

# Home Group Study Notes - 13/10/19

## Holy Spirit - Prophecy

### Introduction

The speaker on Sunday, John Nash, is a Gideons volunteer. He spoke first on the Gideons and the power of the bible to change lives. Then he turned to the main topic, prophecy.

### Icebreaker

Think of a time when you were given a prophetic word, or heard one for someone else. What was it like, what was the outcome? Did it encourage you to try it?

### Discovery

- There are 2 types of prophecy - fore-telling and forth-telling.
- Fore-telling is about things like the future, interpretation of events, and warnings. The Old Testament prophets like Isaiah gave 'fore-telling' prophecies. Generally, this type of prophecy is given today by people who have a specific prophetic anointing. Only a few of Jubilee's people have this gifting, which is not unusual in these days, but the bible does tell us in 1 Cor 12:1 that we should all 'eagerly desire' this gift.
- However, everyone in Jubilee, every Christian, has the ability to 'forth-tell', or speak out, things the Spirit shows us for each other.
- Forth-telling is speaking as the Spirit guides, to encourage one another, to proclaim truth from the bible or about each other and God, and to speak what we believe God is saying about things in each other's lives.
- Chat this through with the group. (If it comes up you could say that from time to time we all might be given 'fore-telling' words.)
- Before going into prophecy in more detail, John Nash told us how vital it is to have love for each other, before we get going with prophesying! A bit like a train - the engine is love, and the carriages carry the spiritual gifts.
- Have a look at 1 Cor 13. Read it out. Then ask the Holy Spirit to show you all what he particularly wants to highlight in it for each of you, and meditate on it for a minute or two. Then share what you all felt you were shown.

### Discussion

- John Nash insisted that we can do things beyond our wildest dreams with God's help. But we need to know what he wants us to do and how to do it - hence the need for prophetic guidance.
- The bible helps of course, and one aspect of prophecy is to encourage each other with truth from the bible - things such as reassurance of God's power in our weakness. This strengthens our faith to receive other prophetic words like those that say what God is telling us to do. John likened this raising of faith to preparing a landing pad to receive and act on God's prophetic directions for our lives.
- Often we don't feel we can do the things we think God might be asking us to do. John gave the example of Gideon, who felt totally unqualified for what he was about to be told

what God wanted him to do (ie save his nation!). Prophecy helps so much when we feel like this. Have a chat about all this.

John talked about us being sheep and following the great shepherd. We need to hear God's voice, which is sometimes just a whisper. So we need to quieten our minds, and listen with our spiritual ears. John 10 talks about this if you have time to explore it a bit more.

A final idea John gave us was to try to go deeper into a word we have for someone if it is a general one of encouragement, to see if there is something more specific the Spirit wants the person to know or do.

## **Application**

So now time to put all this into action...

John Nash encouraged us to fan into flame the gifts of the Spirit - as per 2 Tim 1:6. In fact he prayed that for us. Why not (you the leader) doing that now for your group - more stirring!

Pray that God may give you increasing love for him and for other people, so that your prophecies will be given from a heart that is full of love. It's obvious that the more we love like him, the more likely he is to trust us with words to encourage and help each other.

Pray for each other to eagerly desire the gift of prophecy. And continue to pray for healing and for each other to receive the gift of tongues if people are willing.

And have a go prophesying for each other - maybe for the person on your left! Go on! It doesn't matter if it is a simple encouragement from the bible, just so long as you try.

Please also spend some time praying for the Gideons: for their tally of 87 million bibles last year to be beaten this year; for bibles in hotels to be increasingly read and save lives; for the 7 lessons the Gideons will be leading in Thamesmead in the coming weeks.

God bless you as you spend time together.

Mike