



Firestorm Ministries NW

presents

“Developing  
in the  
Prophetic Ministry”  
Workshop 2

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Don Davis

## Preface for Today's Workshop and Workbook

Welcome to Firestorm Ministries NW. This course is *Developing in the Prophetic Ministry Workshop 2*. Our goal with these workshops is to add some pieces to your overall training and education and to keep you exercising in the prophetic dimensions.

This workshop is for saints maturing in the prophetic and 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*, *rhema*, and other prophetic definitions.

This workshop is an opportunity to get those of like minds together, to hear truth, be challenged, and also minister to one another. We all love to hear what the Holy Spirit has to say about us.

In preparing for today, I asked the Holy Spirit for guidance and tried to hear what He would want me to bring. 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 it's hoped that you will also have some real nuggets to take home with you.

Of course, one of the biggest reasons for being here today is for the **practice** and you will be given plenty of time for that. It's important to keep that prophetic edge and today's practice is our **deliberate** and **intentional** engagement to **train our senses** (Heb 5:14). The prophetic realm is available to all believers and we're told to ask for it, train in it, and then exercise it.

We'll be starting today with the position that you have had prior training and want to keep improving. The style of this training today is that it's broken into small separate components that are intended to augment your overall training and experience.

*"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;" --Romans 12:6 (NASB)*

Try and relax and have some fun. There will be no pressure to perform and mistakes are allowed! You won't learn if you don't step out and take some risks. Just know you are loved and we value your presence today. During your practice, you'll be able to receive feedback and you'll be able to know whether you were "dialed in" to the Holy Spirit (and if not, you can try again).

Thank you for coming today which already speaks of your desire to be used mightily of the Holy Spirit. He will honor that desire and our practice today. Your offering of time and energy will be rewarded and remember that the rhema words you speak to individuals can make all the difference in their lives.

Blessings to you.

Don Davis

## Part 1

*“There is a mysterious interplay between God’s sovereign activity, human agency, and responsibility as we open our hearts before God, seek His will, and ask for what we desire.” - Mike Bickle*

### **A Deeper Life in Prophetic Ministry**

In this short course, we want to go beyond our beginner level training and go into depths of the Spirit of Prophecy and/or the gifts that have been placed within you. We’ll dive into some questions that we all have from time to time.

1. Am I really hearing the Holy Spirit? Am I really sensing him?
2. Are my prophetic revelations substantive and meaningful? How can I find that out?
3. I just delivered a word; can I help the receiver understand what was delivered?
4. **How can I move deeper in prophetic revelation and become more gifted?**

For answers to these questions and to move reliably and accurately in prophecy, we have to be deliberate and intentional with our time and resources. **But above all that is discussed today, the main point about today’s training will be that deep relationship with God is the primary thing.**

**“The prophetic” is a lifestyle**, not just a church thing. **Walking in revelation gifts is a lifestyle.** We have to continually practice and continue with our education and seasoning. That also means to read and invest our time. Our lifestyle must also make room for Holy Spirit.

It takes 10,000 work hours (approximately five years) to become truly proficient and attain a level of expertise according to Malcolm Gladwell in *Blink*.

If you want greater gifts...which includes a deeper gift of prophecy. Look at the below list. Meditate on it, and when ready, commit to it.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Desire (Greek is <i>zeloute</i> )                                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Cor 14:1 and John 6:44 |
| 2. Pursue love (Jesus and the saints)                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Cor 13:2 and 14:1      |
| 3. Holiness   | Hebrews 12:1                           |
| 4. Find and get into where God is moving.                                 | Luke 5:18-20 (the paralytic)           |
| 5. Link up and liaison with like-minded people.                           |  |
| 6. Seek out training, coaching, and feedback.                             | Psalms 23:4 (rod and staff)            |
| 7. <b>Above all, seek to enhance your relationship and walk with God.</b> | Luke 10:27                             |
| 8. Enjoy the journey and let time do its work.                            |  |

As you progress in prophetic ministry, you’ll need to step into areas of faith that perhaps you haven’t ventured into. **Remember, you’ll never get away from needing faith and taking risks.** So, take the challenge and prepare yourself for swims in deeper waters.

**If you believe that you must have a sure thing before you act, you won’t move very much. Make your decision to move forward with faith even if the outcome seems uncertain.**

It’s nice to have the moments where you have a sure thing, but you’ll have many moments where you’ll need faith to step forward and “deliver the mail” (even when you’ve been given some pretty clear signals to move by the Holy Spirit).

## Deep Calls unto Deep (Psalm 42)

In Psalm 42, a deep water (or person) calls out to deeper water (Holy Spirit). Our human spirit calls out for the Holy Spirit.

**Your levels in the prophetic will largely be determined by the kind of relationship...and the depth of relationship, that you have with the Lord.** (Romans 12:6.)

and...

**If you want a close, personal relationship with the Lord, you will never get away from the call to have a personal prayer closet or secret place.** (Matt 6:6.)

It's not a works thing. All the prophetic levels require relationship. But as you move into stronger and deeper prophetic giftings, especially in the gift of prophecy, the Holy Spirit will desire deeper relationship with you. Why? It's the **sharing of His thoughts and His heart**. Prophecy is not just about predictions. It's also...and primarily about...Jesus sharing his heart and how He feels about a person, a people, or a situation (the forthtelling). (Rev 19:10.)

Why does Paul say "...desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy?" (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:1.) The Holy Spirit illuminated to me that it's because prophecy speaks forth the will, the thoughts, and the heart of God, which are serious and weighty matters. **Prophecy demands relationship**. Relationship levels vary with each individual. The Holy Spirit can move with the other gifts (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:4-11) either by request, or through the hands of His saints, or by sovereign will. But prophecy demands a more unique partnership and a sensitivity to Him. This is one reason why prophets in the Old Testament were so relational with God's spirit (Moses, Samuel, David).

Moses said, "I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His spirit upon them all!" (Num 11:29 NKJV.) Why would that be? I believe part of the answer was that **Moses wanted all of Israel in a deeper relationship with Yahweh**. Moses knew the benefits of relationship of being a prophet. But we know how that story went with Israel in the Sinai desert.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I hunger and thirst for Him?
- Is my relationship with Jesus commensurate to the prophetic level that I'd like to be at?
- Do I ask what God's thoughts are on a matter? Do I care about the "why" God feels about a particular person or matter?
- Do I care about drawing others into deeper relationship?
- Are my personal motives in line with what Jesus wants to do?
- Do I make room for the Lord for fellowship? Is He the priority?

