

WHEN GOD SPEAKS

The Holy Spirit

(John 16:7 NIV) *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

Power through His Spirit

(Eph 3:16 NIV) I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Desire prophecy

(1 Cor 14:1-5 NIV) Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

Desire Prophecy

(1 Cor 14:1-5 NIV) He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

Point #1:

The goal of prophecy is edification .

Strengthening

(1 Cor 14:3 NIV) But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

How does prophecy edify?

- 1. Praising the works of God**
(Acts 2:11, Rev 19:10)
- 2. Words of comfort and exhortation**
(1 Cor 14:3)
- 3. Commissioning for service**
(1 Tim 4:14)
- 4. Giving direction about the future**
(Acts 11:28, 21:11, John 16:13)
- 5. Building up the Church**
(1 Cor 14:1-5, Eph 1:17-18, 2:20, 3:16-19))

Point #2:

The Bible instructs us to do things decently and in order.

Instructions

(1 Cor 14:26-29 NIV) What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God. Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

Instructions

(1 Cor 14:30-33 NIV) And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints,

How do we regulate prophecy?

1. Come down front and be recognized, wait your turn.
2. 2 or 3 at a time – so that proper judging may take place.
3. Defer to one another if more than one has a revelation at the same time.

Point #3:

We should not treat prophecy with contempt.

Test everything

(1 Th 5:19-21 NIV) Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.

Let others judge

(1 Cor 14:29 NIV) Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

Self judging

1. Is this from the Lord or from my own mind?
2. Is this for just me or for the body?
3. Is it for now or for another time?
4. What exactly does God want me to share? Don't add or subtract.

Keep Watch

(Acts 20:28 NIV) “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

CONCLUSION