



# THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

## THE FLAME

March 2019 issue



### The Love of God and The Gift of Prophecy

#### Part 2



*"With great power comes great responsibility."* (Uncle Ben, Spiderman Movie)

Last month's article focused on the purpose of prophecy, the importance of love in the giving of prophetic words, and also the manifestation of the gift. A prophetic word has the power to encourage, console, and edify the Body of Christ but it is a gift to be used with humility and discernment. The purpose of this article to address some issues that may come up, especially for those in leadership positions.

Let me begin with a word of caution to the leaders of prayer groups or other charismatic ministries. If you sense someone may be moving in the flesh rather than the Spirit, do not call them out directly in the middle of your meeting unless they are causing a disruption or monopolizing the time in the meeting. Also be aware that there is a chance of a false spirit entering in and it is necessary to take authority in that situation. But if at all possible it should be done in private and in a spirit of gentleness. It is extremely important to do this otherwise people won't know any better the next time and they will keep making the same mistakes. I got called out in public one time at the very first prayer group I went to and I almost didn't come back to that group because of it. I was basically called a false prophet sent in by the devil. And it hurt. Now, at that time, being a baby in the Spirit, the prophetic word I gave may have been a little of me, a little of the Spirit and a little something else, I don't know. My point is that **most** people are acting in faith and a little inexperience. As leaders, your job is to create an atmosphere of **acceptance and freedom**. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom."

Another thing to consider is how much prophecy is flowing in your meeting. If you, as the leader, are the only one receiving words of prophecy in your group, you should seek the Lord to see what the problem is within your group and address it. In Corinthians 14:20, (when Paul is speaking regarding the gathering of the assembly) he says, "Two or three prophets should speak, and the others discern." As mentioned in last month's article, this is a gift for all. Now, to be clear, prophecy is **always** a move of the Spirit; we cannot initiate this gift on our own. Our job is to open ourselves to the gift, create an atmosphere for the freedom of the Holy Spirit to move, and wait upon Him to reveal Himself. **Waiting** is very important. Do not rush the Holy Spirit. The best time, according to Fr. DeGrandis, for the Spirit to move and give a word of prophecy is during and after the time of praise and worship. The higher the praise the greater the move of the Holy Spirit. Again, wait for the Holy Spirit to move. As a leader, **you** may be sensitive to the move of the Holy Spirit but others may not be. They need more time to "process" and to wait for the anointing to fall on them and time to discern what they are receiving. Within a prayer group, there are many levels of spiritual gifts and maturity and we need to be sensitive to that. Just because **you** are done giving your word doesn't mean its time to move on to the next thing on the agenda! This is one of THE MOST IMPORTANT TIMES WITHIN YOUR MEETING so don't rush it. Go back into praise and worship if you don't feel the anointing and you don't see the Spirit moving in anyone else because **He wants to move**, believe me! Say prayers of protection and bind up anything that may be blocking or quenching the Spirit and allow people time to receive again. In any case, you need to encourage people to learn and grow in this gift. It should be a priority for you because it's a priority to God. Otherwise, St. Paul wouldn't have put so much emphasis on it. **God wants to speak to all of us and through all of us.**

### The Love of God continued...

The last thing I want to cover are guidelines for giving prophetic words. This is not an exhaustive list. There are actually 10 things listed in the book by Fr. Degrandis but for the sake of this article I will just touch on a few of the most important ones as well as add a few of my own based on other teachings I have read and lessons I have learned (the hard way) in my own journey.