Our challenge is to have a proper view of relationship...which will involve closeness and intimacy with Him, and what it will entail in our lives. (It's not about works, ambitions, or to achieve something.) Are you ready to move into it? Ask "what do I need to shift into?" "What accommodations do I need to make to have the deepest, richest, most vibrant relationship with the Lord that I've ever had.?"

The bottom line to all the above is that **relationship is key...and it is the primary thing**. Yes, you've heard a lot about relationship before, but now, you know how connected it is to the prophetic.

One more thing. Don't make comparisons and "stop staring at the mess." (Yes, prophetic ministry can be a bit messy.) This is about you and your relationship with God and with wanting to be of service to Him. Enjoy the relationship and the journey along the way. If you are attending and reading this, you are already on the journey and great, exciting things are coming your way.

One last thing for this portion of the workshop. I have sensed that with the outpouring that is to take place soon, the **deep personal relationship** with Jesus and the **intensity** of the relationship with Him are on the way for many, many others. Make room in your life for this now and get ready to assist others.

**You want the reality of intimacy and the fruits of relationship. Don't settle for rehearsed phrases that sound nice during conversations.**

### **New Wineskin Revelation**

**We are those new wineskins.** In Luke 5:33-39, Jesus deliberately made contrasts between the old and the new. The simple meanings are that the old ways will not work. In His day walking the earth, Jesus was the new...and many had trouble accepting Him.

What about wineskins themselves? Here are some other typological points to consider:

- New wineskins accommodate the new wine by being flexible and expandable.
- New wineskins expand and contract many times during the fermentation process.
- Wineskins were made from lamb and sheep skins. (The whole animal was used when butchered.)
- Old wineskins become dry and brittle with age (just like any piece of leather that's been weathered without maintenance and care).
- There is a danger with our aging and experiences with the tendency to settle for past things, even to celebrate the past things, rather than hope for what is possible in the future.

There are new revelatory dimensions for our era and time that we don't want to miss. According to many of today's prophets, we're in an era where new outpourings are going to take place.

- Billion soul harvest, the "Pe Decade", The New Reformation", etc.
- Millions or billions of new souls added
- Fantastic revelations and miracles
- New and different ways of doing church
- Also, the stunning formation of new leaders and their fast maturation (K. Hagin).

As a new wineskin, ask the Lord for the new wineskin revelations. As a prophetic person, you have a responsibility to seek personal revelation and this will occur as your personal relationship deepens. If you are a prophetic person (and if you're reading this, you likely are), then accepting new wineskin revelation should not be too difficult for you since you will have cultivated hearing and knowing the voice of God.

## Gleaning From Other Prophets and Prophetic Ministries

There is a glut of prophetic voices on the internet. There's so much that a person could spend many hours in a week trying to keep up with them all. It's apparent that the levels of maturity and experience vary with so many. Some prophets have had years of ministry experience and that usually stands out. Some prophets on the internet are new and fledgling (and that sometimes stands out too).

There's nothing wrong with checking in with other prophets or prophetic ministries and hearing what they have to say. Many have deep relationship with Jesus, have ministered for many years, and live a revelatory lifestyle. There is much to learn from them, but as prophetic people, there are some points and considerations that we need to be aware of...

- As a viewer, try to key in on how the prophet speaks of the Holy Spirit. Is there a deep reverence? Does the prophet pull on you or try to lead you toward a deeper relationship with the Lord?
- Does the prophet go on record with their predictions? If so, do they happen or not?
- You may agree with a prophet with their predictions and their worldview, but do not claim them as your revelations unless the Lord shows them to you personally.
- Be aware of "contagion prophecy" (one or more are saying it, so I will to).
- Be true to the revelations that Holy Spirit gives you. No more and no less.
- Do your revelations and predictions agree with what other prophets have said?
- **Do not substitute the voices and revelations of other prophets from doing your own praying, seeking, and receiving your own personal revelations.** You are living a prophetic lifestyle as well, so you need personal revelation also. Don't underestimate yourself or to what Holy Spirit can reveal to you.

If you find yourself spending an excessive amount of time seeking out all the prophetic voices on the internet at the expense of your own personal prayer and study time with the Lord, you may be out of balance. **Again...a prophetic person must develop and maintain a relationship with the Holy Spirit that is commensurate with the type or level of prophetic ministry that he/she is involved in or wants to be in.**

After pondering the above, ask yourself this question: What is on the Lord's mind...and what is on His heart...regarding matters around the world, in your vicinity, your family and church...that is based on your own knowledge and experiences from being with Him?

## Notes

## Part 2

*“God can sound and feel like your voice, but it’s really His thoughts and voice speaking in your mind.”*  
- Steve Schultz

### **Prophetic Writing**

Writing to oneself has a beginner’s ring to it since it’s been an exercise that almost everyone has been trained with as a prophetic beginner. But, it’s actually an underused and underestimated tool and it’s more powerful than we give it credit for. Why?

Prophetic writing allows the prophetic operator to really “calibrate” between personal thoughts and the thoughts and feelings of God. It’s a real opportunity to flex revelation muscles. Here are some reasons why prophetic writing works so well.

- When writing to self, the writer is not under pressure to deliver something to someone else and can relax.
- The writer can allow his/her emotions to be expressed and flow into the writing.
- The writer is free to express any thought from God without reservation.
- The writer doesn’t have time limitations.
- The writer can find a place with minimal distractions and concentrate.
- The writer can start a collection of personal letters and writings. Perhaps a journal.
- The writer can also write the thoughts of God to other saints as a ministry to them.

There are a number of stories as to how prophetic writing has inspired hope and changed lives. It should be part of your repertoire of prophetic utterances as well. It can be powerful touch to someone who needs a word from the Lord to regain hope and to keep going. I can’t stress that enough.

As a personal testimony, I have used prophetic writing as a way to inquire the Lord as to what will happen during each year with Firestorm NW. It’s an effective way for me to lean into the Holy Spirit, receive His thoughts and feelings, and then report out to my tribe. I have been amazed as I’ve compared my revelations to other prophets and have been spot on with them. Each year, I share these revelations with our tribe’s leadership team first as a means of accountability and then release it to the rest of the body.

When writing to yourself, remember that it is to yourself. Others may not have the same appreciation or quickening to their spirits as it does to yours. Use good sense as to when and where to share your treasure. I have watched people try to read their personal writings to others as a way to inspire or minister to others, however, it doesn’t always work out that way. A personal rhema word to you does not always translate to a personal rhema word for others.

