

Eagerly Desire Day

17th October 2009

Session 1 – Getting into the Gift of Prophecy and Word of Knowledge

Session 2 – Character and Gifting

Session 3 – Hearing God Accurately

Session 4 – Tips for Maturing in the Gift

Session 5 – When, Where and How?

Session 1

Getting into the Gift of Prophecy and Word of Knowledge

1) Gift of Prophecy

- A gift from God of being able to accurately hear what he is saying and able to communicate it effectively under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

One of the objectives of today is to raise expectations of our experience of God when we come together.

Contributions to be such that people know God is among us.

Imagine a meeting where “Secrets of Hearts” are revealed, God speaks directionally, issues that have been struggled with for years are released.

I am sure we all have different expectations and experiences of how the Gift of Prophecy works.

Some will be very experienced others have probably never prophesied before – whatever your experience God wants you to eagerly desire this kind of gifting –and to be released into it.

This is totally different from just sharing something that has encouraged us or blurting out vague impressions as this can lead to low expectations ‘despising prophesy’ or ‘forbidding prophesy’.

2) Difference between Gift of Prophecy and Occasionally Prophesying

- There is nothing we can do to “hype up or manipulate” as it is a gift. But we can eagerly desire

3) We are all “Wired Differently”

- “There are different kinds of gifts but the same spirit. There are different kinds of service but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working but the same God works all of them in all men” (1 Cor 12 v 4–6)

- Gift of Prophecy will work differently in each of us depending on how God has made us and called us, and the circumstances:-
 - Examples of different settings:-
 - Publicly, privately (counselling/pastoral situations), with non Christians, work/church
 - Examples of different ways:-
 - Verbal, songs, demonstrations, visions, dream interpretation, written down etc
- Don't be stressed about how we are different and what we can and can't do – accept how God has created and called us and desire to excel in that.

4)Word of Knowledge

- We want to expand our thinking beyond just “someone here with pain etc”
- No Bible definition but examples of “supernatural revealed knowledge”
 - Jesus knew thoughts
 - Information about someone
- Sister Gift to Prophecy and other gifts e.g. healing – Can work with discernment

Session 3

Hearing God Accurately

1) We have a speaking God

“My sheep hear my voice and know my voice” (John 10 v 27)

- Samuel heard God’s voice but didn’t know it was God (1 Sam 3 v 1–19)
- God wants us to learn to hear his voice accurately.

2) Learn how to tune in to what Spirit is saying

- Example of radio tuning – Message is coming out all the time but :-
 - Not tuned right
 - Gets knocked off tuning
 - Interference
 - Not plugged in or power cut
 - Learn to recognise the voice of radio 4

3) Find out how God tends to speak to you, as we are all different

(Research from Prophets)

- Feeling the sense that attention is being drawn towards someone
- Desire to pray
- As talking to people sense what is going on
- Reading the word
- Asking people questions

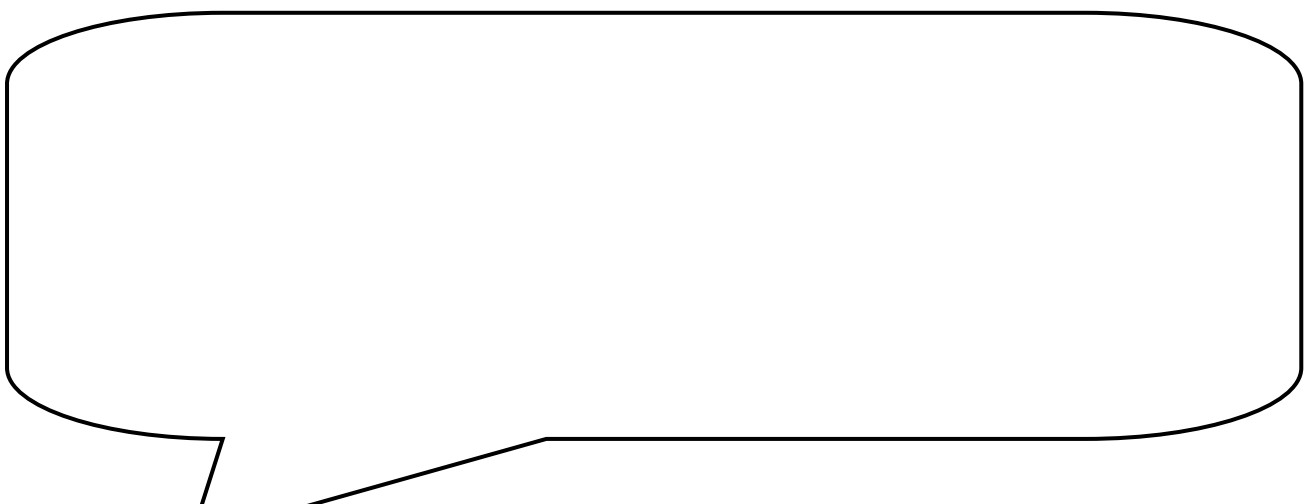
- Asking yourself questions
- Find someone is on their mind
- When thinking about someone objects, words and items of clothing sometimes, number plates and place names
- Picture in the mind is often abstract but after waiting on God (sometimes after days) interpretation comes
- Knowledge in mind
- Scenes occurring in the mind – often sequence of events
- See someone and a word comes to mind
- Dreams – Vision like a dream whilst awake
- Compulsion to speak and words come
- Feel emotions
- Impression in the mind

4) Tips

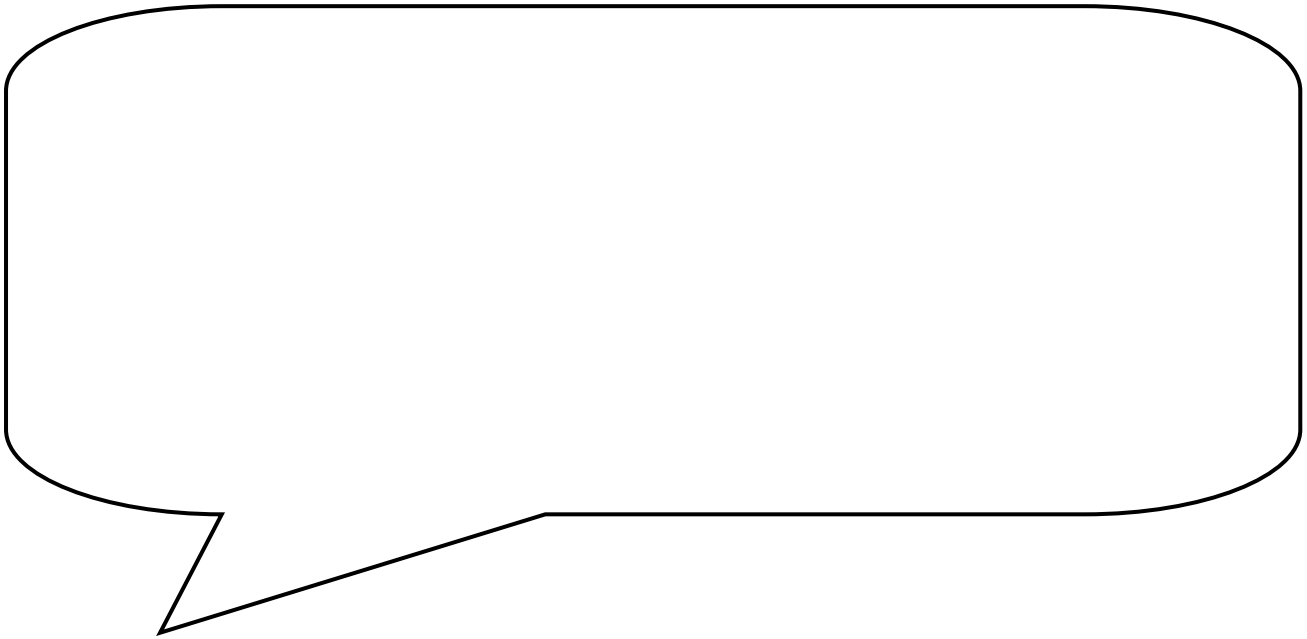
- Ask God questions and dialogue
- Write stuff down
- Practice hearing God e.g. my motoring trip
- Sometimes takes time aside

Workshop/Homework

Ask God questions about something in you life and jot down answer (maybe just impression)



Ask God to give you something for someone in the room that you don't know and jot down what you sense God is saying.



Session 4

Tips for Maturing in the Gift

Moving from Occasionally Prophecy to Operating with Gift of Prophecy

My Journey and Tips

- Obedience to Promptings of Spirit and Learning Sensitivity
- Servant attitude
- Spirit of the Prophet is subject to the Prophet (1 Cor 14 v 32)
- Can operate most of the time by tuning in
- Handling Emotions
- Take time to get detail – Impression is often not the prophecy for Holy Spirit getting your attention that he wants to speak – Ask God questions don't just blurt out first impression
- Preparation – Spontaneous can be good but not compulsory. Holy Spirit knows what he wants to say or do in advance and quite often he will tell us:
 - Time with Holy Spirit
 - Have pen and paper to write stuff down
 - Plan when and how best to deliver
 - Think through and structure how you will deliver
 - Talk to leaders and plan slot
 - Very little is so time sensitive that must be brought there and then
- Handling and overcoming insecurities
- Prophecy according to your Faith – This will increase as you develop – Don't go beyond your faith (Romans 12 v 6 “ If a mans gift is prophesying let him use it in proportion to his faith”
- Seek feedback and learn

Session 5

When, Where and How?

When – Timing?

- Be sensitive to Holy Spirit
- Use common sense
- Plan – Be prepared to wait (1 Cor 14 30 – 39) – Be orderly, people can only take so much
- Sometimes you are just picking up what the Holy Spirit is doing but not your job to do or say anything

Where?

- Different settings will often depend on your gift mix – some people are more private others public
- Different dynamic in big meetings

How?

- Plan delivery
- Communicate clearly – will people understand what I am saying?

- Need to know the anointing of the Spirit – this is not the same as emotional goose bumps
- Think through what is the best way to communicate – be creative, demonstration, use pictures, sing etc

Session 6

Dreams & Symbols

God has always used dreams and symbols as means of communicating

1) Symbols

- Symbols are picture language that means something in the context that it is brought but not necessarily to others – e.g. radio
- Bible is full of picture language – Most prophets used them in order to interpret you need to understand context – e.g. impossible to understand book of Revelation without understanding of :-
 - Rest of the Bible
 - The history of the New Testament church and the issues they faced
 - The background to the Roman Empire – emperor worship etc
 - What God was also saying and doing at the time
- Often takes time to get understanding of symbols God gives us but can be very helpful

2) Dreams

- We all have them and looking at Bible they are an extremely common way of God speaking to both Christians and non Christians

Job 33 v 14–15 “For God does speak – now one way – now another – though man may not perceive it. In a dream in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men as the slumber in their beds”

- Our Western culture often dismisses them and that creeps into church
- Symbols are used all the time in dreams e.g. Barley loaf = Gideon – 7 thin cows, 7 fat cows bad years/good years
- 3 categories of dream:-
 - Imagination dream – what is going on in us?
 - Demonic Dream
 - Dream from God

3)Basics of Interpretation

- What category of dream was it?
- What is the dream language used? – i.e. what do symbols mean to me or what are equivalent symbols in the Bible? – Be careful of being literal!
- Context
- Use Holy Spirit
- May take time
- Jot the dream down otherwise you forget it

Job 20 v 8 “Like a dream he flies away, no more to be found”

4)Give examples

Eagerly Desire Day – Suggested Bible Reading

- 1 Cor 12
- 1 Cor 14
- Book of Daniel
- Using a concordance, look up references to dreams