

Receiving Words of Knowledge: Being Supernaturally Natural

I. THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT: FAINT IMPRESSIONS

- A. All are called to function in the gifts and to prophesy, but many have wrong ideas related to it. We need a paradigm shift. We must demystify the process and see it as supernaturally natural.
- ⁷ *The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one...⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge... (1 Cor. 12:7-8)*
- ¹⁷ *In the last days...I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. (Acts 2:17)*
- ³¹ *You can all prophesy. (1 Cor. 14:31)*
- B. ***The language of the Spirit is impressions or pictures*** which requires faith and weakness with humility to not overstate. Prophetic information is given most often as faint impressions such as:
- 1) ***Mental pictures***: recurring impressions, pictures in our minds that indicate how the Lord will touch others. Some see the face of a person which represents a ministry direction.
 - 2) ***Emotional stirrings***: feeling various emotions like joy, sadness, or a burden for a person or a ministry as an indicator that the Lord will touch others related to that emotion or burden.
 - 3) ***Sympathetic pains***: feeling an unusual pain in a part of our bodies may indicate where the Lord will touch others. A healing in a meeting is often an indicator of more of the same kind.
 - 4) ***Physical sensations***: experiencing the Spirit's presence (energy, heat, wind, etc.) in a specific area of our bodies as an indicator that the Lord desires to touch others.
- C. The gifts often begin as the still small voice of God or as a subtle impression of the Spirit. It can be so subtle that many do not value it. Thus, they ignore it. As they value God's still small voice, they will be attentive to it. God's message is not always in the wind, but in the still small voice.
- ¹¹ *The LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains...the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;*
¹² *and after the earthquake a fire...and after the fire a still small voice. (1 Kgs. 19:11-12)*
- D. We must be intentional about receiving the Spirit's prophetic impressions when we gather in large or small groups or in social gatherings. Do it by asking the Spirit, "What are You doing?"
- ¹⁹ *The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do...the Son also does...*
²⁰ *The Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He does. (Jn. 5:19-20)*
- E. Many do not receive prophetic impressions because they do not ask for them (Jas. 4:2; Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9). The simple act of asking makes us receptive to His impressions. I compare functioning in the prophetic to putting up a sail in a boat on a calm day. When it seems there is no breeze, the sail still catches the most gentle breeze. Put your sail up by asking, "Spirit, what are You doing?" Do not draw back because you feel bad physically or emotionally or feel unfocused mentally. Our ability to minister is not based on how we feel, but on how the Spirit feels for the needy.
- For FREE download: Growing in the Prophetic*** by Mike Bickle, see www.mikebickle.org.

II. RECEIVING AND RELEASING WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE: FIVE PRINCIPLES

- A. Most prophecy is “human words reporting something that God brings to mind” (W. Grudem). The Spirit conveys to our mind thoughts that we imperfectly communicate with our words. Prophecy is a mixture of God’s ideas and man’s words, combining divine inspiration with human process. Beware, as some “words” are given in a way that only conveys a small portion of God’s ideas. The first rule of prophetic ministry is that it must always honor the written Word of God.
- B. Administrating prophecy involves 3 things: revelation, interpretation, and application. **Revelation:** refers to receiving the prophetic **information** (the impression, dream, vision, etc.). **Interpretation:** refers to **understanding** the information which is often in parables (Num. 12:8). **Application:** refers to the **wisdom** to rightly apply the information that is interpreted.
- C. **The Spirit will move more:** if we linger, build faith (teach on healing), have points of focus (words of knowledge), take risks, and give testimonies. Ask for words of knowledge for healing (physical or emotional), ministry callings (impartation), or special needs in people’s lives.
- D. First, we must **give expression** to prophetic impressions that are like keys unlocking a door. **Principle:** the demonstration of the Spirit’s power usually follows the declaration of God’s will.
- E. Second, as we **dial down emotionally** or quiet our soul to “listen” or discern the impressions of the Spirit when praying for people, we receive more. This is the opposite of stirring our soul up with fervor when ministering to people. Don’t “preach your prayers” over people.
- F. Third, we **value God’s power** even when it is released in small measures. **Do not stop praying** for the sick when little seems to be happening. It is still God’s power when only a part of a headache is healed. The Spirit releases more healing when the church prays for the church.
- G. Fourth, do not be preoccupied with the **fear of missing it**. The more important question is not “What if I miss it?” but “What if I miss a chance to release God’s power to someone in need?”
- H. Fifth, we must be **supernaturally natural**, without drawing undue attention to the fact that we are prophesying. Prophecy in a humble way that is less melodramatic and more helpful to people. We do not need to always say, “The Lord told me.” Many are quickly intoxicated with pride by ministering in the Spirit. They draw attention to self (2 Cor. 12:7). **Set your heart to avoid this.**
- I. It takes love and spiritual vigor to prophesy often because it requires **attentiveness** to the Spirit and requires **energy** and **risks** to act on the impressions. It is easier to draw back from all this.
- J. Prophetic impressions are to **edify**, **exhort**, and **comfort** people (1 Cor. 14:3). Simple prophecy is to enrich someone’s **spiritual life**, not to give direction in the domestic areas of their lives such as finance or romance, having babies, changing jobs, moving, buying or selling (house, car, etc.) or traveling. We can give counsel in domestic areas without presenting it as a prophecy.