



Encouragement For Evangel

- WHAT DOES A CHURCH DO WITH A PROPHETIC WORD?

- **Reject it...**It may sound a bit harsh, but not all prophetic words find their source in God. Even people with credible prophetic gifts can prophesy out of fear, insecurity or pride. All words a church receives should be tested. ¹⁹ Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Do not scoff at prophecies, ²¹ but **test everything** that is said. Hold on to what is good. ²² Stay away from every kind of evil. (1 Th. 5:19–22 NLT-SE)
- **Accept it and put it in your “Treasure Chest”...**By treasuring Jesus' words to us we act in faith and we express our belief that he is absolutely trustworthy. The result of such trust is described in Proverbs 3:5-6, “**Trust in the LORD with all your heart**; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”
- **Accept it and process it...**The prophetic is not as much about revelation as it is about **invitation**. The Holy Spirit gives prophetic words to us in order to cause us to seek God. They are meant to draw a congregation into deeper relationship with the Father, for no prophetic word can be walked out in its fullness without walking its journey with Jesus. **The invitation contained in each prophetic word is to discover more of what Jesus is saying to us by connecting with the very giver and source of the word.** (Rev. 19:10)
- **Accept it and act on it...**¹⁴ **Do not neglect** (disregard) **the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy** spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you. (1 Tim. 4:14–16 NLT-SE)

- CHRIS DAVIS' WORD FOR EVANGEL LAST WEEK: “The Season that’s Coming?”

- **“Fruitfulness, harvest, increased service, ministry and outreach.** For now, you are in a **season of “hiddenness”** for **“a few months.”**
- This morning, we’re going to break down Chris’ word to Evangel into **3 broad topics**, take a look at each one and discern what we might want to do with them: Outreach, Friendship with Jesus and Prophetic Ministry.

- OUTREACH

- **Follow the relationships!**
 - **Family Promise...**Leadership Prayer Group (*Baptist, Nazarene, Lutheran, Catholic, Non-Denominational, Tracey Pruitt*)
 - **Severe Weather Shelter...**Kelso/Longview Ministerial Association (*Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Four Square*)
 - **Ambassadors of Hope Kenya...**Rodgers Audi
 - **Love INC...**Larry Russell

- **Caring Pregnancy Center...**Cindy Stonex, Tami Pickett
- **Three Rivers House of Prayer...**Ian & Nedra Rutherford
- **Cowlitz Chaplaincy...**Paul Bricknell

- **Your Kingdom Come**: What would Longview Look like if God was in charge?

- **FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS**

- **Last week Chris told us the Lord said, “Evangel needs encouragement.”**
 - “The School of Encouragement” is part of the destiny of Evangel. **We need to GO to the School of Encouragement before we DO the School of Encouragement.** You can’t do something unless you experience it first.
 - Chris encouraged us that we were going to need to operate differently. The message of the church has been mostly about **“behavior modification,”** which doesn’t resonate with anyone. In the Western church, we have been focused on the church itself and not Jesus!
- **Chris shared this very sobering word with us about the seriousness of having a significant relationship with Jesus...**²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘**I NEVER KNEW YOU. GET AWAY FROM ME,** you who break God’s laws.’ (Matt. 7:21–23 NLT-SE)
 - The Greek word for **“knew”** is a extremely intimate word. When Jesus says, **“Get away from me”** he is communicating something equally as intimate!
 - We have only one opportunity to know Jesus here on earth is finite. Our life here is short and the choice we make to either know him or not has **eternal ramifications.**
- **This Friendship with Jesus is being initiated by him, not us...**¹² This is my commandment: **Love each other in the same way I have loved you.** ¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ **YOU ARE MY FRIENDS IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND.** ¹⁵ I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. **Now you are my friends,** since I have told you everything the Father told me. ¹⁶ You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:12–17 NLT-SE)
 - We have been encouraged, prophetically, to enter a time of **“hiddenness in Christ,”** a time of listening and learning, a time of discovering how “Friendship with Jesus” works and go as deep into this amazing relationship as we can. God is not hiding FROM us, but he is hiding FOR us! (Prov 25:2)
 - **Here is Paul’s invitation to the church in Ephesus...**¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. **Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.** ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. (Eph. 3:17–18 NLT-SE)
- **This is the “offer” Jesus is making with Evangel during this season of “hiddenness”...**²⁸ Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. **LET ME TEACH YOU,** because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” (Matt. 11:28–30 NLT-SE)

- **Here's the same verse in the Message...**²⁸ "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. ²⁹ **WALK WITH ME AND WORK WITH ME—WATCH HOW I DO IT. LEARN THE UNFORCED RHYTHMS OF GRACE.** I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. ³⁰ Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matt. 11:28–30 MESSAGE)
- **Chris told us last week**, "Evangel is supposed to lead the way in "learning Jesus." Abundant Life is part of that too. Knowing Jesus comes before anything else. I encourage you to make sure you are longing for him, hungering for him, wanting to know what he tastes and smells like in the same way."

- PROPHETIC MINISTRY

- Out of this deeper pursuit of **Friendship with Jesus** remarkable things will begin to happen:
 - **Repentance...**Not just turning and returning, but taking God the change the way you think. Romans 12 spells it out, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God **transform you** into a new person by **changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom. 12:2 NLT-SE)
 - **Leadership...**in the Body of Christ will change dramatically. Our leadership will be less about "calling the shots" and more about obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit. True servant leadership is coming and it will change everything! (John 13:1-17)
 - **Prophecy...**The more time we spend **in** deep friendship with Jesus, the more he will share his heart **with** us and the more he will share his heart for others **through** us. (Matt 10:20)
- ¹⁹ For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet **your Teacher will not hide himself anymore**, but **your eyes shall see your Teacher**. ²¹ **AND YOUR EARS SHALL HEAR A WORD BEHIND YOU, SAYING, "THIS IS THE WAY, WALK IN IT,"** when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. (Is. 30:19–21 ESV)
- Chris told us, "Telling other people how God feels about them is communicating his love, his heart. **Evangel is a source of prophetic encouragement for the city.** I think, in some way, it's been shut down a bit. There are some avenues in the city that you've been shut out of. The lord is asking you to reengage. The School of Encouragement is all about **learning Jesus** and beginning to **learn to prophesy**. You've been called to prophesy. You have the word of the Lord for other people. Evangel is supposed to be a larger prophetic voice in the city. **Coming out as a School of Jesus, the prophetic begins to flow in a new way.**"

- HERE'S WHAT'S COMING IN THE NEXT COUPLE MONTHS: "Friendship with Jesus"

- **Understanding...**Friendship with Jesus
- **Exploring.....**Friendship with Jesus
- **Enjoying...**Friendship with Jesus
- **Cultivating...**Friendship with Jesus
- **Sharing...**Friendship with Jesus