



Firestorm Ministries NW  
presents

# “Developing in the Prophetic Ministry” Workshop

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## Preface for Today's Workshop and Workbook

This workshop takes into account the following assumptions:

- You are filled with the Holy Spirit (or want to be).
- You believe that the gifts of the spirit are for the saints today.
- You have knowledge (or some knowledge) about the spirit of prophecy, the gift of prophecy, and the NT office of a prophet.
- You have operated in the spiritual gifts or have a desire to operate them.
- You want to go deeper in the prophetic dimensions.
- You know the basic meanings and concepts of *logos* and *rhema*.

With that being said, today's workshop is an opportunity to get those of like minds together, to hear and be challenged, and also minister to each other. You might even receive an answer to something that you have asked the Holy Spirit about for a long time.

In preparing for today, I really tried to lean into the Holy Spirit for guidance and tried to hear what He would want to bring. As you can imagine, it can be a challenge to pick the topics since there are so many that are available and all of them have different nuances. I hope that today's subject matter brings a challenge to you and that you also have fun with learning. Some things may be review to you and that's fine, but you may find that today will have some nuggets or takeaways.

Of course, one of the biggest reasons for being here today is for the **practice**. It's important to keep that prophetic edge and today's practice is our deliberate, intentional engagement into that realm. As you know, the prophetic realm is available to all believers.

Romans 12:6 says, "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;" - NAS

Our challenge is to not leave anything undone or unsaid when we have opportunity to make a significant difference and impact. Of course, when we speak and act, we want the Holy Spirit to be the force behind our impact. That rhema word you speak to individuals could make all the difference in the lives of those we are in contact with.

Today, you'll be challenged to put on a prophetic mindset. I like to use the words "prophetic grid" or "glasses". Simply put, just allow the Holy Spirit to let you see things with prophetic purpose and meaning. Remember also that you may need to reach inside yourself and see how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. As you know, that "speaking" comes in various ways. Try and relax and have some fun. Mistakes are allowed! You won't learn if you won't risk. Just know you are loved and we value your presence today! Remember that no one is 100% on target with the prophetic. Feedback will be given and you'll be able to know whether you were "dialed in" to the Holy Spirit. Lastly, keep in mind that although this workshop was planned and interceded for, the Holy Spirit may change course and we may veer off the written lesson plan and into something else. He is sometimes unpredictable and dangerous, but that's what we love about Him! Thank you for coming today which already speaks to your desire to be used mightily of the Holy Spirit. He will honor that desire and our practice today.

## Part 1 - Remembering the Fundamentals (Our “Why”)

*“So also, you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.”*  
1 Corinthians 14:12 NASB

### Our Motivation

Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13. It’s a great reminder to be encouraged what our motivation needs to be. Pursuing love and seeking gifts doesn’t need to be mutually exclusive, but without love, seeking the gifts may turn out to be a self-willed endeavor and can even be destructive.

- Primary motivation has to be love
- After we get the primary motivation right, it’s alright to go for it! Ask for the spiritual gifts.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, yet *desire* earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. (NAS)

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:1, the word **desire** in the Greek is *zeloo*. It’s a derivative of the word *zelos*, where we get our English word zealous. The word *zeloo* means to burn with zeal and connotes the idea of being heated to a boil. It can be used in a good sense or bad, but Paul obviously used the word for good. All in all, Paul presents a strong case that we should pursue spiritual gifts, and especially prophecy.

Being properly adjusted as to our motivations will help prevent us from being self-willed. If we are loving properly and giving honor to the Father, to Jesus, and to the body of Christ, we can avoid becoming self-willed and self-directed. We will be sensitive and be willing to do what the Lord wants us to do.

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:22 (KJV)

After reading the above, one may be thinking that we should just play it safe, but we’re not called to do that. We’re born into this conflict. It’s likely we’ll always be in some sort of conflict while on earth, so we might as well learn to deal with it and use the power that we’ll be invested with to help each other.

We also have to remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30.

- We’re entrusted with talents or particular gifts, ministry and/or responsibilities.
- We’re responsible to carry to His mission and directions.
- A serious error to ignore the message and instructions and then hide away the investment given to each individual.

**Sidebar:** “The quest for His face is the ultimate quest. But to embrace the quest for the face of God, one must be ready to die. Thus, this is not a journey for the faint of heart. It is too costly to pursue from mere curiosity.” – Bill Johnson

## The Importance of the Prophetic Ministry

Why is this ministry so important and if it's so important, why aren't more people doing it? The bullets below are rhetorical questions. Ponder them and come to your own conclusions.

- Why isn't there more prophetic engagement?
- Are we being content with little power and gifts?
- Have we become too passive as spectators to the events around us?
- Do we have a cause and do we care about God's plan and purposes? If so, why are we not fully engaged? How do we fully engage?

The great news is that it's not too late to start advancing in the dimensions and levels of spiritual gifts and in the Spirit of Prophecy. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:3 says that prophecy is for **edification, exhortation, and consolation** (comfort). Here are some other purposes:

- Building the church (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:3-5 and Eph 4:12)
- Strengthening, encouragement and comfort (Acts 15:32 and 1<sup>st</sup> Thess 5:11).
- Calling things into being or into existence (Romans 4:18).
- Strengthening one's faith (Heb 11:6 and Romans 10:17 "faith comes from hearing the rhema")
- Confirms the word of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 13:1 "in the mouth of two or three witnesses, shall every rhema be established".
- Strategies (numerous OT examples of prophets giving strategies prior to battle).
- Call to repentance. *Handle carefully.*
- Warnings of coming difficulties, problems, or dangers (John 16:33). *Handle carefully.*

**Sidebar:** Does the Holy Spirit give warnings and can they come through a prophetic word? The short answer is "yes". Keep in mind that a warning of danger is different than walking around with a sour face and pronouncing judgment. Those judgment prophets you want to steer clear from. Just remember that warnings and alerts are given because the Holy Spirit is in the business of rescue and restoration, not casting people off. If you get a word of warning, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as to the when and how of delivery. It's always a great training topic to discuss with your prophetic cohorts.