### **Going on Record with Prophecy**

True prophetic voices go on record and therein lies some risk. When the time comes for you to go on record, do not shrink back or try to hedge your bets. Go on record with what you have received and you will be affirmed...or not. If you are wrong about something, simply state so. Examine the what, the why, and how it occurred, and **move on**. Prophetic people have many learning moments. It is a

principle taught that no prophetic person is 100% accurate, yet it is a hard one to fully grasp since no one wants to miss. The reality is that there are going to be some misses...but as we mature, our reliability should improve. All need to remember that prophecy is about sharing the thoughts and heart of God. It's not about self-aggrandizing.

Going on record can establish credibility, but it can also be diminished when we're wrong, especially with predictive prophecy. When prophetic people go on record about significant future events, it is generally supposed to alert the body of Christ to watch, pray and prepare for such events. Some predictive prophecies have an "if" to them and some don't.

Many predictive prophecies also speak of new eras and seasons that lie ahead for the church and give tremendous hope. (Especially for our current time.) Some contain specifics and some of them don't specify much, yet they still inspire hope.

There are also those who release predictive prophecies that get more specific such as giving names and particular things that will happen. When times passes and nothing has changed, the observer has a choice to make. Is this prophetic voice credible? Should I continue to invest time in watching or following this person? (See Deuteronomy 18:20-22 and 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:29.) Safeguards that the Lord has created with prophetic ministry are:

- The Word of God.
- Our own discernment to weigh things out (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:29-32).
- Other prophets, elders, and pastors.
- Those who have other gifts of the spirit (e.g., discernment of spirits, wisdom).

### **Speaking From the Mind or From Inspiration?**

One of the biggest questions and concerns is whether an operator is just speaking from his/her own mind and not from inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Even after delivering a prophetic word while under a heavy anointing, operators sometimes ask, "Was that from God, or just me?" Some operators also get concerned when they don't feel too much of the anointing. As a result, they don't have confidence or an assurance that their thoughts or words were from God. Another question may arise which is, "If I'm not feeling or sensing much of the anointing, then how do I know *when* to prophesy?"

Every operator is different and the Holy Spirit uses each one accordingly. Just because there is a little feeling or sensing of the anointing does not mean the prophetic word was not inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can vary the intensity levels of the anointing depending on the occasion and circumstances. Sometimes the anointing is heavy and you can't miss it. At other times it's lighter. Sometimes, the prophecy comes out in a "gushing style." Sometimes, you just receive thoughts, but you *just know* that they didn't come from you. Regarding the levels of intensity for the anointing, the bottom line is that He does not always "turn up the volume" for us. Many times, he speaks softly or he gives a gentle feeling. This is why we have to train our senses to pick up His signals, impulses, and how He speaks to us. (Heb 5:14.)

As prophetic operators, we like the heavier anointing to be assured when we're supposed to move to deliver a prophetic word. It just doesn't always work out that way. There are also the lighter touches from the Holy Spirit where we have to be more sensitive. Sometimes, there are also accompanying emotions and sometimes there's none. We need to be careful to not judge the importance or impact of



prophetic words just because “we’re not feeling much.” As maturing operators, we should expect that Holy Spirit will use various means, methods, and levels of intensity to get our attention and then we move accordingly. So...don’t expect “heavy” all the time. We have to learn to operate by the “whisper” of the spirit.

To help build confidence, I’ll offer the following points:

- We all have to operate with faith. There’s no getting around that. It will feel risky at times, but we remember that God is a rewarder of faith. (Heb 11:6.)
- Ask for the anointing, but also ask Holy Spirit for greater sensitivity to it.
- Ask Holy Spirit to show how He speaks to you.
- Keep doing your personal prayer time or secret place. This helps immensely.
- After a prophetic ministry, do a “quality check” and ask your recipients if the word bears witness with them. This will help with “calibration.”
- Keep asking for greater levels of prophecy and the spiritual gifts. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:1.) Ask for all of the necessary changes to accommodate the gifts.
- Stay in “the game” with practice and look for opportunities to be in ministry. The more practice, the more awareness (and experience) of what is happening between you and Holy Spirit.
- Recall the moments when you received a light touch or received words or knowledge of something where **you knew** that it was the Holy Spirit. Recall how it happened.

One important caveat is this: If you do not sense the anointing, or sense that your thoughts are from God, you are under no obligation to try and make something happen. You can certainly ask Holy Spirit if He would like to speak and to whom, but don’t force things. He knows how to get His message across to targeted individuals.

### **Handling Warnings and Sensitive Issues**

Beginners in the prophetic are trained to steer clear of delivering warnings, rebukes, births, deaths, future marriage partners, and the like. Beginners are usually instructed to keep their prophetic revelations in the realm of exhortation, edification and comfort. Putting up such guardrails for beginners is usually a necessity for safety.

As saints mature in the prophetic, things change. Operators have to learn and be trusted to deliver some “heavy mail” when the Holy Spirit chooses to move that way. Sometimes, prophetic operators will get pictures, words, or be anointed to deliver a message to people who are struggling with a secret sin, an embarrassing issue, or about to commit a drastic choice and so on. In short, the Holy Spirit may call upon you to initiate a rescue.

Let’s keep in mind that **exhortations can carry warnings**. An exhortation is speaking emphatically urging someone or a group of people to do something. The operator speaking a warning as an exhortation must use wisdom in how to bring the prophecy and also be cognizant of the place and timing to deliver it. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:32.)

Here are some guidelines with handling warnings and sensitive issues:

- Receiving “heavy mail” likely implies that Holy Spirit trusts you’ll know what to do with it.

- Do not “out” the person, especially in front of a crowd. They are usually very scared that this could happen from prophetic people.
- As stated above, wait for the right time and place to deliver the message. As you evaluate, are witnesses or other ministers needed to help?
- Be ready to minister to the individual yourself if and when the message gets delivered.
- Ask the Lord for wisdom in how to frame the message. Don’t rush things. Holy Spirit works amazingly in putting everything together.

Of course, this course cannot cover every situation that you find yourself in. Be sensitive, ask the Lord for wisdom and do your best. Again, Holy Spirit would not have given these types of revelations to you if you couldn’t handle it.

### **Substances**

As prophetic people, we need to be aware and careful what we eat and drink. Coffee, wine, and medications specifically come to mind. Particular medications, like cold remedies, can affect how you feel as well. Why mention this? As you know, too much of anything will affect the body and thus, could impair what you’re sensing in the spirit. Remember that the Lord often moves gently. You don’t want the effects of a substance like caffeine interfering or mimicking what the Holy Spirit wants to do through you.

Another issue is that some Christians have the personal liberty to drink wine (or maybe other things) during fellowships, events, or other settings. If you are invited to such events, you’ll have to decide if you should attend and then decide if and when it’s time to leave. Why should you consider such things? As a minister, you should already know that alcoholic beverages are sneaky and there is risk involved. (Prov 23:32.)

