

# Episode 110

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*Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea.*

- Acts 21.10

Reading through this chapter in the New Living Translation, I was struck by the fact that in the first ten verses we encounter the gift and power of prophecy numerous times.

This caught my attention because a few weeks ago, having preached at church, I was approached by someone who said that they had a word that they wanted to share with me. What followed deeply blessed and encouraged me, but also left me feeling extremely inspired to do the same. The blessing part came from the word and prophecy that was shared, but what challenged and inspired me about the whole moment was the fact that they mentioned in passing that as they had sat down for the recording, they had asked God for a word for me. What a simple, but profoundly challenging comment, especially since I can't think of the last time I even considered asking God for a word for someone.

Recently I heard an account of a few friends who had had dinner together, and as they were all getting ready to leave, one of the guys offered to pray before they all headed out the door. After a short prayer, someone else asked if they could share a picture they had had while they prayed and subsequently turned to the person they felt it was for and began sharing. She said that she had been reminded of a scene in a movie where a boy is playing baseball while his dad hid in the crowds watching. There was clear hostility between the boy and his father, but in sharing the image, she added that she believed that God showed her this picture because he wanted to restore what was broken.

As she shared this word, the guy fell to the floor sobbing, which was not quite the reaction anyone expected. Apparently, when he was young, his father had taken him to a baseball game, put his hands on his shoulders, and let him know that he didn't want to be his father anymore, and left. That was the last time he had seen his dad, and it had left him broken and hurting for decades. However, in a simple act of obedience, God began to radically restore that man, as well healing his relationship with his dad.

All it took was the simple availability to hear from God's heart, and share it, irrespective of how insignificant it may have seemed. In a moment, because someone was listening on behalf of another, a casual closing prayer turned into a life-changing moment that will reap a harvest for generations to come. The heart of a man restored, courage poured into his future and a wholeness that will strengthen and encourage others in turn.

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