- Prophecy can renew vision and purpose (Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish." KJV)
- Prophecy can predict the future (Acts 11:38 – Agabus predicted the famine.)

If the Holy Spirit lives inside you, and He's a person who speaks...it would be natural to have Him speak to you and others out of your own mouth. That's part of the river of living water that lives inside you. The prophetic word is such a powerful gift and God made it in such a way because...

### ***People need to find connection and purpose!***

Generally, we know the need of the unbelievers, but believers everywhere have times and seasons where they are asking...

- Does God hear me?

- How does God feel about me?
- Why am I here?
- What should I be doing?
- What is my life's work? Where should I be?
- How can I leave a legacy?
- How can I move into the spirit?
- Lord, can you just speak to me?

Most people ask these questions even when they are saved and spirit-filled. People from all walks of life have those questions. But the Holy Spirit has provided a way to answer some of those questions and provide hope. The rhema word! That rhema word through the prophetic can be spoken through us and it can deliver incredible impact. One could say that it's supernatural.

***The prophetic should be so deep and powerful, that people are "arrested" and say "God is with you"!***  
(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:25).

- God can reveal a person's dreams through the prophetic
- Speak into a person's destiny
- Break the yoke of bondage
- Break down barriers (through the spoken word)
- Open doors into better and fuller lives

It almost seems that it's too good to be true that God equips us in such a way, but it is true and the better we get at it, the more impact we have to help those who need us to be vessels.

**One more point:** Being a prophet, having a gift of prophecy, or being prophetic implies being in **relationship** with God. A unique and special one. It means you have **access** to Holy Spirit, you **receive** messages from Him, and you are **endued** with **His power**.

- An example is 2 Kings 5:3 - "She (Israelite) said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." (NASB)

### **Bringing It All Together (Main Takeaways)**

1. We'll need to know...or remember our "why".
2. Our motivation is about sacrificial love to please the Lord and build the church. If we really love the church, we'll move and help support through the gifts given by grace (Ephesians 4:16 "the body joined and held together" NIV).
3. We prophesy because we're invited (or exhorted) to and because we should.
4. We'll need to be careful to not become self-willed and start steering ourselves.
5. People need to find connection and purpose. Prophecy can help people find that.
6. Our prophetic ministry should move with deep anointing and depth like 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:25 spoke of.
7. Prophetic ministry implies a relationship with the Holy Spirit. The invitation is extended to go deeper in relationship. This will likely result in new levels and dimensions...but the relationship comes first.

***Lastly, remember that it's the anointing that breaks the yoke.*** More on that later...

Isaiah 10:27 "And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."  
KJV

## Part 2 - Governing Yourself

*“Is what you’re doing prophesying about where you’re going?” - TD Jakes*

### Personal Conduct of the Prophetic Minister

It probably goes without saying, but personal conduct is extremely important in our culture today and it’s really about **attitude**. It’s bad enough that much of the church battles with unbelief, but it gets worse when believers and non-believers see conduct and attitudes that undermine the prophetic ministry. Believe it or not, prophetic ministry is enhanced by doing the simple things...

- Being polite / having a smile
- Having kindness
- Being approachable
- Demonstrating the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22)
- Walking humbly
- Observing rules and customs so as not to alienate ourselves (Hebrews 13:17 obeying leaders and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 31-33 - e.g. “seeking the good of many”)

And, as you can imagine, the prophetic ministry can be hindered greatly by not doing the simple things that bring credit to you and the ministry. We have to remember that people are watching. That may put a little pressure on you, but putting on your best face is better than demonstrating a personality that is erratic and/or unpredictable.

When you grow in power and influence, the challenge will be to stay in a place where you demonstrate the fruits. The gifts are the “tools”. The fruits are the “results” of our walk.

***“Let people see your fruit, not just your ministry.”*** (Galatian 5:22)

Part of our core values is that we want the body of Christ to be healthy and functioning properly. Our desire is to see saints live better and fuller lives. It doesn’t just happen because we’ve thought about it. To be used as vessels, we have to start taking those steps to become effective ministers and let God help us on the journey. Some of those steps are:

- Giving honor where honor is due to church leaders and congregations
- Respect and honor to the “lesser members” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:23)

**Sidebar:** If you’d like to get a perspective of how Jesus feels about the different churches around the world, read *Transported by the Lion of Judah* by Anne Elmer. It will likely change your perspective and how you think. Though churches are different (and unique), you will likely honor them and see them the way He does.

- Giving honor helps release the impartation of the minister or speaker.
- Need to watch what we say and do (James 3:6 - i.e. taming the tongue)
- Being in the anointing, not just operating with the gift, but having the anointing is where there’s power to change things.
- We have a need to find ways and means to grow our gifts and steward them responsibly.

