

FRONTLINE

Spirit-Filled Listening Prayer - Internship, Fall 2016

I. Why this training?

To embed spiritual gifts - especially healing and prophecy - more deeply into the fabric of our church culture through the Intern community

- **Who we are.** We are a Spirit-filled church. We want to live out that distinctive in community (Acts 2)

- **Value of experience.** We want to know the Bible, believe the Gospel, AND live in the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8)

- **Changed lives.** As we ask God to speak, heal, deliver, in a moment, He will! (James 5)

WORD — SPIRIT churches

Word		Spirit
Truth	OR	Power
Wisdom/intellect	OR	Experience/affection
Character	OR	Passion
Visible	OR	Invisible

Live in the tension — “AND”

Has your experience been in a primarily “Word-side” or “Spirit-side” church?

** John 16:13-15

** What kinds of things does the Holy Spirit say from John 16?

* **He’s Emmanuel** - “God with us” - so important to include Him
= not just Bible study or dinner group ... Without Him it can become ONLY academic or ONLY social or ONLY sharing or ONLY missional

* **He’s the active power, love and truth of God** - Acts 1:8, Romans 5:5, John 16:13

- 1) Brings dynamic of unpredictability, variety, “God is here!”
- 2) Brings dynamic of hope and life = EXPECTANCY!

* **God the Spirit gives gifts** - I Cor. 12:4-7, I Cor. 14:1

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"Follow the way of love and *eagerly desire spiritual gifts.*" (1 Cor. 14:1) To not eagerly desire them is to disobey God.

- It's crazy that to a church obsessed and excessive with the gifts, Paul would say "eagerly desire them." You'd think he would say "shut this nonsense down, you charismaniacs!"
- Bad and abusive practice of the gifts has led to a reaction against them by many. What people see on TV gives them bathwater and baby to gladly throw out in the name of safety and rationality.

* **The Spirit speaks today** - through the Bible, but also to AND through us things that "strengthen, encourage and comfort." - 1 Cor. 14:1-3 - **Prophecy**

- All Christians agree we can hear the Spirit's voice for ourselves. Why not for others to encourage them?

"... especially that you may prophesy."

- Prophecy – "telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind"
- Wayne Grudem
- Something really beneficial about this gift that Paul wants them to pursue it more than even miracles or healing!
- Prophecy in NT different from OT ...

1) THEY ARE NOT very words of God/Scripture

IT IS for all - Just like only a few were priests in OT, now all of us are ... so the expectation is all can prophesy (Acts 2) = hear from God and give that to others

2) NOT "thus says the Lord" (not in NT) - they are human words, not God's words ... "I think the Lord is saying ..." "I have a picture ..." "A Scripture comes to mind ..."

ARE 14:3 = **Always strengthening, encouraging, comforting!**

3) NOT to be automatically accepted as true/fact – 1 Cor. 13:10 – "we prophesy in part." This allows for an atmosphere where it's safe to fail.

ARE to be tested – 1 Thess. 5:21 - "Test prophecies. Hold to what is true."

Questions?

So how do we allow the Holy Spirit to speak through us to others in a way that builds the body up rather than weaken it?

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A Model for Listening Prayer - James 5:13-18

**** Have you experienced God through people praying over you? If so, how? ****

1) Interview/Listen

- Natural realm - "What are they saying?"
- Supernatural realm - "Lord, what are you saying?"
 - * Pray - "Jesus, what do you think about her?" or "what would you want to say to her?"
 - * Sometimes your first thought is actually God talking to you
 - * Can be very simple
 - * Can be variety of things ...
 - Spontaneous pictures or visions**
 - Scripture**
 - A word or phrase will come to mind**
 - Dreams**
 - Strong emotions - discerning fear, anger, sadness, etc.**
 - Physical "sympathetic" pain in your body**
 - Songs**

It takes practice to learn to distinguish the voice of God from your own "inner voice" or the voice of the enemy. Some practical thoughts ...

... **The Spirit of the voice:** *"The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle reasonable (willing to yield), full of mercy and good fruits (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control), unwavering, without hypocrisy."* - James 3:17

Any work that bears an opposite spirit is most surely not the voice of God.

- God leads us. Satan drives us.
- God encourages. Satan criticizes.
- God corrects in love like a loving parent. Satan condemns.

... **Scriptural Content and Confirmation:** The content of a word that is truly from God will always be consistent with the truths about God's nature that are made clear in the Bible.

2) Pray or say what you sense

- Will require TAKING RISKS
- Don't be afraid of silence
- Use natural language and tone

3) Debrief - "what did you sense?" "what was God doing?"

"Proph-Etiquette:"

- Loving person is most important (Fruits of Spirit is priority over gifts of Spirit)

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- Don't preach / teach / counsel or try to "fix it" - we are conduits of the Spirit's work
- Don't say healing depends on their faith
- Negative words ... good rule: would you want to receive this word?
- No insensitive "laying on of hands"
- Prophecy is a bad way to establish doctrine, behavioral standards, or in making routine decisions