

# Prophesying Workshop

## Church in Pleasant Hill

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### I. Vision & Principles

- A. Prophesying builds up the church (1 Cor. 14:3, 4, 5): no other place in the Bible speaks so clearly about how to build up the church.
- B. In a recent ITERO training, we saw that prophesying is the consummate peak of the divine revelation. Both PSRP and BNPB have 4 stages. Just like a 4-person relay in track & field or swimming, prophesying is the last stage in the progression of the 4 major steps of the GOW. Without prophesying, the church cannot be built up.
- C. What is Prophesying? To speak for God and to speak forth God (1 Cor. 14:1 fn. 3).
- D. Prophesying being the top gift: “but especially that you may prophesy” (1 Cor. 14:1).
- E. We should be burdened to prophesy: “desire earnestly” (1 Cor. 14:1).
- F. Even in the OT, this was Moses’ desire and longing: “Oh that all Jehovah’s people were prophets” (Num. 11:29a).
- G. All can prophesy:
  - 1. Each saint has the capability and capacity by the divine life (1 Cor. 14:31).
  - 2. The ability to prophesy requires development: 1 Cor. 12:31 fn. 31<sup>2</sup> – “...some gifts, such as speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues, are smaller because they are less profitable to the church, and that we should desire earnestly the greater gifts, such as prophesying and teaching, which are more profitable for the building up of the church (14:1-6). To have these greater gifts, we need to grow in life unto maturity. The greater gifts are developed, by growth in life, out of the initial gifts (1:7) that we received when we were regenerated.”
- H. Prophesying requires perfecting & training: “seek that you may excel for the building up of the church” (1 Cor. 14:12); so do not apply the OT approach: “that Jehovah would put His Spirit upon them.”
- I. If we are not perfected to prophesy, what comes out of our mouth, even if not tongue speaking, will confuse others: “If then I do not know the meaning of the voice, I will be to him who is speaking a barbarian, and he who is speaking a barbarian to me” (1 Cor. 14:11).

### II. Constitution

- A. Constitution requires all the things we have been talking about in the God-ordained Way Training: consecration, prayer, revival, study of the truth, walking in the spirit, etc. We do not usually cover these matters in depth in the Prophesying Workshop, but they are very important.

### III. Preparation

- A. See Preparation Help Sheet (includes elements of PSR)
- B. We first practice preparing and speaking one-minute prophecies to build up our capacity.
- C. If in a semi-annual training, we were told to reduce our speaking from 1 minute to 30 seconds, what would we cut out?
- D. You should study the HWMR Outline to get an overview, but trying to compose a prophecy from the entire week might be like preparing a 6-course meal; just prepare a single dish.
- E. We then transition to three-minute prophecies, which require more development – for this we study the outline or create an outline for what we will speak.
- F. How can all prophesy?
  - 1. Be prepared, so that there are no gaps.
  - 2. Be short – speaking too long uses up others’ time to speak.
  - 3. Ideal meeting size is 50 or less; this helps create a meeting where most saints can speak for the building up.

### IV. Presentation

- A. Refer to the Elements of Prophesying sheet for what to speak and what not to speak.

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- B. Help the saints understand: prophesying is not the same as testifying – it is not common speaking.
  - C. **What to speak:** all our speaking should minister the building and builded God into people:
    - 1. Jesus never spoke His own word, but that of the Father (John 12:49-50; 14:10).
    - 2. Luke 1:46 says, “And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord” Reading footnote 46<sup>1</sup>, we see that “Mary’s poetic praise was composed of many quotes from the Old Testament, indicating that she was a godly woman, qualified to be a channel for the Savior’s incarnation ...”
  - D. **What not to speak:** everything on this list is something that comes out of speaking from ourselves, whether we realize it or not.
    - 1. “He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory” (John 7:18a).
  - E. Who needs to be trained and perfected?
    - 1. New ones who are beginning to speak for the Lord.
    - 2. Older ones who may have been “prophesying” for years, yet are full of bad habits that frustrate their speaking. Our practice may not be effective if we lack the proper training.
    - 3. We all need the perfecting; we all need the spirit of a learner.
- V. Perfecting through Feedback**
- A. This should start with the leading brothers in the various churches.
  - B. See [Feedback Help Sheet](#)
  - C. Saints are initially reluctant to be critiqued, but in an atmosphere of love and mutual shepherding, it has been very positive and the saints both received and enjoyed it.