### Deeper Dimensions of the Prophetic Minister

***Remember that it's not just about the knowledge or the ability to operate in a gift, it's the anointing!***

To go into deeper dimensions and “next levels”, the investment of time and energy is unavoidable. You may have a frustration that you haven't been able to accommodate the time due to the hectic pace of life or you haven't had the will to move deeper. Don't be discouraged. Jesus can shift you internally and move things externally to make things ready for you. Ask for a shift and then move when you sense it's time. It will require faith. Be deliberate and intentional with your life and ask Holy Spirit to guide your steps.

- God has designed that “deeper” and “higher” require deeper commitments of time with Him
- You may be called to prophetic ministry (and moving with gifts), but it likely won't land on you. The schools of the prophets weren't for nothing.)
- Some individuals have particular gifts from their youth or at birth, but that isn't the norm / God has His purposes for those particular callings.
- We'll have to be **deliberate** and **intentional** if we want to go deeper.
- **We** may have to move things out of the way to make time and energy to move into God's deeper dimensions.
- **Ask for willingness to go deeper.**
- Find a *place* to grow what Holy Spirit has placed within you.

Much is said about “paying the price” and sometimes that sounds as if only a few individuals are capable of doing it. It's often said in a dramatic fashion and used to venerate particular individuals. Maybe we should reframe what “the price” really is:

- You'll likely have to trade time...some activities will stop...others will have to be picked up.
- God's presence is incredible and very attractive (addictive?). His presence is a wonderful habit to cultivate.
- Cultivating study, prayer, and presence can be where it becomes a consuming passion.
- Priorities will be repositioned.
- More spiritual combat and adventure in those dimensions. Isn't that what we've asked for? To be people of impact?

**Sidebar:** Some saints have truly been through refining fires and very trying circumstances and I don't want to diminish their sufferings or their victories. But I don't like to see saints putting off moving into deeper dimensions in God because of a belief that it's only for a few. That “few” is often associated with talents, abilities, or appearances...or that God loves them better. Of course, that's not true. Jesus said that “Many are called, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:14). So, what do we make of that? Like the U.S Marine Corp recruitment commercials, there will be many that will hear the recruiting message...but only a few will enter into it. The deeper dimensions are there and the Lord beckons you into them...but you've got to go in.

Also...deeper dimensions require holiness. There's a call for personal holiness. God will ask it of you (or demand it)...and you will need it. (John 14:30 “...he hath nothing in me.” KJV) We don't want any hooks or handles for the enemy to grab onto.

If you want to go deeper. Ask the Lord to “shift” you. He'll prepare the way, prepare your heart, and He'll be faithful to answer those prayers. It is His good pleasure to do so.



If you don't have a prophetic ministry that's active (i.e. you're looking for a place), keep in mind that you can still "push the envelope" with the Lord. You can have personal "revival" and in fact, it's your responsibility. The prophetic is but one dimension. There are other dimensions that He can show you:

- Go for the deeper relationship in God / it will always be available
- Ask God to open other spiritual dimensions
- Open eyes to angelic realm
- Dreams and their interpretation
- Words of knowledge
- Supernatural faith
- Gifts of healings
- Supernatural experiences
- Practice "honing your spiritual radar" (it's likely you'll be going over to share with the person)

### **Tips and Pointers for the Prophetic Minister**

1. Be true to the HS and yourself.
  - If you don't have it (the anointing), you don't have it. Be honest about it.
  - Don't just make something up and pass it off as prophetic ministry. Results will speak for themselves. Develop your relationship with Holy Spirit where you know you're anointed.
  - If you start out and don't finish with a word, don't worry about it. Admit that something happened and that you can't finish.
  - Stay true to what you're given. Nothing more. Nothing less.
  - If you relate a story or an event to an audience, give credit where it's due. Don't pass the story off as if it's your own when it's not. (I cannot stress that enough.)
2. Remember that sometimes, some of the things you will receive from Holy Spirit (and then speak) will seem strange and outlandish. Perhaps even ill-timed or incongruous.
  - Holy Spirit will do mysterious things. Have to embrace that.
  - There is a purpose as to why. Sometimes you get to find out why. Sometimes you don't.
  - When you are right about what you've received and delivered, it will build more faith!
3. Don't feel forced to operate or perform. Some people will put a demand on you and some of the requests can be off-putting. You want the anointing to be there.
  - Holy Spirit does not waste or mince words. His rhema is for a purpose.
  - Cannot manipulate Holy Spirit.
  - When approached, can pause and ask the Holy Spirit if there is something for that person.
4. If you get a prophetic word that reveals very personal and sensitive details, handle with extra care.
  - Take it privately to the person
  - Do not expose gross sin in public
  - Purpose to restore the person in God's love
  - Examples are: sexual sins or events where person was victimized, traumatized, etc.

