



The Way, The Truth, and The Life Christian Center, Inc. **SERMON NOTES**

Prophecy in Acts 21: Three Expressions of a Divine Gift

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Acts 21: 3- 14

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Summary

The session explored Acts 21, highlighting three expressions of prophecy: the disciples at Tyre, Philip's four daughters, and Agabus. Reviewing each case, meeting participants determine whether the Bible characters were operating in the gift of prophecy or the Office of the prophet. The disciples' warning to Paul was explained as a gift of prophecy, while Philip's daughters consistently operated in the gift of prophecy. Agabus' was noted as operating in the Office of the Prophet, and his prophecy was noted for its vivid imagery. Overall, the session demonstrated the different ways prophecy can manifest - through momentary revelations, consistent gifting, and specific prophetic offices - and the importance of discerning and responding to prophetic messages.

Scripture References

- Acts 21:3-14 - Paul's Determination to Face Suffering in Jerusalem
- Acts 21:8-9 - Philip's Daughters: Women Who Prophesy
- Acts 20:22-24 - Paul's Unwavering Commitment to His Mission
- Acts 21:10-11 - Agabus' Prophecy of Paul's Imprisonment
- 1 Corinthians 14 & Acts 2:17 - The Gift of Prophecy and the Outpouring of the Spirit

Exploring the Gift of Prophecy

- Purpose: Distinguish between gift of prophecy and office of prophet
- Scriptural Foundation: Acts 21

II. Prophecy in Acts 21: The Disciples at Tyre (Acts 21:3-14)

A. Group Observations

- Disciples warned Paul "through the Spirit"
- Warning was informative, not a direct divine instruction.
- Paul had already received his mission and a warning of the trouble he would encounter on the mission from the Holy Spirit as referenced in Acts 20: 22- 24. The disciples' warning did provide additional information or supersede Paul's original divine assignment.
- Order, waiting, and discernment are key when operating in prophetic gifts, contrasted the disciples' approach with formal prophetic communication.

C. Discernment Principles

- Not all spiritual impressions are direct commands
- Importance of corporate prayer and validation
- Individual responsibility to understand divine assignment

III. Prophecy in Acts 21: Philip's Four Daughters (Acts 21:8-9)

A. Characteristics of Their Prophetic Gift

- Consistent operation in spiritual gift
- Function of encouragement and exhortation
- Not operating in prophetic office

B. Parental Development of Spiritual Gifts

- Create environment of spiritual engagement
- Speak life and potential over children
- Demonstrate spiritual practices (e.g. healing, praying in the spirit)
- Encourage early spiritual participation

IV. Prophecy in Acts 21: Agabus the Prophet (Acts 21:10-11)

A. Prophetic Office Characteristics

- Symbolic, vivid prophetic communication
- Specific "Thus says the Holy Spirit" declaration
- Provides warning without changing divine assignment

V. Practical Application

- "Stir up" spiritual gifts
- Step out in faith
- Understand mistakes are part of spiritual growth
- Develop sensitivity to Holy Spirit's guidance
- Remain committed to divine assignment
- Continuously seek Holy Spirit's direction

Reflection Questions

- The disciples at Tyre warned Paul not to go Jerusalem. Was Paul disobeying the Holy Spirit?
- Describe a time when you or someone you know recognized and began developing a spiritual gift. What challenges did you/they face, and how did you/they overcome them?
- Phillip had four daughters who prophesied. Do you think it was a coincidence or could something in their environment have shaped the gift?
- What practical strategies can families use to create an environment that encourages spiritual gift discovery and development in children?"