I have witnessed some embarrassing events where wine was served and things got out of hand...and it involved spirit-filled saints. News of such incidents does travel and it can be alarming to pastors and leaders of churches where those affected members attend. When you travel and/or minister, there is also a risk to your reputation if you attended such a gathering where things get out of hand. And, if you are a leader of a prophetic group, or any other group for that matter, and this type of event goes awry while under your sphere of your direction, there will likely be some explaining to do.

This is not a condemnation of coffee, wine, or medications. It’s just a reminder that substances have an impact on our body and minds, and thus, could affect our ministry.

### **Avoiding the Distractions of Besetting Sin**

The message of holiness is important for those in the prophetic because sin and its effects do create consequences for any of us and our ministry. Not only do we have to stand against the sin and process through things, but people are human and they make judgments. When people find out we have sin problems, sometimes the grace is there to forgive and other times, it isn’t there. As a result, our ministry can suffer. Here are some points to ponder:

- Besetting sins affect our relationship with God.

In Hebrews 12:1 the word “beset” in the Greek is *euperistatos* which means to skillfully surround and connotes the idea of stopping or hindering someone from running.

- Avoid the unnecessary battles with besetting sins. They can occupy a lot of mind space. (Heb 12:1)
- Sin and sin cycles consume a lot of energy and time.
- If leaked or discovered, besetting sins may aggravate other people and they often don't handle it well. It offends their sense of justice.
- Hiding and lying takes up time and energy and creates a torment of its own. Besetting sins are bad enough, but a whole cover-up that is entered into consumes a lot of resources as well. That's why there's such a relief with confessions.
- The enemy will try to dig up your sins and faults to make war inside your mind.
- Although you may be able to minister, you may be less confident and you may try to limit your availability.
- If involved in besetting sins, continue to resist and seek deliverances. Ultimately, that can mean life or death.

The amazing thing about God's grace is that He will work with you to overcome besetting sins if you are honest with Him and choose to resist the sins. You may still be able to minister with the anointing because of the grace given to you. This is not a seal of approval regarding bad conduct, but it is the Holy Spirit working with the imperfect in order to save and change people.

### **Prophetic Operator Conduct**

*"The most powerful prophetic words are relational, not professional."- James Goll*

In my teaching, I often speak about prophetic operator conduct. It's so important and yet, sometimes operators lose sight that ministry is about people and displaying love and good manners. We all must remember that small discourtesies, the little unkind things, and the little forms of disrespect make large withdrawals in the emotional bank accounts of people. In relationships, the little things are the big things. If you desire to be in ministry and stay relevant, the little details matter.

Nothing shuts people down faster than an offense. Nothing changes the atmosphere faster than for saints to be openly rude, discourteous, and even antagonistic towards each other. This can occur even among prophetic operators while ministering together. This is also why leadership in a prophetic team is so important as well. Sometimes it's up to a leader to make an intervention and put a stop to any potentially harmful conduct in regards to relationships.

Here are some further important points to consider:

- Kindness is powerful. Be nice in ministry and it will speak well of you.
- If the person is a stranger, ask to touch or put your hand on them.
- Let love be your aim (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:1).
- Be clean and watch your breath.
- As a general rule, if people do not want ministry, don't push it. Don't try to "power through" with something that they don't want or didn't ask for. This goes for prayers for healing and so forth. There's no need to put people in uncomfortable situations because you want to "bulldog" your prayers and petitions. You'll want to be sensitive to where people are at.
- As a prophetic minister, your spiritual radar will be on...but your "social radar" needs to be on too. Be good at "reading" people. This will be important for you and you can use different tactics to accomplish your work.

- When working in prophetic teams, make your ministry partners look good and support them.
- When working in prophetic teams, don't override or minimize the words of other team members.
- When you are good at reading individuals, groups and audiences, you can make adjustments. It's important to know when to start something or keep doing something and when to stop.
- There's a saying I used in police work which was "don't push a bad position." If you feel like you're in a bad position, end the encounter. Get out of it gracefully and move on.
- If you're visiting another church and you get a word, go to the service leader and let them know what you have and what they'd like for you to do. Be flexible.
- If you are a featured speaker or minister, ask how they do their order of service.
- You may not agree with the leader, but give honor. Work out the issues later after ministry is concluded.
- Being stopped from delivering a word or during the delivery is not common. If and when it does, handle the matter gracefully and work out the issues later.
- Understand the important concept of "face" and how it plays a role in public or group settings. Seek to preserve a person's honor and feelings as much as possible.

Of course, walk humbly, smile, and let the Lord shine through you. Love is the reason why you're in prophetic ministry and desiring to exercise your gifts.

### **Notes**

### Part 3

*"Everyone who receives the spirit is called to prophetic ministry." - Kim Maas*

#### **Lord, can you speak louder please?**

As prophetic people, we often ask that. We want the sure thing and would prefer to know *absolutely* that we're speaking what the Lord wants us to say. There have been many times (in my life and yours) where He has moved in unmistakable, powerful ways. But as we continue to train and mature, don't be surprised that His voice becomes softer, gentler...as if He prefers it that way which He does. (See 1 Kings 19.)

You may be interested in a book titled *Can't You Talk Louder God?* By Steve Schultz (2007).

We may ask why the Holy Spirit prefers to "whisper" to us. I believe that it connotes intimacy. You have to be close to hear His voice. Whispering also infers that there's an understanding between you and Holy Spirit. In a whisper, you usually get a few words that mean something between you and Him and that's because of relationship. Of course, there are different prayers for different occasions. That's understandable. But think about it, when people are in love and standing close together, they don't speak in loud voices to each other. There's a lot of quiet whispers and quiet communications that go on.

Depending on your prophetic training and experience, try to become aware with how you were "imprinted" with hearing God's voice. Then, ask Holy Spirit how He wants to speak to you and move through you. He may want to change things up. In my own experience, the Holy Spirit wants me to be aware of a variety of ways in how He speaks and moves. And again, the emphasis is on relationship. You don't want to always be yelled at to get your attention. He doesn't want that either. He doesn't want to have a relationship with you that's based on fear and foreboding. He wants a real relationship of love and companionship and so do we.

As I was preparing this material, I received a number of things that I believe the Lord told me. I put them down here as an encouragement to you.

- Holy Spirit does not have to be loud. He's quite powerful when He whispers.
- Become well acquainted and then very sensitized to His whispers. It takes time, but it's well worth it.
- Learn to **trust yourself** that you're hearing right and want to do the right thing.
- Take risks and move out when told or moved on by Him to do so.
- Be aware of the "thought police." It's an adversary that puts down your thoughts...often inspired by Holy Spirit...by telling you what's correct, what isn't right, and mostly to not do anything.