- **See the person through God’s perspective which is that God sees the person in Christ, not in sin.**
5. When you get a picture that’s seemingly negative, remember that it’s for a purpose. Ask Holy Spirit what that purpose is. Always remember that Holy Spirit is in the business of rescue and restoration, not pronouncing judgment.
    - Give thanks for the revealing
    - Put a blessing into the person or task
    - Speak an increase into something
    - Speak a stop to something
    - Speak life and restoration into the person and/or the situation.
  6. Be careful about speaking into obvious deformities and disabilities in people. Keep in mind that it’s highly likely that many people have spoken into and prayed about a person’s healing, etc. If you are receiving a word, then be true to the Holy Spirit, but keep in mind of what’s likely occurred in a person’s life.
  7. Remember that no one is 100% accurate 100% of the time. Embrace that fact! If you get it wrong, self-coach and move on!
    - Get with mentor, a coach, a good friend to talk things out
    - Not easy sometimes to miss and have to live with it. Be resilient.
    - Ask for feedback periodically. Use it as a checks and balance approach.
    - There will some ministry where you should not ask for any feedback.
  8. Be vigilant and take the proper steps with offenses received. Offenses can take you out of action faster than anything else, even sexual issues.
  9. Resiliency is vital to the prophetic minister!
    - Encourage yourself in the Lord as David did while facing opposition (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 30:6)
    - You will have “off days”, tests and trying times.
    - Your “batting average” on accuracy may sink.
    - God will allow you to go through many journeys. Not always fun.
    - Don’t quit. God will still work through you. Soldier on!
    - The best and most gifted have struggled and continue to do so in various areas.
  10. Be polite and grateful for the words you get.
    - If the word doesn’t seem to agree, don’t start challenging back or making corrections, or putting on a face 😞.
    - Have grace...give grace. Politeness matters. The person prophesying is presumedly trying to do “good” and be a blessing. If the word doesn’t seem to fit, put it a shelf and re-evaluate later.
  11. Keep the edge sharp by...
    - Training with a group or groups
    - Have a mentor
    - There’s a **ton** of books and training materials/courses out there

- Ask for feedback / check for accuracy
  - Find ministers you like and trust and learn from them
12. Don't treat your prophetic partners as common and don't discount receiving prophetic words and messages from your circle of friends and fellowship. (Some of the most significant messages I've received have come through friends and partners.)
    - They're close in proximity (it's likely you don't have all the \$\$ to keep traveling and seeking prophets). *They get activated due to their proximity and His desire to speak to you!*
    - Your friends know you and that information about you can be used (we don't recognize that because we tend to validate prophecy more from those that don't know us).
    - Your friends care about you...you're not a "one-time" event or a visitor.
    - Prophets that don't know you may only "see through a glass, darkly" (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 13:12) or may only get fragments.
  13. When you're in a culture of prophetic ministry or in a house where the prophetic thrives that you are to **weigh carefully** prophetic utterances (1 Cor 14:29).
    - Does it agree with your "knower" (does it bear witness)?
    - Everyone has a personal responsibility to spiritually discern prophetic utterances.
  14. Don't be put off or discouraged by the unbelief of other saints or if other churches don't practice prophetic ministry often or do it well. Be patient and seek training and experience without fuss or complaint. Look for a place so that your gifts can flourish. God has His ways of dealing with folks.
  15. Keep in mind that you may be ministering and coaching the prophetic to others one day. Keep a record of your books, materials, and training courses. Your experiences will be interesting and you'll have relatable stories to illustrate your teaching to others.

### **Bringing It All Together (Main Takeaways)**

1. Prophetic conduct is important. Having grace and demonstrating grace is vitally important. People need to see our fruit, not just our ministry.
2. Give honor where due. Honor the saints, the church, and honor those who are in positions of leadership and ministries. Giving honor helps release the impartation of the minister.
3. Deeper dimensions in the Holy Spirit requires being intentional and deliberate with the direction of your life. Holy Spirit will gladly help you with that.
4. Aside from the prophetic, there are other areas and dimensions available to enter into. Holy Spirit can take you there.
5. Of all the listed tips, one of the biggest tips is to not discount your prophetic partners or treat them as common. Some of the most impactful rhema will likely come from them.
6. ***Remember that it's not just about the knowledge or the ability to operate in a gift, it's the anointing! It's the anointing that breaks the yoke!***

### **Part 3 - Prophetic Groups and Their Importance**

*Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; but much increase comes by the strength of an ox.*

**Proverbs 14:4 KJV**

In the church, there is usually a tension between the desire for “cleanness” and the need for a “filled” barn.

- There will always be tensions in church life
- Oxen / people create a mess and require attention
- Sometimes, prophetic people are seen as “mess-makers”
  - flaky
  - esoteric (only understood by a few)
  - unreliable / lives are a mess
- Ministries can be messy / reasons for oversight
- Outreach efforts bring in the unchurched
- In the business of rescue or a country club?
- What particular purpose(s) does our church body have?
- There’s a need to find a balance that includes outreach, teaching, spiritual depth and the full gospel

The above bullets exemplify the reason why churches need many hands with its many ministries. Many in a church are willing to engage and help with the efforts. We have to find a way to see where people fit and deploy them accordingly.

Bringing people up in Christ will involve struggle (Genesis 3:16 and childbearing). Nobody looks forward to struggle and hardship day after day.

- We have to choose to engage
- Have to have vision to look beyond the struggle
- There are rewards and greater glories ahead.
- People are worth the investment.

***Part of our mission as a prophetic people is to live in such a way that it inspires confidence and respect.*** That involves:

- Holiness
- Life of prayer and communion
- Life of sacrifice
- Can’t be bought

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1 NAS

## A NW Prophetic Movement

I believe the Pacific NW needs a movement where the prophetic is anointed, strong, reliable, and operated by capable, trusted saints. For that to happen...

- Saints have to believe that it's important
- Saints have to invest their time into it
- Saints have to rally together to educate, build up, comfort and exhort each other
- Prophetic saints must have a voice / they need to exercise and "flex their muscles"
- We need prophets to arise, have their voices heard, and start turning the hearts of the people and start changing the culture back toward God
- It's going to demand a life of separation and holiness
- The prophet's reward is God. "I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward." Genesis 15:1 KJV

## The Need for Government in the Prophetic Ministry

If you organize people for a mission and a purpose, you will need leadership and government. You won't be able to get away from it. Nearly every human endeavor has leadership and some form of government. Without it, the mission and the effort can fall apart and the purpose goes unmet and unfulfilled.

