

PROPHETIC MINISTRY - STURBRIDGE WORSHIP CENTER

At Sturbridge Worship Center we believe in, and love the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are not simply interested in holding good doctrine about the charismatic gifts but seek to make a place for these gifts to operate as a normal part of our church life. Each Sunday, usually at the end of our worship, we take a moment to allow those gifts to flow. As a church we love and value freedom, where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, and yet attempt to allow that freedom to operate in a way that honors both God and his people.

Here are some of the guidelines we try to follow. These are not legalistic rules but rather principles that we have found will facilitate the flow of the Spirit in our midst. If you do not understand any of them or have any questions please do ask our leadership team. We love to talk about Holy Spirit! We also have a 15 minute audio teaching on our website to help those who are new to the gifts and their use in a church setting.

- We try to limit the time after worship to the “Spoken/Utterance” gifts (Tongues, Interpretation of tongues and prophecy).
- We ask that those who bring a corporate word to the church, be a committed member of our local body. We appreciate that we get many visitors and that God can speak through them, but we also recognize to allow someone of whom we have no knowledge to declare a word over our church body can be problematic and at times dangerous.
- We ask that the prophetic words that we speak be a word, to the whole body and not a personal prophecy for an individual. We have a time for personal prophetic ministry at the end of each service and encourage those wishing to minister in this area to join that team.
- We ask that people try not to be dramatic or theatrical in the way they deliver a word. We believe the God is supernatural; so we can be natural and normal.
- We ask that people be brief and succinct. If you are giving a word at the front 30 seconds would be a good target to aim at. If someone takes too much time, the person leading the meeting will gently thank you which is a signal to finish.
- We like to deliver words in a way that is sensitive to the presence of the Lord in the room. We encourage you to speak in a way that keeps the attention on God, not in a way that draws the attention to you.
- We ask that any word stay in the realm of encouragement, edification and comfort. We do not wish people to give words that are words of judgment, direction and correction.
- We ask that those who speak a word do not use this time to try to teach, give a testimony etc. We have a time for testimonies nearly every week.
- We ask that those who believe they have a word from God do not shout out that word but come to the front and wait for an opportunity to speak in a way that everyone can hear.
- We ask that everyone who ministers in this area walk in humility and with a teachable Spirit. As leaders we seek to never correct people publicly and embarrass them.
- If one of our leaders feels they must bring a correction please accept this in the spirit it is given and see if as an opportunity to grow, learn and progress.