

I. BIBLICAL FOUNDATION TO THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

- A. The New Testament frames prophecy not as hype or guessing—but as clear, tested, Spirit-led communication that strengthens people.
- B. The clearest definition comes from 1 Corinthians 14:3:
 - 1. ***“The one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and comfort.”***
- C. It’s not primarily about predicting the future—it’s about edifying people with God’s heart
- D. Paul encourages believers in 1 Corinthians 14:1
 - 1. ***“Pursue love, and earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.”***
- E. The gift of prophecy is one of the nine gifts of the Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 and is distributed to anyone that Holy Spirit wills to move it through.

II. HOW WE LEARN TO HEAR GOD’S VOICE

- A. First of all we grow in hearing God’s voice not through some technique but through an intimate relationship with Him
 - 1. Jesus said in ***John 10:27: “My sheep hear My voice”***
- B. Growing in hearing God’s voice comes through consistency in our reading of the scriptures, sitting in silence, prayer, worship and obedience in small things.

III. WAYS GOD’S VOICE CAN COME TO US

- 1. A thought that aligns with Scripture
 - 2. A Scripture that comes to mind for someone
 - 3. A gentle impression or nudge
 - 4. A picture or word that brings clarity
 - 5. A dream or vision
- B. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah heard God not in the wind or fire—but in a still small voice. It’s usually not loud—it’s clear and peaceful.***

IV. WE MUST TEST WHAT WE HEAR

1. ***Scripture commands this in 1 Thessalonians 5:20–21: “Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.***

B. When we hear God’s voice we should ask

1. Does this align with Scripture?
2. Does it reflect God’s character?
3. Does it build up, not tear down?
4. Does it unify or divide?

C. God will never Contradict His Word Manipulate or control people Lead through fear or confusion

V. COMMUNICATE GOD’S IMPRESSION IN HUMILY

A. You don’t need dramatic language. In fact, it’s better not to say “Thus says the Lord” casually.

B. Practical examples

1. “I feel like the Lord may be encouraging you”
2. “I had a thought that might be for you—test it”
3. “Does this resonate with your spirit?”

C. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:9: “*We prophesy in part.*” You won’t get everything perfectly Humility keeps it healthy

VI. PROPHECY MUST BE MOTIVATED BY LOVE

1. ***14 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy. -1Cor 14:1***
2. Paul didn't say pursue the gifts, he said pursue love. We should desire the gifts so that we can move in love.
3. Prophecy motivated by love reflects God’s heart towards the person you are prophesying to.

VII. PRACTICE IN SAFE AND ACCOUNTABLE ENVIRONMENTS

A. Healthy prophecy grows in

1. A culture of honor (not judgemental)
2. A trusted church community
3. With leadership oversight
4. Spaces where things can be weighed and corrected

B. Healthy environments that allows us to grow in the gifts protects both the person speaking the person receiving

VIII. VERY IMPORTANT GUARDRAILS

1. Never use prophecy to control life decisions (marriage, money, major moves)
2. Never replace Scripture with impressions
3. Always invite people to weigh what is said
4. Stay teachable and accountable