God has government. The spiritual world has governments and of course, there are human governments on earth. I believe that some policies of heaven are governed by force (see Matt 26:53 "...12 legions of angels" & Daniel 10:13).

**Sidebar:** Depending on what sources you read, a Roman legion could range from 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers and have a contingent of cavalry (Equites) as well. The size of legions changed during Rome's history which may be why the history sources vary widely.

There can't be an "anything goes" mentality when it comes to prophetic ministry. It needs to be done well and it needs to be governed, especially when new or young people are involved...or if you're organizing some effort such as a conference or a special session for a visiting group.

- The prophetic is "loaded" (like a loaded weapon) and can bless or hurt people / very powerful
- Many rewards and blessings, but there are pitfalls (requires to walk carefully)
- There's a need for leaders and mentors that can help guide / time to step into that role for some
- No teaching or mentoring can mean slow progress and with many mistakes made...some critical
- Paul wrote some governing principles for church in Corinth (1 Corinthians)
- Corinth had problems. It was the Las Vegas of the ancient world, but, if the Corinthians could have spiritual gifts and be taught...so can we.
- Some of the problems in Corinth was immaturity and carnality, not the lack of spiritual power.

**Sidebar:** A topic that is very important is the value of mentoring. Finding one is gold, especially when learning the prophetic ministry. New or more experienced prophetic operators can have a mentor. Mentoring implies a teacher/subordinate type of relationship and not everyone is willing to put themselves in a subordinate position. But, keep in mind that almost everyone leaves their mentor. It doesn't last forever. But during that time, there is great value and growth from getting direct personal attention from those that know their craft. (I was mentored for a time in the prophetic ministry and still remember many things to this day).

"One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination." - *John C. Maxwell*

### Who Can Lead?

If and when a prophetic movement starts...it is best that churches and pastors get in front of this dynamic ministry rather than to chase it from behind.

- Pastors can lead effectively, but it might be better to delegate (many factors dependent on this)
- Proverbs 14:4 "without oxen, a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest" NLT
- Some pastors and leaders don't like to delegate such a sensitive area to others, but it will give others opportunity to grow.
- Pastors and leaders should appoint good leaders that have a real grasp of the gifts and the spiritual dimension.
- Appoint leaders that understand the anointing, the principles, and can connect with people
- Appoint leaders that are able to carefully and lovingly confront
- Adopting a mindset to give authority to others.
  - Easier for military and para-military personnel
  - Can use organizational charts to help

Prophetic members have to **decide to agree**, cooperate, and follow well, and not just do things grudgingly. Teams require a greater degree of work and putting aside the needs of self.

- Mistakes and error have to be corrected and members must **agree** to being corrected / it's never easy
- It's the responsibility of the members to keep their flesh in check
- By giving honor, the Spirit can flow
- Ultimately, the focus is about effective ministry, not who's in charge
- The growing strength of your gift and ministry will make you a valued member and reliable player. That is really the crux of the matter.

Groups that are led can have coaching, counseling, training and feedback. We need that and people can thrive and accelerate their growth. Much better and faster than operating alone.

### Attributes of Prophetic Leaders

A prophetic leader does not need to have the strongest or greatest gift to lead effectively. The prophetic leader does need to have:

- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Grounded and knowledgeable in the word of God
- Respect of the team members / may need time to gain traction in leadership
- Good organization capability / capable of putting projects together and getting people to rally together
- A voice in church leadership
- Able to communicate effectively in various settings
- Ability to establish and sustain a **growth environment**.

When leading a prophetic group, you've got to think about exercising the gifts like muscles. People who won't keep the edge sharpened and train will not grow and it's likely they won't be used much.

- Stay engaged with training
- Take groups out for ministry
- Invite others to receive ministry
- Encourage the pastor to open a time or place for the prophetic to operate

Are there different types of prophets? Those who specialize? The answer is "yes".

Are there prophets who give warnings? The answer is "yes". It doesn't mean they are prophets of judgment. The mission and purpose is to save, not destroy people.

### Protocols for Prophetic Teams (You may be coaching one day!)

- The biggest challenge to maintain is a **growth environment**.
- Don't allow team members to discount, critique, or nullify words spoken by another member of your team
  - Can crush the team and individuals. This is a big deal!
- Don't make gestures that show disdain of your team partner (eye-rolling, mugging, etc.)
- Really understand how you affect others with speech and mannerisms (e.g. long-winded words).
  - Be open to coaching and counseling.
- Don't get hung up with church rules...there's usually a story behind the reasons and history as to why. Getting frustrated with it won't solve anything.
- Don't get into always looking to stack your own team with those who have greater gifts and shun those who struggle or are new, etc.
- Don't get into comparisons, or competitions.
- Don't be a prima donna of a group. Be a team player and be ready to sacrifice. It's not about you and your talent or problems.
- Members need to be open for coaching and counseling (this requires being mentored or coached with agreement and approval...or it won't work. Being under a leader has a lot of benefits. Especially in a ministry like this.
- If not mentored or coached, then have accountability partners.

### **Borrowing from the Military and Corporate America**

Nothing wrong with appointing leaders within your ranks or from within your church. The church can borrow from the military and corporate America with organizing their prophetic efforts. The basic idea is to organize and delegate duties of supervision.

