

Testing Prophecy

Tonight, two skills: how to **test** a word (especially one someone gives you), and how a word **travels** from heaven to a person.

Part 1: How to Test a Prophetic Word

- Stay wide open, AND test everything. Hold fast what is good, reject what is evil. **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**
- Receiving a word from someone else: receive it with honor, then weigh it. **Keep the good, release the rest. 1 Corinthians 14:29**

Run a word through these:

- 1 Does it point to Jesus? **Revelation 19:10**
- 2 Does it agree with Scripture? **Acts 17:11**
- 3 Does it build up (strengthen, encourage, comfort)? **1 Corinthians 14:3**
- 4 What is the fruit, and where does it lead? **Matthew 7:16**
- 5 Has it been weighed by others? **1 Corinthians 14:32**

Part 2: How a Word Travels · Revelation, Interpretation, Application · 1 Corinthians 13:9

- We prophesy in part. Real, but partial. It can be fully from God, and you can still grow in the meaning.
- The "soy" story: the word was 100% accurate. My interpretation was soybeans. (Revelation right, meaning wrong.)

1. Receive (Revelation) — what you saw or heard

- How it comes: a quiet impression or knowing, a picture or vision, a dream, a Scripture that lights up, a thought or name or feeling, the audible voice (rare).
- For yourself, or for others: same ways. Receive it clean, do not add to it.

2. Understand (Interpretation) — what it means

- The meaning belongs to God. Ask Him. **Genesis 40:8**
- Is it **literal** or **symbolic**?
- If symbolic, what kind of symbol: **Biblical** · **Familiar** · **Personal** (your memories, personality, imagination).
- Ask: the common association? What stood out? What timeframe (past, present, future)?

3. Release (Application) — what you do with it

- What do I do, when, how do I say it, and is it mine to say right now?
- Hold it with open hands: "I think the Lord might be showing me," not "Thus saith the Lord." **Revelation 19:10**

Take it home

"Examine all things; hold fast to what is good. Stay away from every form of evil."

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 (NET)

The line: Test everything, keep the good. Receive it clean, understand it with His heart, release it with open hands.

This week: when you get something, write it in three lines — what I received, what I think it means, what (if anything) I should do.

Carrying a Word

REVELATION · INTERPRETATION · APPLICATION

When God shows you something, walk it through these three stages. Be bold and safe at the same time.

1 Receive

REVELATION · WHAT GOD SHOWED YOU

How did it come?

A quiet impression or knowing

A picture or vision

A dream

A Scripture that lights up

A thought, name, or feeling

The audible voice (rare)

Receive it clean. Write down exactly what you got. Do not add to it. (For yourself, or for someone else: same ways, one job.)

2 Interpret

INTERPRETATION · WHAT IT MEANS

The meaning belongs to God. Ask Him for it.

Is it literal, or symbolic?

LITERAL plain sense

Take it at face value. A name, a fact, a plain instruction. No decoding needed. Go straight to stage 3.

SYMBOLIC a picture to decode

What kind of symbol?

Biblical

dove, water, oil,
blood. Let the Bible
define it.

Familiar

car, house, road. Its
everyday meaning.

Personal

just for you: your
memories,
personality,
imagination.

Ask: What is the common association? What stood out the most?

Timeframe?

Past

Present

Future

3 Apply

APPLICATION · WHAT TO DO WITH IT

First, test it. Keep the good, reject the rest.

☐ Does it point to Jesus? ☐ Agree with Scripture? ☐ Build up (strengthen, encourage, comfort)?

☐ Good fruit (toward God, not fear or control)? ☐ Weighed by others?

Then release it with open hands.

What do I do?

When?

How do I say it?

Is it even mine to say right now?

"I think the Lord might be showing me," not "Thus saith the Lord." Aim: they leave undone by how well Jesus knows them.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

1. Received

What I actually got

2. Means

What I think it means

3. Do

What (if anything) to do

"Examine all things; hold fast to what is good. Stay away from every form of evil."

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 (NET)