



# Interpreting Prophecy & Distinguishing Between Spirits



## 1 Corinthians 14:34 (ESV)

"the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says."



## 1 Timothy 2:11–12 (ESV)

"Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.  
(12) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet."



## 1 Corinthians 14:29 (ESV)

"Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said."



# Interpreting/evaluating prophetic words

- We don't naively/gullibly embrace every word as truth
- The solution to abuse isn't disuse, but wise correction
- They must be *inline* with Scripture and the teachings/traditions of the Apostles (2 Thes. 2:15)
- They must edify, comfort, console, and encourage (1 Cor. 14:3)



## 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22 (ESV)

"Do not quench the Spirit. (20) Do not despise prophecies, (21) but test everything; hold fast what is good. (22) Abstain from every form of evil."



## 1 Corinthians 14:29 (ESV)

"Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said."



# Interpreting/evaluating prophetic words

- If predictive, have they come to pass as prophesied?
- Are they delivered in love? (1 Cor. 13)
- Delivered in humility: is the speaker willing to be tested and receive correction?
- Personal introspection (Acts 20–21)



## The gift of *distinguishing between spirits*

- The Spirit-empowered ability to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit, verses the work of another (demonic) spirit, or even the work of the human spirit.



1 John 4:1 (ESV)

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..."