- As with many things, there's always a risk with promoting people to lead.
- May need to coach and mentor the leader(s) until they've gained competence and traction.
- Pick those who really fit the prophetic ministry and people.
- There is usually someone who will rise up and be capable to lead.
- Pastors and church leaders can appoint:
  - "Field sergeants" and "lieutenants"
  - Appointing a supervisor or overseer of the whole ministry
  - It's likely that pastors won't be able to govern it all alone (depending on church size)

### **Chain of command model** (directed from the top) - See Diagram 1

- Can be effective
- Reliant on field commanders to carry out mission
- Can break up into groups and have supervisors governing each group

### **Networking or Team Models** (more nurture and cultivation from within its ranks)

- More informal
- Lesser rank structure
- "Leaders without titles"
- The below diagram shows other methods to organize groups. Keep in mind that the below diagrams are to present ideas. It's not a directive to go something a particular way.

As you know, finding concepts of leadership and organization is easy due to the internet and the many books and trade journals that are out there. The real challenge is not to drown in all the information!



1. A simple chain of command style of organization

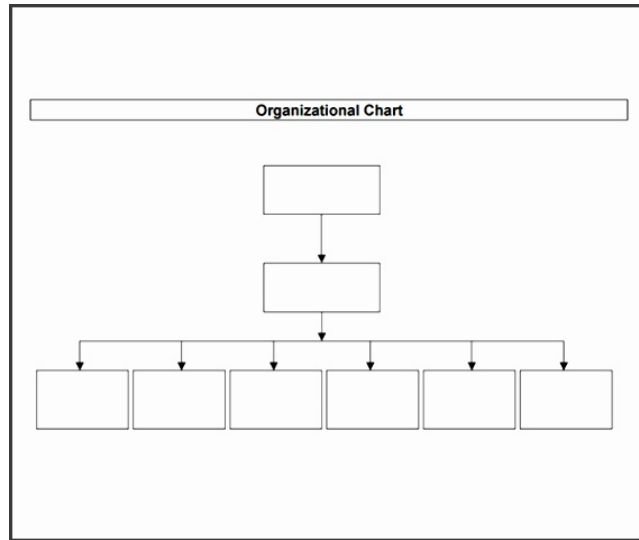
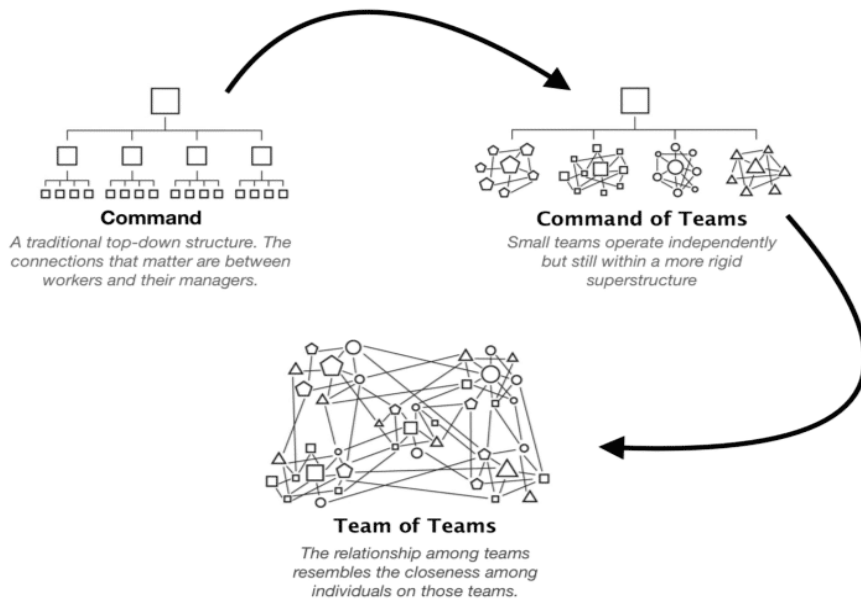


Diagram 2 – Another picture of command structures. The basic idea is to organize and delegate.



### **Bringing it All Together (Main Takeaways)**

1. There's a tension between wanting to invite others to church and build it up vs keeping things clean.
2. Prophetic ministries are sometimes viewed as too messy to operate.
3. Prophetic people need to live in a way that inspires confidence and respect.
4. Prophetic mentoring is very valuable.
5. Prophetic leaders can be selected based on abilities and attributes (by a pastor or other leaders).
6. Prophetic groups are an excellent way to train and nurture the prophetic ministry.
7. Sustaining a growth environment is vital for prophetic ministry.
8. There's a need for governance whenever you get a group of people together, especially when groups get larger. Protocols will have to be established.
9. The church can borrow organization concepts and models that work for business corporations and the military.

## Part 4 - Taking Prophetic Ministry Outside the Walls

*“And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.” Isaiah 10:27 KJV*

### Why Take It Outside?

It may be prophetic, but it’s also sharing the gospel. You’re bringing good news.

Why? **“The mass of men live lives of quiet desperation”** - Henry David Thoreau. There are many perspectives of that quote, but it rings true.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:2 KJV

**Sidebar:** Check out this commentary of being “instant in season and out of season”. It’s pretty strong for us westerners in this day and age.

