



## **Life In The Spirit – Gift of Prophecy**

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Speakers:** Paul Gating & Mike Gowen

**Key Verses:** 1 Corinthians 14: 1-12, 26-32

### **Talk Summary:**

We are continuing our series called Life in the Spirit looking at 1 Corinthians 14 and the gift of prophecy. Gifts of the Spirit are gifts of God's Grace. They are not badges of spiritual honour. They are for the good of the whole body 'the common good' and everyone gets to play.

- Prophecy is the spiritual gift above all to be desired
- It builds up the church and is foundational
- Every one of us can prophesy – no special qualifications needed
- 1<sup>st</sup>, we receive revelation from God, which comes in many and varied forms
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, we understand what we have received, no embellishment of it; if confused, we ask for more revelation
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, we apply what we have received, either communicating it immediately, reflecting on it, praying over it, or acting on it
- 4<sup>th</sup>, all prophecy needs to be tested, as none of it is perfect. In particular, it should speak strengthening, encouragement or comfort.
- Avoid religious jargon or voice; directive prophecies; births, marriages, deaths

### **Activities / Questions for discussion**

1. What is your experience of prophecy up to now? Can you share an experience of receiving or giving a prophecy? What did it feel like? Did it make any difference to your or the other person's life?

2. Would it be useful to have more opportunity to prophesy in your small group – or in church services? How could this happen?
3. What do I do if the person does not receive my prophecy well? What about if I find out that it was not helpful or accurate?
4. Prophetic activation:
  - Sit in a circle
  - Put one person in the middle
  - Have a time of silence, dialling into God
  - Then each person has the opportunity (not compulsory!) to share any word or picture or whatever they feel they have received from God for that person
  - There is to be no comment on the words given, unless it is positive or affirming
  - To make it really interesting, you can sit in a circle facing outwards, so that only the leader knows who is in the centre, then each person gives a word 'blind', not knowing who it is for. This can be very powerful.

### **To ponder or pray about this week...**

*1 Corinthians 14:1:* Follow the way of love and eagerly desire things of the Spirit, especially that you may prophesy.

*Matthew 5:7:* Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find.

How eager is my desire for things of the Spirit? How much do I desire to prophesy?

What can I ask God for this week in relation to spiritual gifts and prophecy?