MOVING IN POWER: THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

I. ALL CAN PROPHESY

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams…” (Acts 2:17)

a. Prophecy is simply expressing words that are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Many times we flow in the inspiration of the Spirit in our daily conversations and decisions without even knowing it. We receive small little impressions from the Holy Spirit all through the day that are hard to discern as different from our own hearts.

b. Every believer can prophesy and every believer can prophesy in powerful ways. Prophecy was the main fruit of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. The gifts of the Spirit are not earned; we simply receive them as gifts.

c. Most believers start out unsure of themselves in the realm of prophecy, but over time that feeling changes. This unsure feeling is also true in seasons when we are growing in a new realm of prophecy.

d. There are varying levels of prophetic gifting operating in the body of Christ. It is helpful to distinguish levels of gifting because it removes pressure to prophecy in realms we are not called to and it removes confusion around prophecy.

e. These are general categories of gifting that some people define: Simple prophecy, gift of prophecy, prophetic ministry and the office of a prophet. All believers can prophesy at a simple level, which can be very powerful and precise. Then another large percentage walks in the gift of prophecy. Smaller amounts of people have true prophetic ministries and an even smaller amount of people are qualified to walk in the office of a prophet.

f. No believer is held to the standard of accuracy that was required of the Old Testament prophets.

II. ZEALOUS FOR PROPHECY

“Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy…But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men…I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied…” (1 Corinthians 14:1, 3, 5)

a. Prophecy is highlighted in 1 Corinthians 14 because it edifies the Church unlike any of the other manifestations of the Spirit.

b. We are called to pursue and desire spiritual gifts, this means to be active in them and intentional about maturing in them. It takes spiritual hunger to pursue prophesy and it takes real energy to operate in it on a daily basis. We are called to pursue prophecy and the edification of others in the midst of mundane daily life.

“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)
c. We are called to excel at prophecy because it is a servant ministry to others. God wants people to be encouraged by others more than they are discouraged by the accuser of the brethren. Jesus loves prophecy because He loves to encourage and strengthen hearts.

d. We can increase the measure of prophecy in our lives simply by engaging in it more often. God responds to our expectation and faithfulness with more power. We must engage Him with faith.

III. GROWING IN PROPHECY
a. Step out in faith - Growing in prophecy mostly has to do with stepping out in faith on a consistent basis. Give expression to small impressions that you feel for people through the day. I am still surprised at how small impressions can release such power. Often times I think, “That can’t be the Lord,” or, “that is so simple, it won’t impact that person at all.” God releases power on hearts as we give expression to these impressions. We gain confidence in the small whispers as we step out more and more.

b. Identify His voice - Identify ways that God speaks to you and pay attention to those areas more often (thoughts, emotions, spiritual knowing, pictures in the mind’s eye, sensing the life of the Spirit, physical sensations).

c. Train your ear - Meditating (praying, singing, journaling) on the Bible is the one of the best ways to grow in hearing God’s voice. The Bible is the Holy Spirit’s favorite thing to talk about.

d. Remove noise - Remove noise in your life. God is whispering all the time but our lives, internal and external, are so busy and filled with noise that we don’t hear the whisper. What causes your thoughts and emotions to be noisy? What external noise can you remove? I encourage people to really limit visual media entertainment in their lives (tv, movies, youtube, etc) as a way to quiet their souls.

e. I measure the quietness of my soul by observing what and how much comes to my mind (thoughts, songs, pictures, videos) when I close my eyes to pray and go to sleep.

IV. VISION FOR PROPHECY IN OUR MIDST
a. Worship teams prophesying over the city and over those in the room.

b. Prophecy flowing between believers in the prayer room.

c. Prophecy rooms at UHOP.

d. Children prophesying.

e. Cultivated prophetic messengers impacting the region and nation.

f. Spirit of prophecy on those involved at UHOP (dreams, visions, angels, burden of the Lord).