“In season, out of season. -- In other words, "For thy work, set apart no definite and fixed hours, no appointed times. Thy work must be done at all hours, at all times. Thy work has to be done not only when thou art in church, not merely in times of security and peace, but it must be carried on, in the midst of dangers, even if thou art a prisoner and in chains, even if death threaten thee.” – Ellicott Commentary

Granted, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:2 is talking about preaching and an overall charge of carrying out of Timothy’s mission, however, being “instant in season, out of season” can occur to you in prophetic ministry.

- The anointing can be suddenly and the opportunity is there
- You may not feel like doing ministry, then you’ll have to choose
- We have to prepare for those public contacts where Holy Spirit wants to flow through you
- Shift mindsets and routines, habits
- There will be occasions where you’ll want to extend and bless another

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“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Rev 19:10 NASB.

You can be operating in the prophetic, but it’s the anointing that breaks the yoke (Isaiah 10:27). Of course, what that means is that it is God who releases the captives, heals, delivers and restores. The prophetic word can release the anointing.

When we talk of ministry in the public place, it’s easier said than done. We’re more comfortable in church where people think and act more like us. The minds of the people in public are engaged in the business of their lives and usually think that spirituality belongs on Sunday...if they think spiritually at all. As a result, we’re an interruption...but it can be a blessed one. Something else to keep in mind is that we’re not talking about a “bullhorn ministry” here. Prophetic ministry usually has specific targets and works to be done. Again, it’s a matter of asking Holy Spirit.

- Spending time in God yields deposits in faith. Can use a tactic called “soaking” as a way to practice His presence. God is looking for people who will spend the time with Him. Practice entering into His presence and walking in the spirit. Totally worth it!
- Doing public ministry yields more experience and helps create faith. Watching God work builds more faith. As you know, going out doesn’t have to look and feel like a safari. It can as simple as asking Holy Spirit to open your eyes about a person or place.
- Reaching out takes you out of your comfort zone. Having done so, focusing too hard on prophetic accuracy may distract you. Learn how to rest and allow God to work through you and to leave the rest with Him.

All those who have the Holy Spirit can prophesy. It’s a matter of learning to step into it. He can show up in places you might not expect. Acts 2:17 says the following: “And it shall be in the last days, God says, that I will pour forth of my spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,” (NASB). We are living in those days and we were made to be able to give away what we have received. We are carriers of the glory realm; rivers of living water.

***“There’s really only one way to discover your gifts and that is to attempt to minister.” - Heidler and Pierce***

### **Getting into the Prophetic Flow**

What is the fastest way to get into the spontaneous flow? (e.g. thoughts, pics, speaking, etc.) Ask for your “spiritual eyes” to be opened.

**Sidebar:** One of the most fascinating books to read is *The Veil* by Blake Healy. He had a gift of seeing in the spirit and was privileged to see many things in that dimension. The book is an amazing story of his life, but there’s also a “do it yourself” section regarding seeing in the spirit and a message that there’s an open door for anyone who wants to have this gift. Your gift will be tailored to you...that’s the way God is.

You can try particular techniques to also get into the prophetic flow.

- Ask the HS to be in your thoughts.
- Ask who is ready to receive something?
- When receiving a thought or picture of someone/something and you say “it may just be me”, it’s likely the HS giving something.
- Put your hand on the person
- Ask for a word of knowledge
- Five finger blessing (prophetic categories / Patricia King). What finger will God illuminate for you?
  - Thumb = Fathers love
  - Pointer = prophecy
  - Middle finger = family and friends
  - ring finger = finance

- Little finger = health
- Ask the Holy Spirit questions when in the flow.

There's nothing wrong with asking the Holy Spirit questions. After all, you are partnering with Him. During your contact with the ministry receiver, you may need to reveal the source of how you got your information. Reveal that it is the Holy Spirit. "Sign the mail" as from Jesus.

Touching people implies unity and a safe place. A personal touch may activate the prophetic flow. Ask the person to touch first because it is personal space that is being invaded.

One method that works well is asking for a word of knowledge prior to prophetic delivery. When you speak it, people will begin to wonder. "How do you know that?" You will have their attention. The person can open to receive more.

Be careful to not make prophecy religious. Most of what we've trained for is conducive to church culture. Keep in mind that most people outside the church have an alienated view of God (e.g. harsh, strict, and judgmental). People will also have a level of tolerance that you'll have to gauge. Lengthy prayers may alienate some. They equate it with being too religious. Be quick with your prayers for healing and so forth.

**Sidebar:** In many Christian circles, the *word of knowledge* is considered part of being prophetic. While the word of knowledge is not necessarily the same as a prophecy, it is often a "door opener" and often precedes supernatural activity such as prophecy, healing, and deliverance. Words of knowledge create wonder and give hope that God is going to do something for hearer. For us, a word of knowledge unlocks the anointing and the gifts can start flowing.

### Delivering Your Prophetic Word

Do your best to not offend. If the person isn't ready to receive, don't press the issue. Usually when the supernatural is operating, people are amazed, but of course, some can't receive it.

