

Offering a Prophetic Word in a Gathering:

But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:3 NIV.

At Christ Center, we encourage our intercessors to offer the promptings of the Holy Spirit to others for the purposes Paul's gives above. Here is an explanation of the terms Paul uses to describe the positive, valuable, and gracious impact such prophetic words should have.

Greek Word Studies:

“Edification:” *oikodome*; from *oikos* meaning “house” or “temple,” and *dome* meaning “building,” “roof,” or “dome.” Figuratively, it implies confirmation. **A prophetic word can build up fellow Christians in their faith, based on the foundation of Word of God.**

“Consolation:” *parakaleo*; from *para* meaning “near” and *kaleo* meaning “to call.” Therefore, it means “to call near,” i.e. invite, invoke (by imploration, exhortation or consolation): In the KJV, the term is translated variously: beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort (-ation), entreat, pray. **A prophetic word can also challenge believers to draw nearer to their loving, holy God in specific ways that draws them into a deeper, truer fellowship with God, giving them grace and hope.**

“Comfort:” *paramuthia* meaning “consolation” or “comfort.” **God wants His people to be comforted. He uses a prophetic word to heal, restore, and encourage the saints.**

Alternative Translations:

NASU: *But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.*

THE MESSAGE: *But when you proclaim his truth in everyday speech, you're letting others in on the truth so that they can grow and be strong and experience his presence with you.*

AMP: *But [on the other hand], the one who prophesies [who interprets the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching] speaks to men for their up-building and constructive spiritual progress and encouragement and consolation.*

Guidelines for Offering a Prophetic Word in a Gathering:

1. Share only what God prompts, without preaching it or interpreting it. Trust the Holy Spirit.
2. Measure your prompting by 1 Corinthians 14:3. If it is harsh, a rebuke, wait. Pray silently.
3. Ask permission, offer the word graciously, and release it to God's further clarification.
4. If in doubt, wait. Consult an elder for confirmation and guidance. Don't rush to action.