As you know by now, some prophetic utterances are loud and are intended to be by design. Those are intended to make an impression, but not all "mail" comes in giant, heavy packages. Many times, you get a small, yet quite powerful, letter in a small envelope and those messages can make all the difference in a life. So...instead of asking for communications that are loud, attention-getting, and even downright frightening at times, ask for closer intimacy so that we can pick up the whispers and truly hear His voice in them.

#### **Re-Thinking the Term "Spirit of Prophecy" (Rev 19:10)**

Prophetic beginners are introduced to the “Spirit of Prophecy” and are taught that it is accessible to everyone, but it’s also openly stated or inferred by many that it manifests at a lower level than the gift of prophecy or prophecies given forth by actual prophets. I’m challenging that view in this section. There are no clear standards, codes, or bright lines to determine the levels of a person who does prophetic ministry. Scripture does not present a clear standard as well. Those in the prophetic community have identified four levels of prophetic giftings (Bickle, Goll), but we need to keep in mind that these levels are not from scripture. It’s simply a concept to make sure that we’re all on the same page when it involves discussion around prophetic topics. The four are listed below:

1. Spirit of Prophecy (a.k.a. simple prophecy)
2. Gift of prophecy
3. Prophetic ministry (recognized and commissioned, possibly an itinerant ministry)
4. Prophet or Prophetic office (assigned to regions, territories, or large organizations)

Level 4 prophetic ministries can be compared to OT prophets. They have a level of supernatural giftedness, authority, character, and maturity which distinguishes them from others in the prophetic. These people generally have universal recognition of their office as well (Bickle). Prophets usually have a history of personal encounters with the Lord to confirm their calling and later, public acknowledgments...which can take years before full recognition (Vallotton).

Due to the fact that a sort of hierarchy has been created in the prophetic and church community, one can assume that the revelation (or words) received and utterances given should naturally be in proportion to the level of the operator. That’s a fairly reasonable assumption, but that’s not always the case. There are no bright lines that delineate between the different levels. I have watched operators at a seemingly level 1 give remarkably detailed prophecies and I have watched prophetic ministries or “prophets” give remarkably simple words without much detail or explanation. Of course, much depends on what the Holy Spirit desires to accomplish within all the circumstances that are present.

The point is this. The Spirit of Prophecy deserves a lot more reverence and respect than by calling it simple or lower level. Many times, “simple level” prophecy is not always plain and simple. In fact, it can be quite revelatory and powerful. **It is the “one spirit” who provides all levels of revelation and gifts (1 Cor 12:4-11), and it’s also up to the Holy Spirit to give the degree of access to the operator.** Once you are given your access, then it’s about working with the Holy Spirit as to when and where to use the gifts.

Our access to the prophetic realm and to other spiritual gifts began when we were baptized with the Holy Spirit. (John 3:5.)

Another point here is that an operator cannot keep “working” at prophetic ministry and attain higher levels by personal effort. It doesn’t work that way. We are encouraged to stay faithful, be diligent, do the right things, and apply what we’re given, but unless the Holy Spirit agrees with our petitions and grants us greater access, we will not see the increase. And, if you’ve been in the prophetic for a long time and you’re not seeing greater increase, ask the Holy Spirit why. I believe He’ll tell you.

**It’s not the length, it’s the strength of your prophetic words.** Don’t underestimate their importance and impact on lives.

Another important point to go with the above is that having confidence and boldness also does not translate to having greater access to the prophetic realm. Again, you can’t just work things up. Once the grace or access is granted to you to go further and expand your giftings, then you can also gain more confidence and boldness as you exercise the gifts.

The real key to understanding all this is to recognize that it is up to the Holy Spirit to provide you the access to greater gifts. How much access do you have to the prophetic dimensions...or to other gifts? A little? A lot? Do you want more? We are admonished by Paul to desire the gifts and ask for them. (See 1 Cor 14:1 and 14:39.) **Essentially, your gift and/or your access is granted by grace through faith.** You can and should desire it, but you can't earn it.

The last point for this section is this. Each individual will be different. God has granted some to move into gifts of prophecy and called some to become prophets. We understand that. Not everyone will be "gifted" or become prophets, however, all of us can "train our senses" to become highly proficient operators and deliver strong and powerful words from the prophetic dimension.

### **The Importance of Prophecy**

We all can agree that the Apostle Paul gives prophecy a place of preeminence in his letters and we already covered some of the reasons why. Again, it all points to relationship and prophecy requires that. In the scriptures, we're exhorted to especially desire and seek out that gift. Here are some other reasons why prophecy is so important:

- Speaks rhema words
- Reinforces the logos
- Speaks into the future or foretells
- Calls things into being or existence
- Heals woundedness
- Gives purpose
- Announces or reminds saints of their callings
- Restores
- Calls forth gifts
- It's a gateway to other gifts
- Forthtells or speaks the heart and mind of God
- Announces a thing or event before it happens
- It's the testimony of Jesus (Rev 19:10)

Here is another consideration. What value do you place on saving a life? Do you want to save a drowning person? A person that's dying on the inside? What value do you place on being a catalyst in changing a person's life? Do you want to raise the dead? There are thousands of "walking dead" out there. Do you want to be world changer...one person at a time? You can be by being equipped in the prophetic dimension. You want the rhema as well as the logos available to you.

We...who have the Holy Spirit have all the equipment that we need to start rescues. If we have the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Prophecy, then we have the power source to speak into the lives of others and give them life, hope, and a purpose. We don't need a title; we just need to believe that we're already holding on to the equipment to get started. Let others fuss about titles and levels. We just need to get operating and then call for more equipment and reinforcements when they're needed.

If we have the Spirit of Prophecy, then we can lean into the Holy Spirit, listen to what He says and then do accordingly. If that is the case, are we doing enough asking? Are we exerting enough faith? Are we doing enough testing the waters? These are questions left to you to ponder.

Have we been theologized into accepting small thinking and small roles because we believed that we needed to attain to some mystical, higher spiritual level...a level that has already been available to us? Isn't the Spirit of Prophecy capable of performing amazing utterances...calling forth destinies and purposes...and calling people into the kingdom?

Have we put ourselves in a box awaiting usefulness on a particular day? (And, we keep waiting for that day.) Have we minimized ourselves unnecessarily because we've minimized what Holy Spirit can do through us? Have we minimized who He truly is? Have we minimized the truth? Again, does it matter what you are called or what designated prophetic level that people want to place you in. Instead, do we have the faith to be activated by Holy Spirit and do the works that are waiting for us to do?