- Remember that the Holy Spirit will not expose sin and rub it in the face of people.
- Holy Spirit will show you things and the secrets of people. Those secrets could be dreams and hopes that are held (1 Corinthians 14:23-25).
- 1 Cor 14:24-25 says "But if everyone is prophesying, and an unbeliever or uninstructed person should come in, he will be convinced by everyone and judged by everyone,<sup>25</sup> and the secrets of his heart will be disclosed, and so he will fall down and worship God, declaring, 'God is really in your midst'."
- Remember that an intense focus on accuracy can distract you and detract from the messages. The impact may be reduced.
- You can **embed** your prophetic word within your discussion or conversation (depending on the circumstance).
  - People may be left to wonder (let God help them figure it out)
  - Impact may even be greater without the religious touch to the word given
  - Might be able to check back later and discuss with the receiver / introduce them to Jesus

### **Some Parameters for Prophetic Ministry in the Marketplace**

1. Our God is kind, loving and merciful. He loves the unchurched and unsaved.
2. God is looking for the best in individuals and bring out their potential
3. Always build up, encourage, and comfort.
4. Avoid “thus sayeth the Lord”. Too religious.
5. Yes, there may be a warning to give...but it’s likely in rare circumstances. Weigh carefully and appropriately.
6. “I sense the Lord saying...” is appropriate depending on how you’ve sized up the person.
7. Be free to ask questions to the Lord. What does He want to say?
8. Be aware of your surroundings in the marketplace
  - a. People are working
  - b. Don’t over pray...don’t over witness (God will finish what He started)
  - c. Absolutely no “grandstanding”.
  - d. Let people be impacted by spirit, not flesh
  - e. May only have time for a quick hit...a short word...a quick prayer
9. Don’t get into arguments. You can’t argue with religious spirits

### **Bringing it All Together (Main Takeaways)**

1. Being prophetic outside the church in the marketplace is bringing the good news to those desperately needing it.
2. Again, spending time in the Holy Spirit yields a life that is ready to do ministry that is public and ready for the “suddenlies”.
3. It works when you decide to take the risk.
4. When in public, ask to have your eyes opened. Ask for the anointing.
5. There are many ways to deliver your prophetic word. Do what works best depending on the circumstances and surroundings.
6. Remember that being in public is a different dynamic than being in church. Different things to be aware of.

## **Addendum 1 – The Differences with Prophetic Ministry and Practice**

In my life's travels and experiences, I've found that there are at least four themes of training, practice, and values regarding the realm of prophetic ministry. It's likely there are others that are around the world. I won't name ministers or groups that subscribe to the particular themes listed below, but you might be able to pick out what minister, church, or group believes and practices what is described below.

You may ask, "who is right?" or "what is the best?". My answer is that all of them are right and all of them work and are effective. They are just different. What we have to keep in mind is that Holy Spirit is not limited to a single method or practice. How the Holy Spirit moves and operates depends on a lot of factors. Some of those factors are:

- The situation or circumstance at hand and the person receiving ministry
- How the prophetic operator was trained
- The beliefs and values of the prophetic operator
- The customs and beliefs of the local church the prophetic operator is in

Keep in mind that you can be trained in and experience more than one of the methods listed below. As a trainer, I would caution that once you have been "imprinted" with one method, it can be difficult to make adjustments to learn another method, but it is quite possible and is very beneficial. I have also found that the Holy Spirit can move on you in such a way that you will shift into a different method that you haven't trained in before. He does that from time to time to keep you on your toes.

The below are described in "broad brush strokes" since capturing all the details would consume a lot of time and space. Here are the four themes or practices I have found out there:

### **1. Prophecy using terms and expressions which are to inspire confidence that it is a word from Holy Spirit.**

Phrases often contain a "my son" or my daughter" and/or a "thus sayeth the Lord", or "the Lord would say". Saints who train this way are taught to use the pictures in their mind, their feelings and/or impressions and release the message in a bold way that brings comfort and confidence to the receiver. This particular method of training heavily emphasizes using faith as the vehicle for the Holy Spirit to speak through the operator.

### **2. Prophecy using expressions and terms of "I sense" or "my impression is"...**

Saints who are trained this way are taught to use the pictures in their mind, their feelings and/or impressions to form a message from the Holy Spirit. Understanding that there is sometimes ambiguity and mystery, the prophetic minister releases the message as a sensing, an impression, or a feeling and verbally explains it as such. After the word is released, the ministry receiver weighs and determines if the message is accurate and if it bears witness with his/her spirit as truth. This method allows room for ambiguity and an "out" if the message is inaccurate.

### **3. Prophecy that comes spontaneously from a dynamic moving of the Holy Spirit from within.**

Saints trained and operating this way are taught that prophecy comes from the “splanchna” or internals of a person and the word comes forth in a dynamic fashion. Saints trained and operating this way may have a tendency to disregard others “who prophesy from their own minds”. This method and practice is often accompanied by speaking loudly, shaking of the hands or the body, shaking of the head, and other bodily manifestations that are reacting to the Holy Spirit.

#### **4. Prophecy that comes through an unknown tongue first and then the interpretation (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14).**

This operation is actually rare based on my travels and experiences. It is a mystery to me as to why since it is so biblically explicit. I’m sure that there are assemblies and groups around the world that practice this gifting, but I do not see much of it. The practice is that the prophecy in English comes after the unknown tongues. Saints who operate this way, deliver the prophecy in English in a continuous uninterrupted flow, or deliver it as it comes to the mind of the speaker one sentence at a time or in single words at a time. Prophecies can be delivered softly or loudly depending on the unction and power of the Holy Spirit.

One minister I trained under taught that tongues and interpretations were a higher level of prophetic utterances. Others may believe that as well. From what I have witnessed, this prophetic utterance is likely a gift in operation spoken of by Paul in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:10.

**Lastly,**

Again, the above descriptions are likely not the only means of delivering prophetic words or expressions when it comes to delivering rhema words. Keep in mind that there are other activities that go into prophetic dimensions such as...

- Art
- Dance
- Poses or postures (e.g. Ezekiel)
- Flagging
- Singing
- Dreams
- Writings