

*Ross Baptist
Church*

**Guidelines for
Prophetic Ministry
at Ross Baptist
Church**

We understand prophecy to be a revelation about a person or a situation, given by the Holy Spirit, and spoken out for the benefit of others. We expect these words to be in the form of a message, a statement, a vision, a picture, a passage of Scripture, an impression/or a sensation. We value the gift of prophecy and welcome this along with other gifts in Ross Baptist. We teach that every believer can prophesy, and we seek to encourage the use of this gift among all members of our congregation. At the same time we believe those who prophesy must be accountable to the leadership. We therefore wish everyone (including ourselves) to observe these guidelines.

If you would like further clarification or would like to attend a training day then please contact one of the Elders.

1. We believe that the “testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10), so we look to glorify Jesus Christ and not ourselves through the use of this gift.
2. We believe that genuine prophecies speak to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3). Strengthening = to build up; encouragement = to exhort; comfort = to speak to someone in a positive, loving way.
3. We sometimes give an invitation in a service for pictures or words to be shared. Mainly we ask people to write something down or speak to one of the Elders. These words/pictures will be weighed and possibly shared by the service leader/Elder at the front of the meeting or on request by the person originally given the word.
4. We recognize that some in the church have an established prophetic ministry and regularly share words/pictures that will strengthen, encourage and comfort God’s people. We only allow those who are in regular fellowship of Ross Baptist to give prophecies out loud (for the sake of ongoing accountability), though we encourage visitors to write down any words they receive and to send them to us.
5. We ask people to wait after receiving something from God and after speaking to an Elder for the right time for that word to be given.
6. We ask people to speak prophetic words clearly, briefly, calmly and lovingly, on the basis that the spirits of the prophets are subject to the control of prophets (1 Corinthians 14:32). We urge people to offer words with humility and to think of prefacing their comments with ‘I sense the Lord may be saying...’ rather than ‘God says...’
7. If two or three words are given, we will pause in order to weigh what has been said, before continuing with more words if appropriate.
8. We urge that ‘prepared’ prophecies – especially correctional prophecies about the church – should be submitted to the leadership before they are uttered. We ask people to be wary of prophesying about subjects in which they have a personal or emotional involvement. We actively discourage directional or manipulative prophecies (i.e. words that tell people what to do with their lives, health, relationships, jobs and so on, in the future), both on a one to one and at a congregational level.
9. We believe that character is as important as charisma, and therefore we reserve the right to ask those who are struggling with character issues (particularly sin issues) not to prophesy until the matter in question is resolved. However, we recognize that God allows his gifts to dwell in imperfect people and that prophetic giftedness is not necessarily a sign of superior holiness or of a closer relationship with the Lord.
10. We believe in encouraging and training people to grow in their prophetic gifts so that they can reach deeper levels of maturity and ministry, particularly if they regularly bring words. We remember that our value to God lies in the fact that we are loved and accepted as his children, and not because we prophesy well or badly.
11. We believe that those with a prophetic ministry are accountable to the leadership and that once they have delivered a word they have relinquished ownership of it and responsibility for it.
12. We hold fast to the view that prophecy is subject to Scripture, not Scripture to prophecy, and in the light of this, we urge people to put the Bible first.
13. We welcome interpretations of words of revelation from the body, and ask that these be written out and passed to one of the Elders. If someone is already recognised and trusted in this gifting, then the service leader or Elders may ask them for clarification.