1. Be open to the gift but also learn about the gift. "The Gift of Prophecy by Fr. Robert Degrandis is a great starter book. You are **accountable** for the gift because scripture tells us "the gift and call of God is irrevocable." (Romans 11:29 )There are plenty of people, right now, who are misusing this gift, leading people astray, and doing it out of selfish ambition and vainglory.
2. All prophecy, whether given to a person or a group should be in alignment with God's Word as revealed in Holy Scripture and Church teaching. It will also always reflect Gods character. If you want God to use you in this gift you need to read your bible daily and learn for yourself God's character. His words given through prophecy will reflect His Character and His Word. Always. No exception.
3. Don't expect to get the entire word at one time. Sometimes the Lord will give you one word or one vision and no discernment. If it keeps coming speak it out in faith. Most of the time, the rest will come out after you take the initial step of faith by speaking out the one thing He gave you! Sometimes it's a test of faith and I can tell you I have failed more than once! But God puts up with our failings and He will inspire us again to speak out a word to give us another opportunity. Also, sometimes, in a group setting, one person may get the first part and someone else the second part. This is the Holy Spirits way of using everyone in their gifts.
4. Prophecy will bear good fruit. Fr. Degrandis says that 80% of all prophecy will affirm the love of God for the individual or the community. It will either raise the praise level in the group or in the individual. If there is harshness in it, it will have the opposite effect. It will either quench the Spirit or it will not really move the heart of anyone. It will fall flat. Sometimes a fleshly word may seem out of place or irrelevant to the other words given. Leaders in the group need to have their ears attuned to this to discern. Remember that the word said that 2 or three prophets should speak and the others discern.
5. Use extreme caution about giving words regarding major life decisions like marriage, divorce, weddings, births, deaths, healings etc. It is generally not a good idea unless you are absolutely certain this is from the Lord. Remember that prophecy is most often the forth telling of the mind of God not foretelling or fortunetelling and it should build up, encourage, or comfort.
6. Prophecy is always under the control of the person giving the word and all words should be given in an orderly manner. It is not, however, at their beck and call. **God is the one who initiates the words, not us.** 1 Corinthians 14:32-33 says, " For you can all prophesy in turn, so that everyone will learn something and everyone will be encouraged. " and verse 40 says, "So, brothers, strive eagerly to prophesy and do not forbid speaking in tongues but everything should be done properly and in order." God is not the author of confusion but of peace. It is a gift that is yielded to and not forced. The Holy Spirit is a Gentleman and you always have the option of staying silent.
7. Pray for the right time to give the prophecy. If you are new to the gift its more likely to feel a sense of urgency and the Holy Spirit gives you this feeling to get you to take a step of faith and give it at that moment. He often give a physical sense of the anointing like a tingling, an awareness, a warmth or a peace that comes over you. Again, as you grow in confidence, these things may diminish. Over time and with experience, you may receive words days, weeks, or even months ahead of the time when the Lord wants you to give it. Write it down. Pray about the word and seek confirmation in scripture. Sometimes it like a hen that's laid an egg and you just have to sit on it awhile and wait for it to hatch!

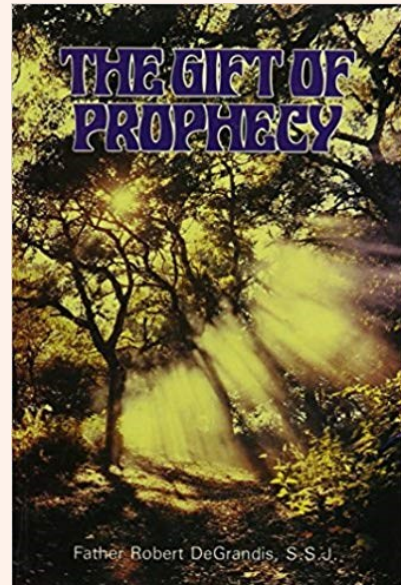
## The Love of God Continued....

8. Be careful about how you phrase your words when you are giving a word to someone not really familiar with prophetic words. Refrain from saying, " God says for you to ..." or "Jesus is telling me...." Those words carry a lot of weight with people. Instead you can say, " I just felt in my heart like the Lord might be trying to say..." or "I have something in my heart that I feel might be from the Lord that I want to share." It really depends on who you're giving the word to. If its straight forward you can say, "I feel like I am getting a verse for you to pray and meditate on" etc.
9. Always start with love and humility. I wanted to circle back around to this because it's the most important rule. I don't know about you, but I don't always feel love for the person I am praying with or praying over or even praying for, so its important to ask the Holy Spirit first to fill our hearts with Gods Love for His people before we start asking for him to give us His gifts, especially prophecy. Be humble in the gift, knowing that it is not you that is doing this: **it is the Lord**. It is a gift for others, not for yourself. It is a privilege and a duty to serve others through love. Always remember that with great power comes great responsibility.

### Prayer to receive the Gift of Prophecy:

**In the name of Jesus, I come into agreement with the Word of God that says I should pursue love, strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts and especially that I should prophesy. I renounce any lie from the enemy that I have believed that suggests that I am not worthy of this gift, that I have to earn this gift, or that the Lord will not use me through the gift of prophecy. The Holy Spirit lives on the inside of me and I want Him to use me an instrument of His Divine Love through the gift of prophecy. As an act of the will, I open myself to Him and His Gift of Prophecy and ask Him to fill me with His Love, His Joy, and His Peace. In Jesus name. Amen.**

## Recommended Reading by Fr. Robert DeGrandis



## The Importance of Teamwork

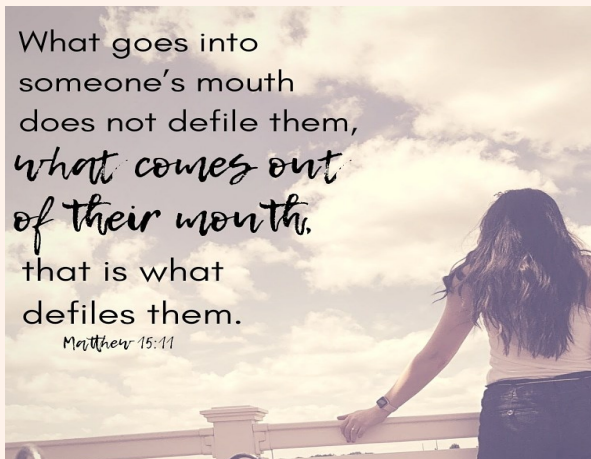


*(The following is an excerpt taken from Laudate, February 7, 2019 by Father Alex Yeung, LC)*

*Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick — no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave from there. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” So, they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.”” (Mark 6:7-13)*

- 1. Where Two or Three Are Gathered...:** Christ sent out his apostles in pairs. The fact that the Gospel mentions this detail shows that it is not just an accident. There are some passages in Matthew’s Gospel that can shed some light on this desire of Christ. First, “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20). The apostles are first and foremost called to witness to Christ by their example. They are to foster communion and charity among themselves, so that others, seeing how they interact with each other, will be led to exclaim, “See how they love one another!” The apostle-teams exhibited oneness of heart and soul, sharing in common what they were able to procure: lodging, success, failure. With such an attitude, Christ promises that he would be there in their midst.
- 2. Another Witness:** “If you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses” (Matthew 18:16). The word of one person, who has witnessed a miraculous event alone, is often taken as no more than the word of a crazy man. However, if more than one person confesses to having witnessed the event, there is much stronger proof. The apostles went about witnessing to the things that Jesus was doing and the signs he was working: healing the sick, casting out demons, etc. It is wonderful to team up with fellow Christians in the workplace or in the family, in order to witness to the work of Christ in our lives.
- 3. Apostolic Efficacy:** Jesus makes it clear: with regard to the mission, another apostle is much more important than other material tools. Jesus teaches us here the principle of teamwork. An apostolic “colleague” helps us to be vigilant against dangers to our health and well-being (physical and spiritual). Prayer can be in community; Jesus assures that “if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 18:19). Working in a team also helps to improve apostolic efficacy: Each enriches the other with the exchange of knowledge, personal and lived experiences, and views on the situation. Each complements the other, contributing their God-given gifts, abilities and qualities. “Two heads are better than one.”

**Conversation with Christ:** You sent your apostles out in twos, Lord Jesus, to teach me about the importance of teamwork. Help me not presume that I am alone in the mission. When I try to do everything myself, sometimes it may be out of subtle pride. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the gift of apostolic colleagues. Increase in my heart true fraternal charity for those who work alongside me in building up your kingdom, so that the world may believe.



Do you ever say:

*"I can't."*

*"I'm bad at this."*

*"I'm ugly."*

*"I'm such an idiot."*

*"I HATE myself."*

*"I don't deserve to live."*

All these words.

We may not realize it, but words are a powerful thing.

When you say something, you can't take it back.

It's out there in the world.

It may not be true, but you said it.

Maybe it was for dramatic effect, maybe you over exaggerated; you still put those words in your mouth.

You spoke harm unto yourself.

Into your soul.

Yes, there are times when we might feel this way for just a second.

It's normal to.

But when you outwardly put yourself down, the devil wants you to spiral into the web of hatefulness.

Because every time you attack yourself, Jesus cries out in pain.

You've hammered another nail into His cross.

You jabbed Him in the side with a spear.

You've insulted one of the most incredible things He's created in His image: you.

.We've gotten lazy with our choice of words, now-a-days.

Sarcasm has become a fluent language and acceptable mean of speaking both internally and in conversation.

But it does more harm than good. Even if said in a joking matter.

.Instead of using the phrases above when you get frustrated or caught up in the moment, try saying:

*"I CAN {do all things through Christ who strengthens me}."*

*"I may not be there YET, but I'll get there."*

*"I'm beautiful (or handsome) the way God made me."*

*"I LOVE myself since God created me for a purpose."*

*"I DO deserve the life I was given."*

.Be mindful about how you talk about yourself.

Because you're awesome in the eyes of God.

And God doesn't make junk.

Just saying.

[instagram.com/notoriouslynicole](https://www.instagram.com/notoriouslynicole)

Instagram's Nicole from @NotoriouslyNicole Tara from @AtVillagePark started a podcast called "The Cravert Chronicles" where they talk about their personal Catholic perspectives as a cradle Catholic and a Catholic Convert aka combined to be "cravert". Every Wednesday is a new episode discussing a topic in the faith.

Tune in using the link below or simply search for the podcast!

## ***Upcoming Events...***

***March 27th***

***Healing Mass 7pm***

***St. Bernadette's Catholic Church***

***Fuquay-Varina, NC***

***April 6th***

***Save the Date! Ignited by Truth Conference***

***NC State Reynolds Coliseum***

***Guest Speakers include Fr. Larry Richards and Peter Kreeft***

***<https://ignitedbytruth.org/>***

***For more information about these events and registration please visit our website at  
[www.ccsraleigh.weebly.com](http://www.ccsraleigh.weebly.com)***