

Receiving prophetic ministry? Keep these things in mind...

The purpose of our prophetic ministry weekend here at ECC is to encourage and express God's heart to our people. This is not a time for counseling or praying for specific needs, but rather a time to go before God with an open heart and wait for Him to speak.

Although we believe God speaks through people, we do not elevate prophecy to the same place as the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 13:9 says, "For we know in part and we prophesy in part." As a result, we must all test the words of prophecy that we're given. Ask yourself:

1. Does it go against Scripture?

- God does not speak things that are inconsistent with what He spoke through the Bible.

2. If it includes any words of knowledge (unknowable information), are they accurate?

3. Does it 'bear witness' to your spirit, even if it doesn't make sense to your head?

4. Is it in line with already confirmed revelation (especially with life direction)?

- Not with your circumstances, but the words that have been confirmed by two or three witness or that your spiritual leaders have agreement on.

5. Is it consistent with God's nature?

6. Who does it glorify?

- These last two questions are important when considering what God speaks to you directly.

7. The final test is the test of time:

- If it is a prediction, does it come true?
- Has the word produced good fruit from the way it directed or edified you?

Does it pass? Then, what do you do with it? First, agree with God and acknowledge that the word is from Him. Second, write down the main points and any conditions it may have. Third, meet those conditions. Fourth, resist the temptation to "edit" the word based on the current situation or what you want it to mean. Fifth, persevere, especially when you meet with warfare because of it. Six, review it regularly to see what aspects are being fulfilled.