

1 Cor. 14 1-5 Prophecy Part 1

V.1 **Pursue**: GR:*Dioko*- run like chasing someone down **Desire**: zeloo- Covet. Strong desire. Especially prophecy!

What is NT prophecy? (the human report of divine revelation-Sam storms).

The difference between the OT/NT is not how we are saved (faith) but how the H.S. operates. Acts 2 fulfills Joel 2.

Telling-forth of God's message in a particular situation, always in accord with His Word and His current work. Ex: **Ananias and Saphira**.

Foretelling the future, as in Agabus in Acts 21 and Paul in Acts 27 (shipwreck).

Don Stewart- *Prophecy is not "preaching."* There is a Greek word for preaching, and a Greek word for divinely-inspired speech. Spirit-anointed preaching often can be prophetic. New Testament prophecy is not authoritative like scripture. Paul writes chapters 12-14 to combat the misuse of gifts. 12:1 Don't be ignorant about gifts; 12:31 *Desire the higher gifts* (prophecy one of them); 14:1 *Desire gifts, especially prophecy*; 14:5 I wish even more that you all prophesied. 14:39 Commands it but doesn't limit it to a time frame. 1 Thes. 5:19-20 *Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies.*

V.2-5; Why prophecy?

Goal: Strengthening (building), encouragement and consolation (comfort).

What is clear:

1. **Prophecy is a gift** that is dependent on the giver. The Spirit "apportions [his gifts] to each one individually as he wills" (1 Corinthians 12:11)
2. **We can quench** the Spirit 1 Thess. 5:19; By denying the gifts. But even by agreeing but not desiring or pursuing.
3. **Spirit works alongside faith that is exercised**. Rom. 12:6 *Prophecy in proportion to our faith.*

How do we give feet to faith in our "earnest desire"?

1. **Pursue**: **We are commanded to earnestly desire prophecy** (14:1; 14:39)
2. **Pray**: Ask, seek, knock: Mt. 7:7-11 God wants to give good gifts. Especially HS. Ask specifically. Sometimes God activates gifts by the laying on of hands. 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6.
3. **Practice**: No one receives any gift in a fully mature form. 2 Peter 3:18- *we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus*. 1 Tim. 4:14 *Do not neglect your gift*. 2 Tim. 1:6 *Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you*. Look for opportunities and take cautious risks.

Questions for Grow Groups on back.

What do gifts do you think the Adversary, Satan, wants to discredit the most and why? Is it legitimate to think the distortions and abuses are his tactics?

Why does Paul command the Corinthians to desire (zeloo-covet) prophecy?

What does it mean to despise prophecies?

What are the implications of the observation that all gifts are cultivated and grown (like a muscle)?

What might it look like to practice prophecy and what “rails” should I put in place to not misuse the gift?

Maybe share a short positive experience you have had with a prophetic word.
