

A faint, purple-tinted crown graphic is centered in the background. The crown features a central cross at the top, a row of small circles below it, and a base with ornate, flame-like or leaf-like patterns. The entire graphic is semi-transparent and serves as a decorative backdrop for the text.

BUILDING A KINGDOM CULTURE

Part 24

Building Blocks of a Kingdom Culture

A People who...

1. Build a Kingdom Culture
2. OBEY
3. COMMIT
4. ARE AUTHENTIC
5. BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
6. GIVE WORTHY SERVICE TO THEIR KING
7. OFFER THEIR LIVES
8. ARE COMMITTED
9. WORSHIP TOGETHER
10. BLESS
11. TESTIFY TO THE RESURRECTION
12. GIVE THANKS
13. PRAY
14. MEET TOGETHER
15. ACT JUSTLY, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLLY
16. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY
17. ARE READY TO TELL THEIR STORY
18. REPENT
19. LOVE THE HOUSE
20. INVEST WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEM
21. FEED ON WHAT IS GOOD FOR THEM
22. WAIT FOR THEIR KING
23. SOAR LIKE EAGLES
24. EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

Building a Kingdom Culture

‘Becoming a **people** whose **beliefs** and **behaviours** are increasingly **aligned** with the **heart** of **God**...

Revealing heaven to each other and **to our world.**

*'Our Father who dwells in
Heaven, May Your holy
Name be honoured. Let Your
Kingdom come, let Your will
be done here in Elim Church
Aberystwyth as it is in
Heaven. Amen.'*



A People Who PROPHECY

Building a Kingdom Culture 25

Cheer up, pal. It's not
the end of the world.



A People Who PROPHECY

- To encourage our desire for the spiritual gifts, especially prophecy
- To give some of the ‘hows’ of prophecy
- To explain some of the ‘whys’ of prophecy
- To create opportunity for us all to be prophetic

All Flesh

- Young
- Old
- Male
- Female

Acts 2:18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

- ... And they (YOU) shall prophecy

Prophecy

- To see or hear a message from heaven and to communicate it to earth
- wə·nib·bə·'ū :
- From Naba: to speak (or sing) with divine inspiration, or in an ecstatic state
- From Nabi: spokesperson or prophet
- We want to be spokespeople for the kingdom of heaven – delivering a message of truth, hope, love, and good news.

Prophecy in the Early Church

- Rome (Rom. 12:6)
 - Corinth (1 Cor. 12:7–11; 14:1–40)
 - Ephesus (Eph. 2:20; 4:11; Acts 19:6)
 - Thessalonica (1 Thess. 5:19–22)
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- A vital and prominent aspect of church life and ministry in the early church

Prophecy in the Early Church

Acts 21:8 ... we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

- Prophecy is no longer the reserve of the 'Man of God'

Acts 11:27 ...prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

- 'Prophets' were still able to bring a challenging word

Paul's Advice on The Gifts

1 Corinthians 12-14

Jesus is the Plumb Line for Prophecy

1 Cor 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

- A prophetic voice will glorify and be seen in a life that is lived for Christ
- The Spirit emanates from Him (Baptiser in the Holy Spirit)
- Godly prophecy will affirm and never undermine Christ

There is One Spirit and One Body

- We are diverse in our gifts but they are all of one Spirit and for the glory of one God
- We should be content in our gifting, yet desire the gifts

The Gifts are Vital

- We should ‘earnestly desire’
- Zēloute from zéloó – an onomatopoeic word referring to bubbling over (with passion). Linked with to be jealous for our covet
- What are you bubbling over for?
- ‘Lord stir in us a burning passion for Your Spirit to be at work in and through us’

Especially Prophecy

1 Cor 14:4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy.

- Paul expresses a preference for prophecy over other gifts
- This is partly due to 'spiritual pride' that the Corinthian church were deriving from being seen speaking in tongues
- Also expressed in a pragmatic explanation of its value to the listener (1 Cor 14:20-24)

But EVEN Better Than Prophecy...

LOVE

Love is the Most Spiritual Gift

- It is no coincidence that Paul's famous 'Love' passage is here amidst his teaching on the spiritual gifts and prophecy

1 Cor 13:8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

- Prophecies are for now, Love is eternity

Love First

1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

- The goal in our prophecy is LOVE

1 Cor 14:12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

- We should not be more fascinated with the spiritual experiences than with the strengthening of the body

Love is the Ultimate

1 Cor 14:18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

- Paul's advice to the Corinthians here is both spiritual and practical. His emphasis is in helping the reader to appreciate that the gift is for others not for themselves

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Purpose of Prophecy

- **1 Cor 14:3** the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.
- Upbuilding: to build up, edify
- Encouragement: to call, urge, come alongside
- Consolation: to comfort, exhort

Weigh it Up!

1 Cor 14:32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets

- We have responsibility when we sense something prophetically to deliver it in order peace and with love

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil

- We have responsibility when we receive a prophetic word to weigh it and to test it...
 - Has it been confirmed in other ways?
 - Is it in line with scripture?
 - Does it glorify Christ?

In Peace and Order

- Our spiritual gifts are not an opportunity to be heard or to impress people but to encourage, so we must hear it!

1 Cor 14:29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30 If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

- The gifts are vital but should be expressed in order with peace

1 Cor 14:39 ...earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But all things should be done decently and in order.

Prophecy

- Get into groups of 3 or 4
- Choose someone in the group and ask God to show you something for them (pictures, words, scriptures, and so on...)
- Share what you sense
 - Build up
 - Encourage
 - Comfort