

Rivergate Policy

Prophecy, Tongues and Prayer Ministry Procedure at Rivergate Christian Community

We believe God the God has given the church the gift of his empowering presence, the Holy Spirit to help us in our ministry. The Holy Spirit, in turn, has endowed members of the church with different spiritual gifts so that together we can combine them in holistic ministry that effectively proclaims Christ and engages in Christ's ministry.

We also understand that we perceive and use these gifts imperfectly. As such, we have instituted some procedures to ensure that ministries which can have the potential to damage people if not done properly, are checked before they are carried out.

As such, I ask that the following procedures be adopted.

If anyone has a message in tongues at a worship service, we ask that they refrain from standing and delivering it, not because we don't believe in tongues (we do!) but because we can't guarantee that someone won't be present who would be offended by it. We ask you to exercise this gift in the context of your home group if the leader of the home group is happy with it and people in the group are not alarmed by it.

If someone has a gift of prophecy, we will treat it very seriously. The person who believes they have a prophecy has the responsibility to seek to share it. However, the church leadership have the responsibility to decide whether it is appropriate to share it publicly. As such, the person who believes they have a prophecy should quietly and as unobtrusively as possible, go to either the Pastor or the leader of the church's intercessory team and share the substance of the prophecy in word or writing. If the go-ahead is given, then the person with the prophecy will be invited by the leader to share it. The prophecy should be shared clearly and simply, and should not depart from that which has been checked with the leaders.

We also ask that no in-depth prayer ministry be undertaken involving words of prophecy, seeing in the Spirit or casting out evil spirits without the knowledge and authority of the Pastor.

The following Bible studies are available from the church office:

- Spiritual gifts
- Prophecy
- Prayer
- Deliverance ministry
- Healing

These clearly state the biblical theology and reasons behind the precautions we take to protect these very necessary spiritual ministries.

Nick Hawkes (Nov, 2006)