

Discussion questions

1 Thessalonians 5:20–22

The Proper Use of Prophecy

1) Please read 1 Thessalonians 5:20–22. What has been your understanding of prophecy? Prophesying? What do you see as the predominant difference between the Old Testament context and the New Testament context of prophesying?

2) Can you explain the difference between "foretelling" and "forth telling"? Can you explain the difference between having the office of a prophet and The New Testament spiritual gifting of prophecy? Why is it important for the New Testament believer to understand the differences between these concepts?

3) When we are told to "despise not prophesyings," has there been seasons in your life where you despised, rejected, or dismissed words that someone spoke to you, although you were convinced that those words were led by the Lord to be spoken to you? How did you handle that? How would you handle that now?

4) Pastor Matt mentioned "the remedies to not despise prophecies." Please read verses 19 through 22 and discuss how we, as believers, should be handling these moments when someone has "a word from the Lord," or someone feels "pressed to share the truth," or someone feels "led to share a scripture passage with you."

5) Not everyone in our fellowship is as receptive to this spiritual gift as others might be. What's the healthiest way for our fellowship to dwell together in unity, regardless of our theological persuasion regarding the spiritual gift of New Testament prophesying?