



Into: This weekend we remember those who gave their lives to ensure us the freedoms we have in this country. At the forefront of those freedoms is the 1st Amendment the freedom of religion, speech and assembly and our 13th Amendment the abolition of slavery.

The sad reality is that many around the world do not have these freedoms. Many live in slavery and over 42% of the world's population do not have access to the gospel. Yesterday Pastor Josh & Elle Romnes ran 30 miles, Constance ran a 1/2 marathon with other believers from around the state in an event called 30xFreedom to help raise funds to assist in rescuing young girls from slavery and sex trafficking and present them with the freedom, healing and hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. [Check out this video...](#)

It has been said that if Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ then Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church. On Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out, scholars estimate that at least 10-20% of the population of the Roman Empire were slaves. Religious worship outside the established worship of the emperor and Roman gods came with military occupation and physical persecution.

So within this context what caused the church to not only grow but multiply exponentially?
The power of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 1:8 Jesus said "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Over the past 3 weeks we've looked at the person and role of the Holy Spirit specifically looking at the correlation between speaking in tongues, giving a "corporate word" in tongues, interpretation and prophecy and its purpose in empowering us to be Christ's witnesses. How the Holy Spirit uses these gifts to empower the individual believer. **Today, I want to close out this series by looking at how these gifts empower the corporate church.**

[Praying in tongues edifies and builds up our spirit.](#) It empowers us to walk in the spirit and testify of Jesus.

[Prophecy edifies and builds up the hearer.](#) It is intended to empower the recipient of the prophecy.

Paul not only encouraged believers to pray in tongues, He also encouraged them ALL to prophecy. [As you build up others it will build up the church.](#) I want to look at that admonition today and continue to answer some common questions and clear away some misconceptions.

Remember Joel prophesied that when the Holy Spirit was poured out it would come with the gift of prophecy.

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.

Paul begins to teach the church regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit stating

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.”

Ignorance is not Bliss

Last week we began to answer some questions regarding prophecy. What is prophecy? How do I know it’s really God and not just the person? I want to continue building on that foundation, provide some greater clarity and answer some further questions.

Always Remember 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)

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)

The gift of Prophecy helps build the church and reach the unbeliever.

1 Cor. 14:23-25 “**23** Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those who are* uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? **24** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. **25** And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.”

Share my story of returning to Christ through a Prophetic Word.

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 prophesy 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: