

SHARING (GOD'S VOICE)

SESSION 1 – Introduction

Purpose of the Class:

To develop a more sensitive listening ear so that we can show the love of God more and more to the people around us. To help give us the tools to grow in our sensitivity and to ensure it can be received properly within the settings we minister. This framework will help to release people to minister within the appropriate church context and will help people to be received more positively.

To provide accountability situations/networks so that as we hear from God we can use it the way God intended it to be used.

To demystify some of the abuses and misconceptions about hearing from God and about the flowing in the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 4:7 – Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!
And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.*

Our next three evenings will include:

1. times of teaching based upon the Word of God and practical experience;
2. times of sharing, so that we can all grow from the successes and failures of others;
3. times of prayer: for proper application of the Word of God, for spiritual impartation, and for increased sensitivity to the prompting and leading of the Holy Spirit; and
4. times of practical experience in which we learn to hear the voice of God and become more confident in stepping out in the Holy Spirit.

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Cautions:

- Attending these sessions in themselves does not release you to minister prophetically within the church.
- Attending these sessions does not make you a prophet—God does that, and He proves and tests the validity of that over long periods of time.
- Attending these sessions on sharing God's voice does not mean that you are more spiritual than others. Spirituality is seen by our responses to situations, not by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Requirements

1. **Humility** – Hearing from God is not a sign of maturity. To think it is, is immaturity. The Corinthian church functioned in all 9 of the gifts, yet they were known for their carnality.
2. **Correctable** – Correction will come.
3. **Accountable** – You need to submit to those around you.
4. **Hold your words loosely** – Don't get your identity from the words you give or the fact that you hear from God.
5. **Faith** – Be willing to step out and try.

Romans 12:6 – In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

6. **Relationships** – Out of the strength of relationships trust will be developed and individuals will be released.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:4–11 – There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. ⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone

else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

The 9 Gifts of the Spirit

REVELATION GIFTS

- *Word of Knowledge* – when God reveals to you something that you could not have known in any other way except by the Holy Spirit.
- *Word of Wisdom* – when God reveals to you one thing that someone ought to do, or should do, or is going to do.
- *Discerning of Spirits* – when God supernaturally reveals what is really going on underneath the surface (both positive and negative).

UTTERANCE GIFTS

- *Prophecy* – when we communicate God's message to people and He uses us as the vessel.
- *Different Kinds of Tongues*, and
- *Interpretation of Tongues* – a way of administering a prophetic word by using it first in an unknown language and then interpreting that message that came in tongues.

POWER GIFTS

- *Gifts of Healings* – there is a whole gamut of ways in which God administers healing.
- *Working of Miracles* – when God transcends nature.
- *Gift of Faith* – having extraordinary faith that is a gift of the Spirit in a certain moment.

In this class, we are going to focus on the gift of prophecy.

Definition of Prophecy

Prophecy is when an individual shares with someone else the things they feel the Holy Spirit is saying to another individual. It is God directly communicating His Word to human beings through human beings. Basically, it is hearing God for others.

Desire (Covet) to Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:1 – Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:39 – So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:12 – And the same is true for you. Since you are so eager to have the special abilities the Spirit gives, seek those that will strengthen the whole church.

1 Corinthians 14:5 – I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened.

Romans 11:29 – For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.

Why would God tell us to desire something that we cannot have?

What are some reasons that this gift of sharing God's voice is a good thing, even necessary?

Love for others needs to be the goal.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 – *Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.* ² *For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious.* ³ *But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them.* ⁴ *A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.* ⁵ *I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened.*

1 Corinthians 14:30–31 – *But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop.* ³¹ *In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged.*

1 Corinthians 14: 32 – *Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns.*

1 Corinthians 14: 36-38 – *Or do you think God's word originated with you Corinthians? Are you the only ones to whom it was given?* ³⁷ *If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself.* ³⁸ *But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized.*

Spiritual maturity will be shown by an ability to love and submit to the authority that God has placed in the church.

1 Corinthians 12:7 *"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."*

To share God's voice, we may need a change of heart.

1 Samuel 10: 9–10 – *As Saul turned and started to leave, God gave him a new heart, and all Samuel's signs were fulfilled that day.* ¹⁰ *When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, they saw a group of prophets coming toward them. Then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy.*

Our desire should be to ...

- help people hear when they could not otherwise.
- give a perspective different from their own.
- care for those around us.

Ezekiel 13:4-5 – *O people of Israel, these prophets of yours are like jackals digging in the ruins. ⁵ They have done nothing to repair the breaks in the walls around the nation. They have not helped it to stand firm in battle on the day of the Lord.*

Ezekiel 13:10-12 – *This will happen because these evil prophets deceive my people by saying, “All is peaceful” when there is no peace at all! It’s as if the people have built a flimsy wall, and these prophets are trying to reinforce it by covering it with whitewash! ¹¹ Tell these whitewashers that their wall will soon fall down. A heavy rainstorm will undermine it; great hailstones and mighty winds will knock it down. ¹² And when the wall falls, the people will cry out, “What happened to your whitewash?”*

- ❖ **If we care for people, our desire will be to avoid harming them.**

Sharing God’s Voice ...

1 Corinthians 14:3 – *But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them.*

- Comforts – cheers up
- Edifies – builds up/strengthens
- Exhorts – stirs up/encourages

Some of the ways this happens are ...

- **Confirmation of what God has already revealed**
 - Acts 21:11 – *He came over, took Paul’s belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, “The Holy Spirit declares, ‘So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.’”*

- Acts 9:16 – *And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake.*
- **Enables Good Warfare**
 - 1 Timothy 1:18 – *Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles.*
- **Brings life**
 - Matthew 4:4 – *People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*
 - John 6:63 – *The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

There is so much pain and struggle in the world that these gifts are necessary for bringing hope and encouragement.

ACTIVATION

One of the easiest ways to hear from God for others is to pray for them.

