

Discerning Prophecy

Winchester Vineyard

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Objective

My objective today is to ensure you understand what the biblical gift of prophecy is, how to test it and what to do with it.

Biblical Definition

- 1 Cor 12:7-10 Traditional list of the gifts
- 1 Cor 14:3 Historical E.E.C. labelling
- Alternative "Build up, stir up and cheer up"
- Rev 19:10 Testimony of Christ
- 1 Cor 14:4-5 "Church may be edified"

"Prophecy should point to Jesus, portray him and promote him."

Covenant Change

- Fundamental change between covenants
- Salvation changes purpose and operation
- Prophecy changes more than other gifts
- A major area of confusion in the church
- Settles the Bible v Prophecy debate

"Prophecy should call out our potential, and not our performance."

New Covenant Prophecy

- Just one of the ways God speaks to us
- The Bible is now the final authority
- Requirement to test prophecy
- The necessity for faith and works
- Now everyone can prophecy

"New Covenant prophecy opens our eyes to potential, perspective & pathways."

Testing Prophecy

- Biblical requirement to test prophecy
- 1 Th 5:19-22 Test everything
- [1] Jn 16:13-15 Our Inner Witness
- [2] Dt 19:15 Independent confirmation
- Testing leads to clarity & confidence

*"Testing prophecy is the way of the wise,
but the mistake of the many."*

Participation

- Testing leads to a position of faith
- 2 Cor 5:7 Proper biblical response
- Heb 4:2 “Did not combine it with faith”
- Jas 2:14-17 Part to play in the process
- Consider preparation & placement

"A prophecy is not alive in our lives until we have active faith in it."

Summary

- How to discern prophecy
- Biblical definition of prophecy
- Be aware of the changes in prophecy
- Practise the testing of prophecy
- Engage in faith filled participation

Luke 10:37 "Go and do likewise"