Is it possible that the Spirit of Prophecy is more than capable of helping us reach the harvest? I believe the answer is **yes**. The Spirit of Prophecy...all of it...is the testimony of Jesus. (Rev 19:10.)

### **Prophesying by Faith**

This concept can present itself as an enigma. What is *prophesying by faith*? How does that work as compared to prophesying by the anointing? To study this area, we first have to understand what a person means by the phrase "prophesying by faith." It may mean different things to different people.

Essentially, the method of prophesying by faith comes from the belief that operators can stir up the gifts within themselves and then get activated to prophesy. Scriptures used to support this view are:

- *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Ro 12:6 (KJV)*
- *For this reason, I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 1:6 (NASB)*

A decree is an official order issued by a legal authority. As part of the ecclesia (church), there is a teaching that saints can make decrees that are binding in heaven and earth. (See Matt 18:18.)

Prophesying by faith may also sound similar to the teachings of the church (or ecclesia) making **decrees**, **declarations**, and making **petitions** with prayers and having faith that the prayers will be answered.

There is also a teaching in prophetic circles that we can prophesy...or speak into existence...things and events into being that are based on **our desires** of what we want to see happen. Instead of Holy Spirit initiation, we pull on His **cooperation** because of His love for us. Is that possible? Is that too presumptuous? It seems that it's a rational conclusion based on readings from particular scriptures. Here are scriptures listed below about speaking things into existence:

- *Death and life are in the **power of the tongue**, and those that love it shall eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21 (NASB)*
- *Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Phil 4:8 (NASB)*
- *And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if **you say to this mountain**, 'Be taken up and*



cast into the sea,' **it will happen**. And, **whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive it all**. Matt 21:21-22 (NASB)

- Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted to him. Therefore, I say to you, **all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted to you**. Mark 11:23-24 (NASB)
- These (witnesses) have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. Revelation 11:6 (NASB)

Prophesying by faith has moving parts to the method or equation. Those parts include...

- The relationship between the prophetic person and Holy Spirit.
- God's will (Does the prophecy or request fit into God's will or will it be permissible?).
- The position or standing and the faith of the operator.
- Overall strategic purposes.

There is another method which is *prophesying from the anointing* which says that prophecy should only be released from the anointing and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This means that prophecy is released **when, where, and to whom the Holy Spirit chooses**. Here are scriptures to support that method and viewpoint:

- Therefore, Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He **sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way. John 5:19 (NASB)
- But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 1 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)
- This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the **requests which we have asked from Him**. 1 John 15:14-15 (NASB)

Those that hold the view of prophesying just from the anointing believe that the anointing protects the operator from presumptions and divination. The operator relies on the Holy Spirit to provide the unction and power to give the prophecy. Faith is involved, but it is not the sole faith of the operator that makes prophecy happen.

In the prophetic movement, not everyone is in agreement with the method of *prophesying by faith*. But, when examining the method, it proves itself to work. The question to be asked is: If the prophetic person steps out to prophesy by faith, and the Holy Spirit meets the operator to do so, isn't this a valid method? The answer is yes, it is. However, the operator's sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is still a necessity. The operator's senses and discernment must be active and the operator needs to know when the Holy Spirit is saying **yes** and when He is saying **no**.

*Prophesying by faith* is part of the prophetic dimension of spiritual gifts. A quote from Mike Bickle describes this concept and the overall prophetic dimension well when he said, "There is a mysterious

*interplay between God's sovereign activity, human agency, and responsibility as we open our hearts before God, seek His will, and ask for what we desire."*

**Notes**

## Part 4

*"If you want a new life, you've got to have a new lifestyle." - Joyce Meyer*

### Assisting with Interpretation

A deer or a dear? If you heard this single word that was meant for you, what would you think? Would you need help with it? What if the operator gave you that word and simply turned away? Unless the Holy Spirit immediately revealed the meaning to you, you might need an assist with understanding.

Prophetic beginners have often been trained to deliver a picture, a word, a statement, or something else that is vague and just leave it with the receiver with no further follow up. It would be up to the receiver to discover the meaning later. This type of training was really meant to reduce the "contamination" of adding things to the particular picture or prophetic utterance by the giver.

In reality, dropping a vague message and walking away does a disservice because some receivers will not "get it." Sometimes the receivers will need help with interpretation to make the prophecy or word of knowledge meaningful. This is why after some prophetic deliveries, feedback from the receiver is important. If the giver understands what the meaning is, there's nothing wrong with helping the receiver to understand. Having said that, it does not mean that every prophetic picture and utterance will be fully understood by either the giver or receiver. There are some things given in prophecy and words of knowledge that may remain a mystery until they get unpacked by revelation later.

Here are some points for further consideration:

- You are anointed in the prophetic. If the receiver does not "get it," take a moment with them and work through it. Don't give up on it so quickly.
- Dive back into the picture or the word to get more revelation. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the receiver what the revelation is.
- Pay attention to details of pictures and phrases. The details have meanings.
- Take your time with it. There's often a rich treasure behind the picture or phrase that the Lord wants to release.
- Keep in mind that there may be a further prophetic word to be released as the revelation becomes understood.
- If the utterance or picture remains a mystery, pray into it that it become revealed later.

In prophetic ministry, the phrase, "*one picture is worth a thousand words*" is so true! Don't underestimate the significance of receiving pictures or "film clips" that are put in your mind.

Whatever you do, don't yield to the temptation to make things up or try to put a personal spin on it. If you lean into the Holy Spirit for further revelation and nothing happens. That's OK. Again, some words and pictures will have to wait to be unpacked later.

Remember that everything that Holy Spirit gives has a purpose for exhortation, edification, or comfort. That means even a seemingly negative picture has a **purpose!**

- When receiving something that is concerning, alarming, or sensitive, take your time with it.

- Ask Holy Spirit what would He would like to do. Is it an exhortation? A rescue? **Ask for the redemptive purpose in revealing such a thing.**
- The more sensitive the issue, the more care and sensitivity needs to be displayed by the prophetic person.
- You may need to hold your revelation until the right time and place for it. Just watch and see how things unfold before releasing it.
- Discern if you have a ministry situation where you'll likely need assistance.

### Releasing Emotions During Prophetic Ministry

During your prophetic ministry, there will be times when the Holy Spirit moves on you so powerfully that you may weep, laugh, feel joy, or feel sorrow as you deliver prophetic messages.

**These emotions are part of the message!** There's a reason that you're feeling and demonstrating that way. During ministry, if you are a bit shaken by the intensity of the emotions, then take a pause and ask Holy Spirit what He wants to communicate or do for the receiver. In past ministries, I have had intense moments like this and wish that I had taken steps to further understand what was happening to me and then help translate it to the receiver. Such displays of emotions still happen to me in varying degrees.

