**April 2021**

**Judging Prophecy**

We need the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church today. But we must be aware that there and true and false gifts.

Example – counterfeit money. You don’t throw away all the good notes because of one bad one.

1 Corinthians 14: 1 – 3 (KJV & NLT)

* This chapter is in the context of a church meeting.
* ***Edification*** means – to edify or build up (strengthen).
* ***Exhortation*** means – to encourage.
* ***Comfort*** means – consolation (to console).

*To ‘prophesy’ is to speak by the supernatural inspiration of the Holy Spirit in a language understood by the speaker and by those spoken to. This is more beneficial to the church.*

2 Peter 1: 16 – 21 (NLT)

* Prophecy and scripture ***must*** agree. They are both God breathed.

***Safeguards***

By their fruits you shall know them

* Matthew 7: 15 – 20. You shall know ***false prophets*** by their fruits, not their words – inwardly false, outwardly fine.

**Hebrews**

**5: 12-14**

Reason of use or habit.

How to discern (Judge) good and evil. Exercise,

train (Gym).

* + They seem like the rest of the sheep (harmless). You can’t tell from outward appearances that they are ***vicious wolves***.

We can’t judge the ***heart***, but we can judge the ***fruit***.

* + However, you can’t hide fruit. We can identify people by their actions or behaviour.
  + ***To Know*** means – to recognise, perceive or acknowledge.
* Paul warned in 2 Corinthians 11: 12 – 15 (NLT).
* Peter warned in 2 Peter 2: 1- 3 (NLT).
* John 15: 5 – Fruit comes from the branch which is connected to the vine (Jesus).
* ***Fruit of the Spirit*** (Galatians 5: 22 – 23 NLT)
  + Love (1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 8)

***Fruit of leaders in the church***

1 Timothy 3: 1 – 6 (NLT).

* + Joy
  + Peace
  + Patience
  + Kindness
  + Goodness
  + Faithfulness
  + Gentleness
  + Self-control.

1 John 4: 1 – 6

* Do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. We must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God.
  + Spirit of ***truth*** or spirit of ***error***.

1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 3 (NLT)

* No one can confess Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.
* No one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus.

Does it glorify Jesus?

* John 16: 7 - 14
  + The Spirit of God will always glorify Jesus and not a man.
  + If it attracts attention to man, it is wrong.
* John 15: 26

***Jesus lived to die and he died so that we could live.***

* + Prophecy will always ***testify*** of Jesus.
* John 5: 39- 40 & 46 - 47
  + Testify means - to be a witness.
* Luke 1: 28 – 38 & 47 – 47
  + Visitation of Mary. Be it unto me ***according to your word***.
  + Soul magnifies the Lord - spirit rejoices in God my savior.
* John 12: 42 – 43
  + They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.
* Revelation 19:10
  + The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophesy.
  + The word of out testimony is powerful.
* John 3: 27 - 30
  + John the Baptist said “*He must increase, but I must decrease*”.
* 1 Corinthians 12: 3
  + When spiritual gifts (including prophecy) are in operation, the manifestation will make Jesus Lord, not man.
* 1 John 4: 1 – 3
  + If the prophecy is of God, it points to Jesus and Jesus alone.
* Matthew 24: 11 – 13
  + Many false prophets shall ***rise*** – to waken.
  + If sin abounds and love grows cold, Jesus is not present.
  + God is love and the Word is God.

We can judge a prophet or prophecy according to ***their attitude*** toward Jesus.

* If they lead people away from Jesus or create division within the church, they are false.
  + Proverbs 6: 16 – 19.
  + Mark 3: 22 – 26.
* If they magnify man rather than Jesus they are false.
* If a prophetic word brings guilt, shame or condemnation, it is false.
  + Romans 8: 1 – 2.
  + However, it can bring conviction to the heart. A hard heart is slow to change or repent, but a soft heart is quick to change.

***2 Samuel 12: 1 – 14***

It was Nathan the prophet who convicted King David of his adultery with Bathsheba. *It gave great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to* ***blaspheme*** *(to scorn, despise or provoke).*

* If prophesy manipulates to get you to give, it is false.
  + 2 Cor 9: 7 (not grudgingly or of necessity = ***must***). God loves a cheerful giver – according as he purposes in his heart.
  + The Holy Spirit never manipulates, He gently leads and encourages.

Does it agree with Scripture?

“***Inspiration*** of God” – divinely breathed in or God breathed. Only used once in the New Testament.

Note: 2 Peter 1: 20 - 21

2 Timothy 3: 16 -17

*“*All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is ***profitable*** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”.

* How does the Word ***profit*** us? (means advantageous or helpful).

Doctrine

Means teaching, instruction or learning.

2 Timothy 4: 3. Paul refers to sound doctrine (uncorrupt, safe or wholesome).

* Some won’t ***endure*** sound doctrine (to hold firm). People shall turn away their ears from truth and shall turn to ***fables*** (fiction or falsehood).
* Ephesians 6: 13 – 14 (***stand*** – means fixed or established).

***Psalm 112: 7 - 8***

The established heart is fixed and trusting in God.

*You don’t want to feel* ***vibration*** *you want* ***revelation*** *from the Holy Spirit.*

Reproof

Means proof, conviction or evidence.

* Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the ‘***evidence***’ of things not seen. Faith requires no other evidence (not feelings or sight).
* Matthew 8: 8 (Centurions faith – Just speak the word only).

Correction

Means a straightening up again or to rectify. Restoration to an upright or right state. It has a similar meaning to ‘rightly diving’ in Timothy. A pilot who is off course will bring a correction to his flight path (only used once in NT).

* Matthew 20: 25 – 28 (Jesus corrected his disciples – taught servant heart).

Instruction

Chastening, nurture, chastisement.

* Hebrews 12: 5 – 11(NLT) is referring to instruction. It has the same meaning as disciplinary correction.
* Discipline brings a peaceful harvest or right living to those who are trained in this way.

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. ***Perfect means*** – complete. Only used once in the New Testament. Thoroughly furnished also means complete or finished.

2 Timothy 2: 15 - 16

Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (the cross is the great divide).

* ***Study*** – Give diligence or be diligent.

***Proverbs 4: 20***

Give ***attention*** to the Word.

Have ***regard*** for the Word of God.

* ***Rightly dividing*** means – To make a straight cut, to dissect. To proceed on straight paths, hold a straight course, equivalent to doing right. The word will keep us on “True North”.
* ***Profane and vain babblings*** – wicked, empty sounding and fruitless discussions or useless matters (1 Timothy 6: 20 – 21).
  + We are to shun or avoid – turning one’s self about for the purpose of avoiding something. In other words, walk away from such talk.

Hebrews 4: 12

***Revelation 19: 13***

And he was clothed with a vesture (garment) dipped in blood: and his name is called ***The Word of God.***

***Discerner*** (judge) of the thoughts and intents of the heart

* John 6: 63 – Jesus words are spirit and life.
* John 16: 13 – Whatever the Holy Spirit shall hear, that shall he speak.
* The Spirit and the Word will always agree (1 John 5: 7).
* Matthew 4: 4 – Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God.
* The word of God is the will of God. Prophecy and the word ***must align*** to be accurate.
* If it can’t be found in the Word, don’t receive it, no matter who has spoken it.
* Acts 17: 10 – 12. The Church in Berea searched the Scriptures daily. As a result, many believed (they searched to verify that truth was being taught).
* Joshua 1: 8 – *This book of the law shall not depart out of our mouth, but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein,* ***for then*** *you shall make your* ***way prosperous*** *and then you shall have* ***good success***.
* Be cautious with, *“I’m telling you what God has said.”.* It must be tested with the Word of God on every occasion. No exceptions.
* The word will always bring peace. If there is no peace, don’t proceed or act.
  + Colossians 3: 15 – 16 (wait on the Holy Spirit for direction).
  + ***Rule*** - to umpire, govern, direct, control or arbitrate.
  + Don’t act out of duty or pressure

***Isaiah 26: 3***

You shall keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

***Perfect peace*** means Shalom, Shalom

Not all prophecy is from God

Deuteronomy 13: 1 - 5

* If someone leads you away from God and the Scriptures and what’s right, don’t follow them.
* Hence the need to know the Scriptures.
* If it draws you into a deeper relationship with God, it is trustworthy.

Acts 20: 28 – 30

* Feeding the church of God protects against wolves (John 21: 15 – 17).
* Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Matthew 16: 21 – 23 (Luke 18: 31 - 34).

* What Peter spoke did not line up with the Word of God concerning Jesus. Peter was unknowingly being influenced by an evil spirit. Jesus was not calling Peter “Satan”, but Peter had unknowingly listened to the Devil and repeated the wrong thing.
* Don’t allow emotions to rule. What does the Word of God say?

***Warning:*** Don’t seek words of prophecy over your life. Seek the Lord. The Holy Spirit knows ***what*** you need and ***when***you need it. Trust God’s love for you.

* Acts 27: 10 & 22 - 25 (God can indeed give us warning).
* “Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage”.
* “For I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me”.

Does it produce freedom or bondage?

***1 Corinthians 6: 19 - 20***

Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit - we do not belong to ourselves, but we were bought with a price.

Romans 8: 14 - 15

We have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear.

* Are we hostages or rescuers? (We can’t be both).

We go as the Spirits leads, not out of duty.

* + We are commanded to go into all the world and proclaim good news. Only a free man or woman can do that.
  + Jesus was never in bondage to any man. He was free and knew it.
  + I can lay down my life and I can take it up again (John 10: 18).

We work with God, not for God.

***Mark 16: 20***. It the Lord is present the Word will ***always*** be confirmed.

* 2 Corinthians 4:13 – Spirit of faith will always produce freedom and liberty.
* 2 Corinthians 3: 17 – Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

If someone is wanting you to submit to the dictates of the Old Testament Law, it is bondage. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law (Galatians 3: 13 – 14).

* ***Redeemed*** means to buy up, ransom or rescue from loss. To redeem by payment of a price to recover from the power of another.

***Bewitched*** – like the influence of being placed under a spell.

* Galatians 3: 1 – 5 (***bewitched*** - who has cunning deceived you).
* Galatians 5: 7 – 10 (***hinder*** means – to cut into or impede one’s courses).
  + We have been made free in the spirit.
  + Don’t allow anyone or anything to draw you back to bondage of the law through works and performance.

Law and grace cannot be mixed

Galatians 4: 21 – 31

* ***Allegory*** – a picture, type or figure to reveal a meaning.
* Two covenants represented Law and Grace and cannot be mixed. One births bondage, the other freedom. Cast out the bond woman (law).
* 2 Timothy 1: 7 – We have not been given a spirit of fear.

Any prophetic word that places you in ***fear*** is ***not*** from God. The first spiritual force to manifest in Adam at the fall in the garden was ***fear***. It is designed to weaken and ultimately destroy faith.

* Genesis 3: 10 – I was ***afraid*** because I was naked.
* Adam was no longer clothed with a robe of righteousness / the glory of God.

If something or someone tries to place you in bondage, reject it and cast it down.

* 2 Corinthians 10: 3 - 5
* Never bow to the dictates of a man (opinions or traditions).
* Proverbs 29: 25 (fear is a snare – bait, trap or hook).

Anything that would draw you into some exclusive religious group to separate you from the world is not of God.

Jesus never prayed that we should be taken out of the world, but that the Father keep us from the evil one.

* Never follow a man, follow Jesus.
* Acts 20: 28 – 30 (NLT)

1 John 2: 20 - 217

* Unction and anointing have the same meaning.
* The Holy Spirit is our teacher.
* Your spirit will discern truth and error.