

Prayer Ministry Sunday **Earnestly Desire Prophecy** **1 Corinthians 14**

What is prophecy? (1 Cor 14:29-31)

Prophecy involves God bringing a revelation to you of something He wants you to speak to someone else.

It's not something you think up on your own (although God works through that as well). It's something God spontaneously brings to your mind.

The spiritual gift of prophecy is not our authority. God's Word is our authority.

So prophecies must be weighed — evaluated in light of the Bible — to see if they are from God or not.

Why is prophecy important? (1 Cor 14:1,3)

It's because prophecy helps people, and so is a way to "pursue love" (v.1).

It's because it brings people upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation from God (v.3).

What does Paul call us to do regarding prophecy? (1 Cor 14:1)

You might think that because you've never received a prophecy, that God will never give one to you.

But in v.1 Paul calls all of us to earnestly desire prophecy.

Which means even if God has never given you a prophecy to share with someone else, that could happen today.

So as we pray for those in need, desire prophecy and pray for prophecy.

Then if God brings to mind something that would be upbuilding — share it with the person you are praying for.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

In the past, what has been your understanding and experience of the spiritual gift of prophecy?

Do you think God could give you a prophecy to build up someone? Why or why not?

Why is this gift so often neglected? Why don't we long for it more and pray for it more?

What did you experience Sunday as you desired and prayed for prophecy?

What are some ways prophecy could be over-emphasized? What are some ways it can be neglected? How can we avoid both extremes?

How might the gift of prophecy help our home group? What could we do to pursue prophecy in our home group?

What questions do you have about prophecy?

