**Listen 3: We All Can Prophecy**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified. (1 Corinthians 14:1-5)

So Moses went out and told the people what the Lord had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again. However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!” But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” (Numbers 11:24-29)

# Introduction

Prophecy means to tell someone what God has revealed to you.

How do you listen to God? You spend time with Him everyday. Do not get confused with the voice of the world. When you can hear the voice of God, you can prophecy. To hear the voice of God is to receive divine revelation.

# Prophecy is for all (People)

God wants to speak to His people all the time. The problem is that the people do not want to listen. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we can begin to prophesy.

“‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.” (Acts 2:16-18)

There is no social status or age as far as God’s Spirit is concerned. No matter who you are or how old you are, God can pour out His Spirit on you.

Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.  And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.” (John 1:32-34)

Jesus is the first person who was filled with the Spirit.

Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tonguesand prophesied. There were about twelve men in all. (Acts 19:4-7)

When we become Christians, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us.

However, just because He dwells in us, it does not mean we are yielded to the Holy Spirit. To be yielded is to be baptised with the Spirit.

We need spiritual gifts to give us the power for victorious Christian living. We are to desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

When you operate in the spiritual gifts, we will have the spiritual strength to do things instead of relying on our strength.

Types of Prophecy

* Foretelling – A prediction of the future
* Forthtelling – Saying what is for now

People who foretell are those people who are appointed in the church as Prophets. God gives them the ability to foretell. Forthtelling is the kind of prophecy we can all do.

# Prophecy builds up (Purpose)

Purpose of prophecy

* It trains us to hear from God.
* It shows us the presence of God.
* It reinforces that God does speak to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

We sometimes receive a word from God and allow our thoughts to sow seeds of doubt, thinking that it is not from God, it is from ourselves. We wrestle like this back and forth, much like playing spiritual ping pong.

When you have prayed and asked God for revelation, and you see a picture or receive a word, release it by faith, believing that God has answered your prayer.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. (1 Corinthians 13:9-10)

We need courage and boldness to release prophecy.

# Prophecy can be learnt (Practice)

The more we use it, the more familiar we are with it.

What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.  If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God. Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people. (1 Corinthians 14:26-33)

The cell group is a good place to exercise spiritual gifts. It is a place with opportunities to use the gifts God has given us to serve others.

The gift of tongues includes the private and public tongue. Private tongue is for the edification of our own selves. The public tongue occurs in a congregation of God’s people, where someone speaks in tongues, and someone else gives an interpretation of the tongues.

Prophecy is done in an orderly manner. We can control it. The more you hear from God, the more you walk in the will of God.

What words to release:

* Encouraging
* Non-corrective
* Non-directive

If you receive any word that is corrective or directive, take it to your leaders and discern those words together.

Do not use prophecy to manipulate people. True prophecy is strengthening, encouraging and comforting.

God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.

– Mother Teresa

Sermon summary contributed by Anthea.

Prayer points contributed by Loong.



* **SERMON: We All Can Prophesy**

**Pray**

* We will understand that we all can hear from God and pass along His message to others.
* We will be willing to speak for God.
* We will learn to listen to God and be humble to carry out His will.
* We will understand the purpose of prophesy is to build up.
* We will not be delusional and we will not abuse the name of the Lord.

***Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. (1 Corinthians 14:1, 3)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: 3-day Fast and Pray**

***There will be a 3-day fast and pray in Hall 1 from 11/07/2017 (Tue) to 13/07/2017 (Thu) from 0530 to 0700.***

**Pray:**

* Church members will understand that prayer opens up the presence of God for Him to do His work.
* Church members will see the importance of prayers in their Christian walk and come for corporate prayer.
* During the three days, church members will fast in their own way so they will be sensitive to what God is telling them.
* God will minister to those who come for prayer.
* The Holy Spirit will move powerfully during the prayer meetings, filling and touching those who are hungry and thirsty.

***Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land***

***to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord. (Joel 1:14)***

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***A few fatal bullying cases were reported recently.***

**Pray:**

* Students will learn to treat each other with respect and dignity.
* Teachers will keep a close eye on what’s happening and prevent anything untoward.
* Parents will care for their children and know the challenges they face.
* Victims will voice up before it gets too serious.
* Bullying will stop at all levels.

***Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Climate Change**

**Pray:**

* The inhabitants of the earth, especially the Christians will recognize the beauty and majesty of creation, and learn to appreciate nature.
* The leaders of the world will be courageous to take steps to prevent further deterioration of the situation.
* Corporations will be responsible and not make profit while polluting, destroying, damaging the earth.
* Perpetrators will be exposed and brought to a court of law to face their consequences.
* Victims of climate change will receive the required aid.

***The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth’s inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left. (Isaiah 24:5, 6)***