend time with prophetically-gifted people
  - Declare the names and attributes of God
  - Obedience to the Spirit's prompting
  - Evangelism
8. Disciplines of delivery
- a. *Brevity* – Be brief and anointed
- b. *Clarity* – Precise and concise
- c. *Humility* – Submitted to authority (James 4:6, Eph. 5:21, 1 Cor. 14:32)
- d. *"...We prophesy in part"* – 1 Cor. 13:9
- e. *"...through a mirror dimly"* (ESV) – 1 Cor. 13:12
- f. *Sequence of the prophetic:*
- Revelation – Verbal or Visual impression
  - Interpretation – Meaning or understanding of the message or vision
  - Application – Delivery method, timing, context, individual or congregation
- III. Encourage...
- A. *"When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,"* – Acts 11:23

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1. Look for the grace of God in the church and others
2. Be joyful when others are succeeding in God
3. Exhort...with steadfast purpose (with the Gospel)

How we weigh/judge/test Prophecy...

### Romans 8: A Scriptural test of a prophecy in one chapter of Scripture

8:1 – No condemnation

8:2-3 – Doesn't encourage legalism, or earning favor with God

8:5-6 – God-centered, draws our attention to God, brings peace

8:11 – Life-giving and strengthening to our "mortal bodies," builds up the body

8:15 – Affirms our Sonship and assuages our fear

8:16 – Bears witness with our spirit that our Father is speaking

8:18-24 – Turns our attention away from suffering and affirms our hope of future Glory

8:26 – Promises the Holy Spirit's help and affirms His intervention

8:28 – Declares the Sovereignty of God over our lives and circumstances

8:29 – Affirms His foreknowledge and promise to make us like Christ

8:31 – Affirms He is for us against any that stand opposed

8:32 – Speaks of His gracious generosity toward us

8:33-34 – Affirms our justification before God

8:37 – Assures our inevitable victory in Christ

8:38-40 – Assures us of His unshakeable love for us

Questions to consider with personal and/or congregational prophecy

1 ~ Is the message Scriptural? (1 Thess. 5:19-21)

2 ~ Does the message glorify Jesus Christ? (John 16:13-14, 1 John 4:2-3)

3 ~ Does the message include gospel themes? (Rev. 19:10)

4 ~ Is the message's primary thrust "felt needs"/man-centered, or God-centered? (John 16:14)

5 ~ Does the message confirm the Spirit's leading up to and during the meeting? (1 Cor. 14:33)

6 ~ Does the message bear witness in our Spirit? (Rom. 8:16, John 16:7-13)

7 ~ Does the message edify, encourage, exhort the church? 1 Cor. 14:3

8 ~ How does the person envision delivering the message? (1<sup>st</sup> person or paraphrase – Col. 4:6, Eph. 4:29)

9 ~ Is the message excessively predictive, directive, or corrective?

10 ~ Is the message's interpretation of the vision clear, intelligible, anointed?

11 ~ Is the message clear, concise, and compassionate?

12 ~ Is the person sharing reliable, proven, known to deliver sound prophetic ministry?