

## Prophetic Ministry

### What is Prophecy?

- “to prophesy” = Hebrew *naba* = simply means “to prophesy,” ie. to speak on behalf of God to a person or group
  - This word is very similar to another Hebrew word (*nabah*) that means “to bubble up, to flow forth” (usually used in reference to speech)

### What's the Point of Prophecy?

- What Prophecy Isn't Principally About
  - Endtimes
  - The future
  - Judgment from God
- 1. To Build You Up, Stir You Up, and Cheer You Up
  - 1 Corinthians 14:1-3 - 1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. 3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.
    - Upbuilding
      - “upbuilding” = Greek word that was used to mean “remodeling a broken home” or “building a house on empty land”
    - Encouragement
      - “encourage” = English word is from the French, which is from the Old French... which literally meant “to make courageous”
      - “encouragement” = *paraklesis* (Greek) = related to one of the names for the Holy Spirit (*parakletos* = comforter, advocate)
    - Consolation
      - Prophecy isn't meant to hurt or condemn you or make you feel bad, but to console you, to cheer you up
- 2. To Impart a Gift
  - 1 Timothy 4:14 - Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.
- 3. To Fight the Good Fight
  - 1 Timothy 1:18 – This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

### A Few Quick Pointers

- 1. We Know in Part
  - 1 Corinthians 13:9 - For we know in part and we prophesy in part...
- 2. Test Everything
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 → 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.
- 3. Nurture Your Gift
  - 2 Timothy 1:6 - For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands

### You Can Prophecy Too!

- Joel 2:28-29 – 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.
- What Paul Said to the Corinthian Church:

- 1 Corinthians 14:5 - Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy...
- 1 Corinthians 14:24 – ...if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all...
- 1 Corinthians 14:31– For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged...