

SOME GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING PROPHECY*

Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner. 1 Cor. 14:39-40.

- 1.** Fulfillment - Though we are not bound by the same Old Testament rigor (we are not prophesying Scripture after all), a helpful criterion is to see prophetic words consistently realized.
- 2.** Accompanying Conditions - Can things change depending on the word given? If X then Y. Jonah prophesied Nineveh's destruction, but they repented and were spared. (See Jonah).
- 3.** Is it Scriptural - A prophecy should never contradict, add to, or subtract from Scripture.
- 4.** Confirmation - Does the word go along with other words and burdens God has been bringing to the church?
- 5.** The Witness of Your Spirit - Does it bring you an inner peace, knowing you have been spoken to by Jesus?
- 6.** The Purity of the Vessel - Is the person prophesying righteous? Are they recognized as having a humble and submissive spirit?
- 7.** The Spirit of the Message - Is it in love? See 1 Cor. 13:2. It can be a hard word but still one that expresses God's concern and care for His people.
- 8.** The Burden of the Lord - Does the prophecy draw people to the Lord, which is always his heart's desire?

Those responsible for the leadership and covering of the worship meetings (the pastors and other clearly designated worship leaders and people with the gift of discernment) are particularly responsible for judging prophecy and should always be looked to for an "Amen" to any word given.

*Adapted April 2023 from a document of Agape Community Church 8/24/86