



Protocol for the Spirit and Gift of Prophecy in the Services of Harvest Christian Fellowship of Saskatoon

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God desires to speak to His people when they are gathered together. Prophetic words spoken in the church are a part of what God desires in His church.

When the wind of the Holy Spirit is blowing in our service, we will seek to “catch the wind” and flow with that by rearranging the schedule of our service.

It is the Holy Spirit who said that “God is not a God of disorder but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33) and, “Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

The Holy Spirit is very secure, very powerful and very kind. He is loving and very patient with His people who are sincerely trying to do His will. He is not edgy and ready to leave at the slightest ruffle. Therefore the Holy Spirit is not easily quenched or grieved when we seek to administrate the flow of the spirit and gift of prophecy in our church.

It was the Holy Spirit’s idea to administrate prophecy in the first place. He will not be upset when we do so. He will be pleased that we are obeying so that “all of these may be done for the strengthening of the church” (1 Corinthians 14:26)

Pastors are appointed by God to administrate (1 Corinthians 12:28) and govern the use of prophecy and the other spiritual gifts within the body to ensure that they work to further the overall purposes of God. When we follow a few simple guidelines, then we will not “despise prophecies” (1 Thess. 5:19).

We adhere to the following procedures for the spirit and gift of prophecy in our church. A simple “traffic light” system is used to make it easy to remember:



GREEN LIGHT - GO FOR IT

☆ Judge the word yourself before giving it

- ✓ Is the word just for you?
- ✓ Is the word in the “green light” area?
- ✓ Is God’s heart of love and kindness revealed in the word?
- ✓ Is this word to be released now?
- ✓ Is just asking you to pray about this word?

☆ Strengthening, Encouraging and Comfort Words

- ✓ Those who are believers in Jesus Christ can share a word of strengthening, encouraging and comfort at the appropriate time in the service and in an appropriate manner.
 - Will not contain direction, correction or instruction
- ✓ Content of the word will be applicable to all those present in the service.
 - Not personal prophecy for a single person.
 - Not a word just for the person giving it.
 - “ Ask yourself if the word is for the whole church or just for you personally.
- ✓ Will be in the same “flow” as where the service is heading.
 - The Holy Spirit will lead in the direction He has already started in the service.
 - Perhaps the word is to be shared at a later time in the service.
- ✓ Can be given when there is a pause in the worship service.
 - Programmed silence
 - “ The service begins with praise and slows to tender worship songs and finally slows down even more to a silent pause, waiting for the prophetic words to be given.
 - Silence because of the presence of God.
 - “ Worshipful silence because we sense God’s presence in the meeting.
 - “ We pause out of reverence for God because His presence is awakening people’s hearts.



YELLOW LIGHT - REFER TO LEADERSHIP

- ☆ **Redirection of the service that is not apparent to all**
 - ✓ When you feel this, do not just speak it out. Go to the Senior Pastor (or whom he delegates) and submit it for their consideration.
 - Write down the essence of what you believe God is saying.
 - Short verbal summary.
 - ✓ The Pastor will wait for some confirmation so that a course alteration is confirmed by two or three witnesses (2 Cor 13:1)
- ☆ **Direction, correction or instruction**
 - ✓ These type of words are not for release in the public service.
 - ✓ Submitted by those who have a positive prophetic history with the leadership team.
 - Growing relationship of trust.
 - Evidence of growing in favor with God.
 - Evidence of growing in favor with people
 - ✓ Submit them to the pastor in private for evaluation.
 - ✓ Submitted in writing is preferable.
 - ✓ Spoken to the pastor when a time has been pre-arranged.
 - ✓ The word will be dealt with by the leadership team and after the Lord gives some other witnesses to confirm the word.

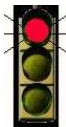
- “ People commune with God in a private way.
- ✓ Catch the attention of the worship leader or leader at the time before proceeding.
 - Wait for recognition and release from them.
- ✓ Relax and calm yourself before speaking.
- ✓ Speak graciously and in a nonauthoritative style. Use your normal language style.
 - Be sure the emotional message given by your tone of voice and body language demonstrates the love of God.

