

Personal Prophecy

Prophecy is words spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They are words that will bring edification, exhortation and comfort. There can be a predicting element to prophecy, but primarily it is forth-telling God's will into your life. Personal prophecy is when God uses a preacher in public ministry or an individual within or outside the congregation to speak a word from the Lord into your life.

With proper teaching and practice our attitude toward prophecy will be positive and practical:

1. Desire the operation of the gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy"

2. Prophecy is not to be looked as unimportant or insignificant.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 "Do not despise prophecies."

3. Prophecy encourages and builds up the body.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 "He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men ... he who prophesies edifies the church"

New Testament Prophecy Does Not Contain Judgment or Condemnation

There have been situations where people did the following things in the name of prophecy:

- Charismatic witchcraft: prophesying tragedy upon others because they didn't do what the other wanted, or disagreed with. This amounts to a curse cloaked usually in spiritual language. It is used as a tool for manipulation and control.
- Claiming a word of wisdom or knowledge on marriages, divorces, restored marriages, major decisions, specific direction, five-fold ministry callings, pastor's weaknesses, etc.
- Predicting earthquakes, pastors falling, pastors leaving churches, etc.

4. Prophecy should be judged as to its accuracy.

1 Corinthians 14:29-32 "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."

Prophecies that are given publicly (regular services, prayer meetings, Bible studies) are to be judged immediately by the person(s) in charge of the public meeting. Public utterance makes itself available for judgment because it is given publicly. Personal prophecy has the potential of going un-judged, and that is unscriptural.

Policy on Personal Prophecy

Victory Life Church has adopted the policy that requires any "personal prophecy" given outside of the public meetings to be written. This helps us in two ways: First, it can be presented to qualified leadership for judgment, and secondly, it preserves the prophecy in full content so that the receiver has a permanent record of the genuine Word from the Lord.

We believe in, and practice, personal prophecy, but believe it is to be ministered properly and in order. Observing guidelines gives everyone confidence that the Word is from the Lord.

Anyone who continues to give forth prophetic utterances that are not available for qualified judgment is then subject to Biblical discipline by the leadership of the church.

The leadership of Victory Life church desires to preserve the integrity of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, thus we are asking for cooperation in following these guidelines:

1. If you believe God has a word for someone, then take time to write it down for them. Anything important enough to speak is important enough to write.
2. If someone comes to you and says that they have a word from the Lord for you, ask them to write it down so that you can submit it to the leadership for confirmation.
3. If you receive a written prophecy, bring it to one of the established leaders of the church.

It is wisdom to submit any prophecies to those in spiritual leadership in the local church, especially those that are specific in nature. General blessings spoken in a prayer circle do not necessarily constitute a "Word from the Lord."

If a word is specific or predictive in nature it is wisdom for all written personal prophecies to be presented to one of Victory Life Church's ministry staff before sending it on to the one for whom it is intended. Of course, the name of the individual giving the word should accompany the prophecy.

4. If someone is not willing to write the prophecy for you, then refuse to accept it.

We are exhorted in First Corinthians to eagerly pursue God's love as our greatest quest, and to desire and seek the spiritual endowments. As we follow these guidelines in the spirit of love, we will experience a mature flow of the gifts operating in our midst, and the potential of error will be lessened.

Principles for Judging/Testing Prophecies:

1Thessalonian 5:21 "Test all things; hold fast what is good."

- Q) Does it line up with scriptural principles?

Acts 17:11 "These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

- Q) Does it produce peace?

Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts."

- Q) Did it come to pass?

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 "But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

21 "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'--

22 "when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that [is] the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

- Q) Is it accurate?

If it is of God it will be accurate. But beware. Familiar spirits also know facts about your family past, etc. (See scripture below)

- Q) Does it point me toward Jesus and the things of God?

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,

2 "and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'-- which you have not known--' and let us serve them,'
3 "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

4 "You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

Revelations 19:10 "Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- Q) Is it a confirmation of what God has already dealt with in your heart or spoken to you?

Acts 20:22-23 "And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,

23 "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

- Q) Did God confirm it later?

If you don't understand something, stick it on the shelf. If it is of God, He will show you.

Principles for Bringing Words to Pass

1. Be obedient and diligent to what God told you to do

1 Timothy 4:14-15 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

2. Write it down (keep a journal) and meditate on it. Speak it out loud, pray it, war with it.

1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

3. Exercise faith and patience

Hebrews 6:11-12 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,

12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.