

Discipleship 301 – Chapter 07

Open with any insights on the work of the Holy Spirit in your lives.

The next area of gifting to look at is the prophetic ministry in the church. This will cover the aspect of prophetic revelation in the church body as well as the anointed position in the Prophet in the wider corporate body of Christ. The manner of operation of this gifting is similar no matter what level it is being used on.

Ephesians 4:11-13, It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 3:4-5, In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

In scripture it doesn't refer to holy pastors, teachers and evangelists, but holy apostles and prophets. All the 5 offices of ministry are set apart and sanctified to act in his authority to a degree, but the apostles and prophets are set apart in a special way to be led by the Lord the others are not. Each ministry is specialized in it's ability to help build people in maturity of faith. Discuss what this concept means to the Body Of Christ. – being led by his Spirit.

Acts 13:1-3,

¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: (Barnabas, and Saul)... ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Saul was in the church of Antioch at this time, as was Barnabas. Notice it says that there were Prophets and Teachers at this time . The Lord will take those he has prepared in one of these offices of ministry and choose some to raise up as Apostles – to be discussed another time.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11, ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, ... to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Remember he starts some people out with a gift of prophecy. How is it used?

Disciple 301 Chpt 07 P2

1 Corinthians 14:1-4, Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. ² For anyone who speaks in a tongue^[a] does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. ³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. ⁴ Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

The gift of prophesy is revelation in some form, wisdom or knowledge for some particular situation. It may come in a vision or a dream. As one strengthens in listening to the revelation and acting on it, the Lord increases you in what he gives you. He can prompt you to speak as you feel he wants to give a message, and he can direct your words. This is called utterance by the Spirit and is the literal meaning of, "to prophecy". One does not need the gift of prophecy to receive some revelation when needed in a situation. The gift of prophecy is given when the Lord wants to give revelation and insight on a regular basis. This can be to help you in your personal life as well as decisions in serving the Lord. The gift of prophecy is used to give revelation to help others in their specific walk in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:29-33, Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. ³⁰ And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. ³¹ For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³² The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

Discuss the manner of insight and revelation given in meetings and orderly conduct needed.

When one can be trusted with revelation given and how it is used, the Lord may give the anointing as a Prophet. The tasks will be different. You will be sent to different people to encourage or give direction to people in some manner. You may be given capability for some tasks that you don't normally have. The Lord will give ability as you need it. The gift of prophecy doesn't inherently come with wisdom on the use of revelation. One has to rely on the Lord to give guidance on when or how to deliver revelation.

Just as gifting as a pastor, teacher or evangelist starts you out small and at some point will give you an anointing for a ministry in that area when ready, the same is true with prophecy.

Remember that the essentials of the gifting is that you are given something at a specific time and place to use. It's not an ability for you to use as is wisdom. A secondary gifting for this would be wisdom as well as a ministry of an intercessor.

Have a brief discussion about the use and need for prophesy in the building of the church.

Pray for one another in this regard. Ask the Lord for his direction and increase in these abilities.