☆ Predictive Prophecies

- ✓ God will often show some of the things that are coming toward us so we can prepare and so when it is fulfilled, we are strengthened in our faith. We can then move forward with God in greater confidence that God is really with us.
- ✓ Predictive prophecies often imply that our faith is about to be tested. The prophetic word is to encourage us to look beyond the present circumstances.
- ✓ Write it out and submit it to the pastoral leadership. Do not speak it out in public.

☆ Personal Prophecies

- ✓ Only those recognized and released by the pastoral team are to give personal prophecies in public.
 - Public service
 - " Submit to pastor or delegate first.
 - Prayer line
 - " By those trained and released by the pastors.
 - No "parking lot" prophecies - not done in secret, off by themselves.
- ✓ Have another person present to hear the word as you give it.
- ✓ Try to get the word tape recorded for the person.
- ✓ Give the word and move on.



STOP - DO NOT DO THIS

☆ Harsh Words or a Rebuking Tone

- ✓ God's heart toward us is "kindness and love" (Titus 3:4, Eph 2:4). Prophetic words are to reveal the heart of the Father.
 - The Church today is the Bride of Christ. Believers in Christ are friends of God and children of God - the very Beloved of God.
 - Because we are speaking from God's heart to the ones He loves very deeply, the words will not have a harsh content or a rebuking tone.
 - " God is not mad at us nor is He our adversary.

- " God will not embarrass us that way.
- " Whatever failures may be present, they have not brought the wrath of God down upon the whole church!

- ✓ If you think you have a harsh or rebuking word, do not speak it out!
 - Check your own attitude toward the person and the issue.
 - Privately pray that the person will be responsive to the things God has been talking to them about.
 - Ask the Lord for a different word that reflects His heart of love towards the person. Ask for a strengthening, encouraging and comforting word.
 - " It is God's kindness that leads to repentance (Romans 2:4)
- ✓ The leadership "weigh" the word to determine if the love of God is communicated by the words spoken and the manner they are spoken.

Some common questions:

- ? **Will a response be made to the word that is spoken?**
 - ✓ Many prophetic words do not require a response from those receiving it. The positive impact of the word is enough.
 - ✓ Each believer in Christ has the presence of the Holy Spirit. The strengthening, encouragement and comfort bears internal witness when the word is given.
- ? **What if a mistake is made?**
 - ✓ As a church we encourage people to learn to prophesy.
 - ✓ The person giving the word has a primary motivation to please the Lord and help others.
 - ✓ When a mistake occurs, it is usually apparent from the inner witness of the Holy Spirit in believers. Some believers will yawn, frown or smile a little, but no real damage is done.
 - ✓ If there is a serious doctrinal error or contains some strange demands, the pastor will address it as outlined below.

? Will I be corrected in public?

- ✓ If the word does not give strengthening, encouraging and comfort, but is not directional, correctional, rebuking, harsh and does not represent a doctrinal error:
 - We will usually let it go the first time and probably the second time.
 - After the second time, we will come to you in private and gently coach you when it is appropriate to speak in the future. You will also be informed of how you are coming across. We will suggest you submit your word to the leader before speaking it out.
 - If it happens a third time, we will require you to submit your prophetic word.
 - If you do not heed the three previous private corrections, then on the fourth time we will stop you and correct you publicly.

- ✓ Instant public correction will occur when:
 - Rebuke, correction or new direction is given without first going through the leadership team.
 - Unorthodox doctrinal implications are made by what is said or the manner of delivery.
 - The word is from the activity of evil spirits.

? Will God reveal my sins, failure or weaknesses in front of a group of people?

- ✓ No. A strange misconception is that God will embarrass us and point out our sins in public. God's heart is loving.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit will privately move us to confession of sin in our life.
- ✓ If you think God is revealing sin in some's life, do not speak it out!
 - Check your attitude toward the person and your relationship with them.
 - Do not prophesy the problem!
 - God may be telling you to privately pray or about an area in that person's life to avoid all together.