



Into: **Announce Rachelle's changed hours**

In the lead up to Pentecost we are in the midst of a sermon series entitled Pour. We have been looking at the person and role of the Holy Spirit. We began by just brining some clarification through the Scriptures concerning a couple of misconceptions.

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, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Notice:

The Holy Spirit will be poured out and made available to ALL...

Jew, Gentile, Old, Young, Man, Woman...God's not reserving His Spirit for a select few!

The Holy Spirit is promised to be poured out, but there is never any mention that it is only for a set time frame or that it will be withdrawn.

We looked last week specifically at the gift of tongues. (Mk. 16:17 they shall speak with new tongues")

We saw last week that when the Holy Spirit was poured out and they were baptized into Him THEY all SPOKE in tongues as the SPIRIT gave them UTTERANCE

Acts 2:4 “And they were **all filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

- **THEY spoke...as the Spirit gave them UTTERANCE.**
- Utterance - Grk = “apoph-theng-omai” = to speak out...not an everyday word but one belonging to dignified and elevated discourse.”
- The Holy Spirit gives you the ability and belonging (the right and prerogative) to speak at an **elevated** discourse.
- Elevated = above natural understanding.

Most often when we pray in tongues it edifies, strengthens, encourages spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:4 “He who speaks in a tongue **edifies himself...**”

Jude 1:20 “But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith**, praying in the Holy Spirit

Our mind may not understand what is being said, but our spirit is praying and being edified.

1 Corinthians 14:14 "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful."

Praying in the spirit (praying in tongues) accompanies our natural prayer language.

1 Corinthians 14:15 "...I will pray with the spirit and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit and I will also sing with the understanding."

How do I receive it?

Once the Holy Spirit was poured out the most common method of receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit seen in Scripture was thought the laying on of hands and prayer.

Last week I issued an invitation to pray with anyone to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. A man in the congregation took me up on the offer and we prayed in my office on Wednesday. He received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and prayed in tongues!

This week I want to return to Joel 2 and 1 Corinthians and look specifically at another gift that we see accompanies the baptism of the Holy Spirit and continue to bring clarity and understanding where for some there has been confusion. **Specifically I want to look at the gift of prophecy.**

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy..."

Acts 19:6 Paul laid hands on and prayed for the believers in Ephesus. "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit came not only the gift of speaking in tongues but also the gift of prophecy. Often these gifts go hand in hand and at times this has caused some confusion in the church. **(Give example of 2 weeks ago...Word in tongues, interpretation, prophecy)**

The Apostle Paul teaches regarding this in 1 Corinthians 12-14.

Ignorance is not Bliss

1 Corinthians 12:1 "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:" Many like to ignore or steer clear of the prophetic because of fear of the unknown, because they don't understand it or because they don't think they can operate in it. Others steer clear because they don't want to deal with the messy ramifications of prophetic ministry "gone wrong." **God never intended us to be ignorant of the prophetic gifting nor lacking in the operation of the prophetic.** To reject the prophetic gift is to reject the testimony of Jesus Christ. **Revelation 19:10** "...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

How do I know a prophecy is really from God?

True prophecy should always be birthed from the Spirit of Jesus (it must proceed from Christ) and testify of God's nature, character, activity and will.

The Purpose of Prophecy:

- To testify of Christ (Rev.19:10)
- To benefit/profit the hearer (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- To impart & minister God's love (1 Corinthians 13:2, without love prophecy fails)
- In Love edify, exhort & comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3)

Why do I need prophecy, tongues and interpretation? God can just speak to me through His Word?

- We don't have the right to dictate how God can and should speak to us.
- You can live off eating Chicken, but God also gave beef, seafood, fruits & veggies

It makes me uncomfortable...I just don't get it.

- Lean into the discomfort and grow spiritually not just intellectually. God uses the foolish things to confound the wise.

Love and Faith fuel the prophetic gifting (1 Corinthians 13:2,8, 14:1)

"Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." (1 Cor. 14:1)

"Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy..." (1 Corinthians 14:39)

God would not tell you to desire, pursue and do something that you cannot do!

You can prophesy! (1 Corinthians 14:31)

So how do you do it...understand the following truths.

1. **The majority of prophecy is not foretelling future events...it is testifying of Jesus Christ in such a way that it edifies, encourages and comforts.** Jesus is the Word of God that put on flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus Christ therefore it must be rooted in the Word of God.
2. **You can't give what you don't possess. You can't pour out what you don't have in you.** Romans 1:15 "So as much as in in me I am ready to preach the gospel to you." (Show my first Bible, average over 5 chapters/day through my lifetime.) If you are going to testify and prophesy of Jesus you must have a daily deposit of the Word of God being poured in you and an active engagement with the Spirit cultivating in you. Why?...
3. **Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and we prophesy according to measure of our faith! (Romans 12:6) Stay full of the Word of God and exercise the muscle of your faith.** There comes a point when you simply must step out of the boat and speak. In John 3:11 & 32 Jesus said he testified of what he had seen, heard and knew of the Father. The disciples echoed this truth in Acts 4:20 declaring they couldn't help but testify of what they had seen and heard. The same is true with prophecy. When we prophesy we testify/declare that which we have seen and heard in the spirit from the Spirit.
4. **Start with the corporate body.** Many people want to start by giving personal prophetic words to people one on one. However, most New Testament prophecy is shown in the context of prophetic words spoken in and to the body of believers. Prophecy is to edify the church (1 Corinthians 14:4). When you prophesy corporately to the body there is inherent accountability. That's why most people don't want to do it! They fear being wrong in front of others. That accountability is a GOOD THING! That is how we learn!
5. **Learn from missing the mark not just hitting it!** Missing God's voice prophetically doesn't mean you're less of a Christian or a failure. It simply means you missed it. Every miss should be a lesson learned! It is in the miss that we learn to discern between our soul and God's Spirit.

Conclusion: