

# Hearing God: Week Five

## **RECAP LAST WEEK:**

God speaks through relationships within the church body.

God can speak prophetically through relationships within the church.

Prophecy is to hear God & repeat what you have heard to the right people at the right time. Prophecy can be expressed in so many ways:

- Through sharing a Scripture that the Lord puts on your heart for someone else
- When God gives you a word regarding someone's future
- When God gives you insight into situations you had no way of knowing about
- When your heart is burdened towards a specific topic for someone

**God CAN speak through you prophetically to others & God CAN speak prophetically through others to you.**

## **"UPBUILDING"**

God speaks through relationships within the church body.

### **1 Corinthians 14:1-3 (ESV)**

*"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. 3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation."*

**"Upbuilding":** "oikodome" which means "the act of bringing something closer to fullness or completion; understood as if assisting in the construction of an incomplete building."

**God can speak through relationships to reveal our need for growth in Jesus. Some of the methods that God uses to reveal our growth areas are conflict, confrontation & correction.**

### **Galatians 5:22-24 (ESV)**

*"22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."*

Relationships are the context where you measure whether or not you are growing in the fruit of the Spirit.

*"The fruit of the Spirit...the way you can tell the Holy Spirit is evident in someone's life... is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control. All this is continually tested & developed in the furnace of relationships. God wants to plant you in relationships & wants you to be in a rich & reciprocal community of believers who help mature you & whom you can help mature. He wants you to hear Him through others & He wants to speak to others through you. That's what the church is all about. **Your community should play an intricate role in your spiritual growth...it should be like they hold up a mirror to your face to lovingly reveal the true condition of your soul...to help you see what you truly look like.**" -*

Nathan Finocchio, Hearing God

## CONFLICT & CONFRONTATION

Conflict & confrontation are kind of a package deal. Conflict is when you & someone else disagree on something. **And confrontation is or SHOULD BE the attempt to resolve the conflict in humility & grace.**

### Matthew 18:15-17 (ESV)

*“15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”*

As believers we should confront those that hurt us with a heart of love & humility & grace knowing that sometimes through the confrontation the Lord may speak to them & help them grow in their weakness.

### Ephesians 4:29-32 (ESV)

*“29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”*

## CORRECTION

### Luke 17:3-4 (ESV)

*“3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”*

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*“Imagine this church: It is huge and is still growing numerically. People like it. The music is good. The people are welcoming. There are many exciting programs, and people are quickly enlisted into their support. And yet, the church, in trying to look like the world in order to win the world, has done a better job than it may have intended. It does not display the distinctively holy characteristics taught in the New Testament. Imagine such an apparently vigorous church being truly spiritually sick, with no remaining immune system to check and guard against wrong teaching or wrong living. Imagine Christians, knee-deep in recovery groups and sermons on brokenness and grace, being comforted in their sin but never confronted. Imagine those people, made in the image of God, being lost to sin because no one corrects them. Can you imagine such a church? Apart from the size, have I not described many of our American churches?” -Mark Dever*