V. VALUES
“He who prophesies speaks edification (building people up spiritually) and exhortation (calling people to persevere) and comfort (giving God’s perspective in difficult circumstances) to men.” (1 Corinthians 14:3)
a. Values and boundaries in a community free people up to prophesy more often. They also help safe guard us and others from unnecessary mistakes and harm as we mature in the prophetic.
b. **Biblical** – Every prophetic word given at UHOP must be in line with scripture. Is the idea or the value that is being prophesied biblical and in line with the heart of God?

c. **Safe** – We recognize that we are all growing in prophesy, that we only hear in part and that other people’s lives can be affected by our words. Therefore, we need to ask the question, “Could my prophetic word injure somebody if it’s wrong? In general, we ask that people not prophesy about babies, specific dates for things to happen or future marriages (dates, mates and babies).

d. **Encouraging** – Prophetic words should be encouraging in their tone and language and not corrective or directive. The Spirit does give corrective and directive words but staying within these boundaries are very helpful for us as we grow.

e. **Faith** – Believe that God will speak to you and impact others.

f. **Humility** – There are many aspects of prophecy that necessitate humility. It takes humility to recognize that we only hear in part and that we need others to prophesy in order to give a fuller picture of what the Lord is saying. It takes humility for people to present corporate prophetic words to UHOP leadership with no expectation of corporate recognition. We must present all prophecies with “open hands” that say, “I have this impression but it might be wrong in some way.” We always give those we are prophesying to the right to say our prophetic words were not the Lord.

g. **Teachability** – We will grow quicker in prophecy if we are open to being corrected on what we prophesy, how we prophesy and why we prophesy.

“Brethren, do not be children in understanding (understanding the dynamics of the gifts in a corporate setting); however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.” (1 Corinthians 14:20)

h. **Maturity** – We want childlike faith without childish behavior in the things of the Spirit. This is not a call to be professional. This is a call to restrain ourselves in the gifts of the spirit in corporate contexts for the edification of others.

i. **Wisdom in decision making** – As a prophetic community, we must be able to ask the Lord for direction in our lives and ministries and we must be able to make wise biblical decisions. God does not want to give us direction on every detail of our week. Part of our dignity and responsibility as a His partner and Bride is that He entrusts to grow in biblical wisdom and make our own decisions day by day. He calls us to seek out His values in the Word and then to make choices day by day out of those values. In general, prophetic words are not meant to direct our domestic lives.

j. **Supernaturally natural** – Present prophetic words in your presentation, tone and language. We want a prophetic culture that is free from performance, hype and spiritual mysticism.

VI. **CORPORATE PROPHECY AT UHOP**

a. **Prayer Room:**

i. The prayer room is an amazing context for prophecy to flow. Worship leaders and prayer leaders will work together to govern prophetic words that come forth from the stage or from those in the room. These prophetic words would be exhortations for those in the room, not directional or correctional in nature.

ii. Worship team members can communicate to the worship leader if they have a prophetic song and let the leader decide what to do in the moment.
iii. Prayer leaders can call ministry times that are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

iv. Those in the room can approach the prayer leader before or during the prayer meeting to share prophetic impressions. The prayer leader will almost always share the prophetic impression instead of the person that received the word.

b. **Weekend Services:**
   i. We are open to short spontaneous exhortations and ministry times during our Friday night and Saturday night services.

   ii. If you feel like you have a corporate word for those in the room, share a brief summary of your prophetic impression (writing it down is even more helpful) with the leader of the service before the service begins or during service when the person is available (Friday night = prayer leader, Saturday night = Jeff/Bethany/Jerry Mootz in the front row).

   iii. The leader will let you know if they want to share it, have you share it, hold it for another time during the service, or put it on the shelf for a different time.

   iv. The leader will make decisions based on what they feel the Holy Spirit is saying and if the word fits the flow of the service.

   v. There is no pressure that you “missed it” if the leadership does or does not move forward with a prophetic word in a service.

   vi. We are not looking for directional or correctional prophecies during these prophetic moments in services.

c. **Prophecy Email:**
   i. You can send in your prophetic words to propheticwords@uhopsf.com.

   ii. This email is for you to send in your dreams, angelic visitations, encounters and impressions that you feel are corporate for UHOP, the region or the nation.

   iii. We prefer emails over physical copies of paper because they are easier to organize and record.

   iv. We value prophecies from other ministries but we don’t want prophecies from other ministries or websites to be forwarded to this email. Those are best shared in context of relationships.

   v. You will receive a short thank you reply to your emails and some clarifying questions if needed. Most times we will not be able to tell you if or how we are moving forward with the prophetic word.

d. **Directional and Correctional Prophecies** - Directional and correctional prophecies can be submitted to the UHOP leadership team. These types of prophetic words will never be shared spontaneously during a service. They are too weighty and must be tested before anything is done with them.

e. **Testing prophecy** - The UHOP leadership team will weigh every prophetic words that is submitted.