

PRESBYTERY SERVICES

What Is Presbytery?

Pastor Robert

Focus The Lord wants to encourage us and speak to us personally. The Holy Spirit has the ability to speak through people and share His gifts. Presbytery is an appointed time for God to speak to His people through the elders and leaders of the church.

Fun What was your favorite vacation? What is the favorite place you have visited? What is your favorite activity on vacation and why?

Review Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:14

Presbytery is team ministry.

1 Corinthians 14:29; 2 Corinthians 2:12–14; Acts 15:32

The word “presbytery” means a council of many elders. God Himself is an example of team ministry because He is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Presbytery is impartation.

1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6

Gifts can be given or imparted to us when people lay hands on one another and pray. These gifts are not earned or learned, they are given. When God wants to accomplish something, He speaks. When He said, “Let there be light,” there was light. When He wants to accomplish something in us, He speaks to us and gives us the ability to accomplish it.

Presbytery is prophecy (God speaking).

1 Timothy 4:15, 1:18–20; Proverbs 15:23

The Lord knows you and can speak to you personally through a prophetic word. Although it is not the same as Scripture, God uses prophecy to encourage us. Prophecy will always align with Scripture. The Holy Spirit also has the ability to speak to more than one person at a time through a spoken word.

Group Dynamics Idea As the school year begins, consider supporting a single mom or young family with school age children. Working together to fulfill needs such as school supplies and/or school clothes provides an opportunity for connection within your group while blessing others in need.

Discuss

1. Have you received a word from the Lord during a presbytery that encouraged you? Have you had a word from the Lord that has come to pass?
2. Why would God want to give us a word through a person, when we also have the Bible, His written Word?

3. Share an example of a prophetic word that was given to you.
4. Have you ever given a prophetic word where the word was confirmed by the recipient? Did others also give the same word? Please share.
5. A prophetic word won't contradict Scripture. What steps do you take when you receive a prophetic word from the Lord? How has He confirmed His spoken word to you in the past?
6. How would you encourage someone to respond and act on a prophetic word?

Take Home

- Presbytery is a team ministry.
- God loves us and wants us to receive His encouragement and gifts through others laying hands on us and praying for us.
- Prophecy should always encourage us to a closer walk with Christ and should line up with the Word of God.
- During a presbytery service, the Holy Spirit can speak to more than one person at a time.
- Be open to receiving a word from the Lord. He will confirm it!

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for being such a loving and personal God. Lord, we ask that You would speak to us this week through Your Holy Spirit. Give us the wisdom and strength to receive Your word and respond to it. You are faithful and worthy of all praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Start making preparations now for the upcoming Gateway Groups Block Party. This is an effective way to meet new people and expand your group. Provide a flyer or card with details about your group for those interested. Keep notes on those you meet at the Block Party and follow up with a call or email if possible.