

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Gift of Prophecy

Passage: Romans 12:6

Introduction: John said the purpose of spiritual gifts is to accomplish the mission Christ gave the church: to declare the gospel and train Christ followers. Romans 12:6 exhorts believers to use their gifts—this glorifies God and builds up the body! This week John preached about prophecy, which he defined as divine revelation given to human beings.

Additional passages: Romans 1:11-12, 1 Corinthians 14, Ephesians 2:19-20, Jude 3

Questions:

1. John identified two types of prophecy: 1) Canonical prophecy—words from God given for all people and all time that are contained in Scripture. 2) Non-canonical prophecy—words from God given for a particular person, group or situation. Does the difference make sense? Do you have questions about the nature of each type?
2. John distinguished prophecy from preaching in this way: Prophecy is sharing revelation from the Lord—being the Lord’s mouthpiece; preaching is pressing that truth into the soul of listeners, expounding on an already-given revelation. Does the difference make sense?
3. Have you had any experiences of people who claimed to be prophets who set up a ministry outside the authority of a local church?
4. Have you had any experiences of receiving a strong exhortation from someone or having the sense you should speak a specific word to someone else? How did that go?
5. What principles does 1 Corinthians 14:26-33 give for how prophecy should be practiced in a local church gathering?
6. John said God typically gives modern-day prophecy by giving someone a strong sense that they should share a particular thought with a particular person or group. While a cessationist would not believe in modern-day prophecy, many would have a category for urgings or leadings of the Spirit that play out similarly in practice. How is it going with regularly encouraging others? How about with sharing exhortations when God puts something on your heart that aligns with His Word?