

# SHARING (GOD'S VOICE)

## SESSION 2 – Character, Judging, Developing

### CHARACTER

Although sin in our lives does not stop God from giving His gifts, it can limit how effectively we can be used and even disqualify us from ministry.

*2 Timothy 2:20–21\* – In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. <sup>21</sup> If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.*

### JUDGING

Often times we think the word judging is a bad thing, and honestly, it can be, but when it comes to hearing from God for others, it is something that we are actually told to do.

*1 Corinthians 14:29 – Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said.*

### SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. **God uses human vessels** – these individuals use their own nature and vocabulary when ministering.

*2 Peter 1:20–21 – Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, <sup>21</sup> or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

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## 2. We know in part and prophecy in part.

1 Corinthians 13:9 – *Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture!*

## 3. It's easy to despise prophecy because of errors or problems.

1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 – *Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not scoff at prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.*

## HOW WE EVALUATE OR JUDGE THE WORDS GIVEN

### 1. Look for what does line up, even if some doesn't.

1 Corinthians 13:9 – *For we know in part and we prophesy in part...* (NKJV)

### 2. Does it line up with the Word of God?

Hebrews 4:12 – *For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

1 Timothy 6:3–4 – *Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. <sup>4</sup> Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions.*

Isaiah 8:20 – *Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark.*

Acts 17:11 – *And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.*

1 Corinthians 14:37–38 – *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. <sup>38</sup> But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized.*

Galatians 1:8 – *Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.*

### 3. Is there a witness from the Holy Spirit?

1 John 2:27 – *But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.*

1 Corinthians 2:14–16 – *But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.<sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others.<sup>16</sup> For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.*

Colossians 3:15 – *And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.*

### 4. Submit it to those in leadership over that situation.

Galatians 2:1–2 – *Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas; and Titus came along, too.<sup>2</sup> I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing.*

### 5. In judging the prophetic word, the leadership considers issues such as:

#### a) *Its fruit*

Matthew 7:15–20 – *Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.<sup>16</sup> You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?<sup>17</sup> A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit.<sup>18</sup> A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit.<sup>19</sup> So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.<sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.*

#### b) *Does it edify, build up or bring life?*

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

**c) *Is it a clear or confusing—is there peace with the words that were given?***

1 Corinthians 14:6–7, 33 – *Dear brothers and sisters, if I should come to you speaking in an unknown language, how would that help you? But if I bring you a revelation or some special knowledge or prophecy or teaching, that will be helpful. <sup>7</sup> Even lifeless instruments like the flute or the harp must play the notes clearly, or no one will recognize the melody...*

<sup>33</sup> *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people.*

**d) *Does the person giving the message manifest the fruit of the Spirit?***

Galatians 5:22–23 – *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

**e) *Is the word true for those parts referring to the past or present?*** If it contains predictions, promises, etc. do these come to pass?

Deuteronomy 18:21–22 – *But you may wonder, “How will we know whether or not a prophecy is from the Lord?”<sup>22</sup> If the prophet speaks in the Lord's name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the Lord did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared.*

**Share about a time the prophetic did not go well.**

# DEVELOPING OUR GIFTING

## 1. Expect to hear the voice of God.

John 10:27-28 – *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me.*

Isaiah 50:4 – *The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he awakens me and opens my understanding to his will.*

## 2. Minister with Others.

1 Samuel 10:9-12 – *As Saul turned and started to leave, God gave him a new heart, and all Samuel's signs were fulfilled that day. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> When those who knew Saul heard about it, they exclaimed, "What? Is even Saul a prophet? How did the son of Kish become a prophet?" <sup>12</sup> And one of those standing there said, "Can anyone become a prophet, no matter who his father is?" So that is the origin of the saying "Is even Saul a prophet?"*

## 3. Increased Faith (Faith vs Unbelief/Fear)

- ***We hear from God according to our measure of faith***

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.*

Hebrews 11:1 – *Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.*

Luke 1:20 – *But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.*

- ***Our enemy causes us to focus upon our lifestyle as a qualification/disqualification***

Psalms 138:8 – *The Lord will work out his plans for my life— for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me.*

2 Timothy 3:16–17 – *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.* <sup>17</sup> *God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

2 Corinthians 4:13 – *But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, “I believed in God, so I spoke.”*

- ***Faith to overcome the fear of people:***

Jeremiah 1:8, 17–19 – *And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!...*

<sup>17</sup> *Get up and prepare for action. Go out and tell them everything I tell you to say. Do not be afraid of them, or I will make you look foolish in front of them.* <sup>18</sup> *For see, today I have made you strong like a fortified city that cannot be captured, like an iron pillar or a bronze wall. You will stand against the whole land— the kings, officials, priests, and people of Judah.* <sup>19</sup> *They will fight you, but they will fail. For I am with you, and I will take care of you. I, the Lord, have spoken!*

- ***How does faith come?***

Matthew 10:27–28 – *What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!* <sup>28</sup> *“Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Song of Solomon 2:4 – *He escorts me to the banquet hall; it's obvious how much he loves me.*

Song of Solomon 2:16a – *My lover is mine, and I am his*

- ***Prayer***

Colossians 4:2–4 – *Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.* <sup>3</sup> *Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.* <sup>4</sup> *Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.*

#### **4. Fear of the Lord**

- If a person who is God-fearing becomes sensitive to His voice, then they will be sensitized when God is at work.

## 5. Discipline

Isaiah 50:4 – *The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will.*

## 6. Rest

Isaiah 30:15 – *This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it."*

v. 18 – *Blessed are those who wait for his help*

v. 21 – *Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.*

## 7. Trouble

- The troubles around help us become sensitive to His voice. When we are in the pit we become more desperate to hear His voice.

Psalm 40:1-2 – *I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup>He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.*

Hebrews 5:8 – *Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup>He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

## 8. Look for more.

- When we get a word from God, there is always more available than just the first thought or sense that we have.

## ACTIVATION

**ASK GOD: "What do you love about this person?"**