



Riverstone
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sermon Based Questions

Date- Sunday 2nd Feb 2019

Series- Open to the Spirit Prt 3

The Spirit of Prophecy

*"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy."
1 Corinthians 14:1*

Not everyone agrees. Essentially two camps:

Cessationist- some Spiritual gifts ceased with the end of apostolic age because they had an authenticating role in the early church and their message.

Continuationist: -All of the gifts of the church continue on and are relevant for the church until Christ returns.

1. A new eon of the Spirit. (Joel 2:28-29, Num. 11:26-30, Acts 2)

- The 70 and the 2 elders (Eldad & Medad) Moses wish that all the Lords people were prophets and the Spirit was on them.
- Joel anticipates the pouring out of the Spirit that would usher in visions, dreams and the prophetic.
- At Pentecost Moses wish is answered when the Spirit is poured out and Peter explains the events by quoting Joel 2.

2. So what is prophecy?

"I foretell, prophesy; I set forth matter of divine teaching by special faculty."

"A spontaneous revelation that God brings to mind." – Wayne Grudem

- *O.T Prophet = New Testament Apostle not NT Prophet.*
- *I don't think it is preaching. (Distinct in gift lists)*
- *Its' purpose is edification and building up the church.*
- *Its context is love. 1 Corinthian 13*
- *Its to be treated with discernment. 1 Thess 5:19-22*
- *Operates in submission to biblical authority. 1 Cor 12:3*
- *For furthering the mission: Acts 13:1-3*

3. What it might look like?

- Humble affirmation: "I think the Lord might be saying."
- A gentle nudge to call, to reconcile, to pray.
- Nothing like "adding to scripture-"
Personal Testimony; Superman shirt, prayer affirmation, an impression that God wants you to give a verse to somebody else.

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Joel 2:28-29, Num 11:26-30 & Acts 2:1-21. How do these verses paint a picture of a new eon of the Spirit? What do both passages link the coming of the Spirit too?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12-14. (Maybe twice) What revelation does it give about prophecy? How does it point toward its use and misuse? What context and purpose does it give to the gift?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22. What does this tell us about prophesy and its practice?
4. Read Acts 13:1-3. What does this section reveal about prophesy and mission?

B. Meditation & application

5. Why do you think that the pouring out of the Spirit is linked to the prophetic gift in these passages?
6. What do you think of Grudem's definition of prophecy- "A spontaneous revelation that God brings to mind?" In what ways does this fit with 1 Cor 12-14?
7. State how you would describe the purpose of new testament prophecy? What is it for- what is it not and do you have any examples, positive or negative of the practice?
8. Why do you think that it is important to be discerning when it comes to this kind of revelation? What are the risks?
9. Have you had any experience of this gift that has been positive and an important part of your Christian experience? How could this gift be a helpful thing for this particular body of Christ?

A Prayer: Lord- we are open to the Holy Spirit, come to us, dwell in us, speak to us so that we might become more like Christ. Lord give us the courage to be open, Lord we want all that you can give us in order that we might build up your body, be your people and walk in faithfulness. God gift us for your work so that we can be all you want us to be- In Jesus Name Amen.