If you are open to allow the Lord to display His heart in various ways, then this will happen to you as well. Allow it to happen. This dynamic happens to both sexes and all ages. When this happens, you'll have to let go of "proper" appearances and how it looks in the eyes of other people. Remember, we're in the business of rescue and being world changers. The Lord has a repertoire of messaging that He uses and it also involves using emotions.

### Prophetic Acts and Urgent Words

There's a story in Acts 20 where Paul decides to leave Miletus to make a long journey to Jerusalem. Paul likely believes that the Holy Spirit is helping or even guiding him to do so. This journey to Jerusalem would conclude his third missionary journey (which took years). As Paul started the journey from Miletus, some interesting things happened along the way. Actually, the Holy Spirit was giving warnings to Paul to **not** go to Jerusalem.

The story becomes quite fascinating because the Holy Spirit kept repeating the message during the journey...even before Miletus. The last warning was given by the prophet Agabus who traveled from Jerusalem to Caesarea, a distance of approximately 70 miles, to not just give a word, but also do a prophetic act. (See Acts 21:10-14.)

The story continues when Agabus took Paul's belt and bound his hands and feet as part of this prophetic act. This typified or symbolically represented that Paul's ministry and ability to travel would be bound which is what happened. After Jerusalem, Paul remained in in Roman custody, possibly for the remainder of his life. (Some speculate that Paul was released and remained free for 5-6 years, then re-arrested and eventually executed.)

Why is this story a marvel? Because simply put, Paul seemed to not be listening. The Holy Spirit made a last attempt to break through by sending Agabus, so it was no small thing or light matter. When I read the story of Paul's continued determination to continue on to Jerusalem, I get a sense that the Holy Spirit escalated the warnings. But, at the end of it

In this story, what can we infer about Philip's four daughters who were prophetesses? Luke mentions them, but it's not just a random, passing thought. Is it likely that they prophesied to Paul too?

all, despite the warnings in the spirit and the urgings from so many people that he met along his journey, he went to Jerusalem anyway. We also have to take note that Luke specifically wrote that that Agabus was a prophet. A prophet that was an *ascension gift* and one who had spiritual and church authority. (Eph 4:10-13.)

One lesson we can draw from is this. As people who minister in the prophetic, we may be tapped to deliver a rhema message that involves a prophetic act and/or to speak out with intense emotions. All of this is to deliver a message that is extremely important and urgent. The Holy Spirit knows that there are times when He must break through a person's cloudy or foggy perspective.

As your relationship deepens with the Holy Spirit, and as your confidence grows with hearing and delivering in the prophetic, your repertoire of delivery will expand as well. The Lord will have you deliver with the appropriate levels of urgency, acts, and emotions which will accentuate the message. **Again, our prophetic demonstrations and emotions can be part of the message.**

### **"Atmospheric Interference"**

This can occur from time to time during prophetic ministry or in the preparation for ministry. Sometimes, a spiritual battle happens, or needs to happen, before a prophetic ministry takes place. Ministers who are spiritually savvy will usually set up intercessory prayer before meetings, especially if the territory they're in is difficult. Remember Daniel 10:13 where the arch-angel Michael had to come to make the breakthrough. Quite simply, there may be times where reinforcements are needed.

Here are some further considerations listed below:

- Pay attention to the atmosphere. If it feels like interference, think about a strategy before your ministry.
- Are you ministering in a hard territory or a stronghold? Take that into account for your strategy.
- Determine the strategic level of importance of the person being ministered to...their calling...their mission...their location. Are *they* in a hard territory? A stronghold?
- Pause and pray for the anointing to break through.
- If necessary, have a team break away to do intercessory prayer for the ministry to be successful.
- If working individually, you may want to pause and ask for revelation as to what you're dealing with.

### **Prophetic Evangelism**

*"Either the runway is open or closed. You carry the same cargo."* - Sean Smith

As you mature and progress in the prophetic, you will experience times when Holy Spirit will prompt you to speak into the life of an individual in an impromptu fashion. All that's required is to be sensitive to His promptings and directions...and then be audacious enough to follow through. The promptings usually lead to specific people. Words of knowledge may be used to break the ice.

With the above principle in mind, you're simply making a shift in location. You're operating outside the church walls and you're ready to offer the sinner's prayer to the individual after speaking the spirit-inspired word to them...if things lead to that.

*“On average, people hear the gospel 7.2 times before they give their lives to Christ.” (Prophetic evangelism works faster.) - Sean Smith*

There are Bible stories where you could say prophetic evangelism was at work:

- Jesus met Nathaniel. (See John 1:43-51.)
- Jesus met the woman at the well and operated in the prophetic realm. (See John 4.)

Prophetic evangelism is so effective for the following reasons:

- The person is targeted. You’re not operating at random.
- The rhema word is released. It testifies of the logos.
- There is power in the prophetic atmosphere.
- The message and power hits people at a deeper level. It goes beyond their intellect.
- People can be stunned at what gets revealed to them by the spirit. (See 1 Cor 14:24-25.)

Sometimes, you may deliver a word to someone and it just needs time to work. They don’t make the surrender right then and there, but the power and the message were on target. There just needs to have an incubation period before the miracle of birth. Just stay in faith during the wait.

### **Believing for a Supernatural Life**

Many saints have been introduced to greater degrees of the supernatural or have been granted access to more of the supernatural...only to go back to their previous ways of life. There are many reasons why, but there is hope. We can make shifts and adjustments...with the help of Holy Spirit...and start moving more into a supernatural lifestyle.

A prophetic, revelatory lifestyle is Biblically normal. Walking and operating in the spirit is fresh, exciting, and extremely fulfilling. You’ll feel that you were made for this.

Instead of blasting more exhortations at you, I encourage you to personally reflect on where you are now and where you’d like to be 3 years from now. Where would you like to be 5 years from now. What makes you excited to serve Jesus and what do you need to do to start moving in that direction?

Many, if not most of you, already have a significant degree of power operating in your lives. It’s a matter of deliberately getting into situations where Holy Spirit wants to move.

One major thing that we have to think about is the question, “How can I cultivate and keep a supernatural lifestyle?” A lifestyle of seeking encounters, revelation and lingering in His presence. We all know that we need to make big space for Him in our daily lives and it’s easy to talk about, but it’s another thing to make it happen. As said before, it’s not enough to continually seek out all the other internet sources and digest all their revelations. You’ll need to find out what He wants to speak into you! What are the personal revelations He wants to give to you?

For many saints, what comes to mind during these types of discussions is that people are too lazy to order their lives accordingly. That may be true, but there's another enemy that works to shut people down from their supernatural lifestyles and this robs them of deep personal experiences and with victories in the marketplace. That enemy is a **religious mindset**. It is insidious and yet, it often operates silently and permeates through almost everything. Its effect is strong, intense, and it's responsible for keeping saints in dead faith and from walking in their rightful places and destinies. (James 2:14-24.) Think of a religious mindset as the "thought police" and a prison which wants to keep you locked up for life. No parole or release...ever.

Religious mindsets operate in the following thoughts:

- I don't have the right birth, the right education or the right connections.
- All the other prophets are gifted and were designated so from their birth. That's not me.
- I have...or have had...too much sin in my life to be used in spiritually dynamic ways.
- I am too aged...or too worldly savvy...or have seen too much sin and carnage for the Holy Spirit to use me properly.
- I'm damaged goods. I'm too wounded to be used by Holy Spirit.
- Supernatural dimensions are risky. I don't want to lose my life and my soul.
- I just want to seek Jesus, not just the "loaves and fishes."
- The Lord is calling me to do \_\_\_\_\_. He's not called me to operate with supernatural gifts.
- I don't trust myself. If I become empowered, I might lose it.
- I need to get older...or more experienced...or more educated...or more supervised...or more whatever.
- Prophecy is messy. There's too much risk of wildfire, emotional flakiness, and injury to people.

By reading the above, you get the idea. We throw up so many excuses, it's no wonder that the hope that tries to rise within us gets choked off. Religious mindsets have ruined and aborted many works on the earth that should have been accomplished. It is a pernicious enemy and if it becomes a stronghold, it's a struggle between life and death.

It's no wonder that Jesus told his disciples to "*beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees*" (Matt 16:6 Berean Study Bible). See Mark 8:14 also.

### **Living Supernaturally**

You can start taking actions and walk a prophetic lifestyle accordingly. The following can help you in personal ministry to others and for your own journey:

- It's never too late to get into a lifestyle of having a prayer closet or secret place. (It's so vital.)
- When outside in the marketplace, or even in church, ask what the Holy Spirit would like to say or do.
- Before a prophetic release, you may want to state who you are and what you do. Are you gifted? Say so. Are you a prophet? Say so when you introduce yourself. Maybe you could say, "I operate in the prophetic." What will this do? Many will get excited and ask, "Does God have a word for me?"
- What God has put in you will change lives. It needs to get exercised.
- Speak into others and have others speak into you. Speak into those hard places in your own life. Believe that there's oil in those rocks inside you. Bring out the hidden treasures (Stark). See Jeremiah 23:29 which says your words are like a "fire" and a "hammer that smashes a rock?"

- We need prophetic, forceful people to bring out the good things from hard places in people.
- **Remember that prophets and prophetic people can get easily bored. They don't like status quo.**
- *"...the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force."* (See Matt 11:12 KJV.) We want our words to cause violence and break the status quo. Are we eager and jealous for the kingdom?
- Remember that prophecy is not massage therapy or ego stroking. Sometimes there are hard places that need to get broken. Force is needed. At times, we need a warrior spirit. Be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is requiring.
- What is in us able to set people free. "How free can I get you?" is the mindset of the prophetic person. That is an advancing prophetic person (Stark).
- Repent for downsizing your spiritual gifts. Use what God gives you. Dare to grab hold, believe it, and start practicing it. Break the walls of passivity. Rediscover the wildness you had when you were younger or a newborn.

1 Corinthians 14:1 speaks of desiring the spiritual gifts. Some translate the Greek word for desire (*zeloute*) as a pretty aggressive word. In Thayer's the word connotes a pursuit. We need to want it and we're also beckoned by the Word of God to want it. Get over the false humility and get aggressive with seeking the gifts.

Bible says to switch on your desire and to desire to prophecy. Loosen the hunger within you and break off the religious shackles. Hunger and thirst for the gifts.

You're here today because of your desire and you're on the journey. Ask Holy Spirit to put you back on track and/or accelerate your journey. Ultimately, He'll know what to do and how fast you can go.

### **Notes**



## Part 5

*“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.” --Mark Twain*

### Terms and Definitions

In any field of study, vocabulary and language is important. Words convey thoughts, ideas and images and it is important that we understand what we mean when we use a word. Sometimes, mistakes or assumptions are made when we hear particular words. Precision and clarity are then needed. Simply put, words matter.

In prophetic ministry, it is important have clarity of definitions to what we are talking about and to “paint some borders” around the concepts in our discussions. The following is a list of words and concepts that I believe are important to ensure that we’re all on common ground. Keep in mind that some of the terms, such as the levels of prophecy listed below, are not purely from scripture. They are simply a way of communicating a thought or idea to aid in our understanding.

**“The Prophetic”** = A commonly used term to encompass the revelation gifts (prophecy, wd of knowledge, wd of wisdom, tongues & interpretations). Although the term is not precise, it does convey the idea that a person is receiving words from God. An excellent example is when Jesus met the woman at the well. (See John 4) Jesus told the woman about her marriage status (wd of knowledge) and she called him a prophet.

**Operator(s)** = A word used to describe those who are used in prophecy at any level.

**Activations** = This word implies that Holy Spirit is activating your spirit and senses to be open to the spiritual revelation and to receive messages, images, and feelings from Him. It does not imply a new age philosophy or activities to go into the spiritual realm the way God did not intend for us. Keep in mind that being prophetic or receiving revelation implies having **relationship with God**. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:6-12 and 14:1.) When we speak of activations, we’re speaking of letting Holy Spirit “distribute to each one as He wills.” It’s not trying to capture electrical energy or trying to tap into a benign mystical power.

**Calibrate** = Dictionaries define this word as to check, adjust, or determine by comparison with a standard and usually done with a measuring instrument. I often use this word as a way to communicate the ability to distinguish between personal thoughts and feelings and the input of the Holy Spirit.

**Imprinting** = Speaks about having something fixed firmly in the mind. First exposures to things and training that is reinforced often creates an imprinting in the mind. This can be very helpful, but it also can create later struggles for those who need to expand their knowledge and expertise

**Spirit of Prophecy (a.k.a. simple prophecy or prophetic atmosphere)** = Available to all believers. This term is taken from Revelation 19:10. This is considered “level one” and occurs occasionally to many believers (Bickle, Goll,). Some believers at this level prophesy more frequently than others due to their measures of faith and the circumstances they are in. (Romans 12:6.) **It’s my opinion that many people underestimate the efficacy, accuracy and power of operating in the Spirit of Prophecy.** An operator can bring significant and deep rhema words to saints and can even foretell the future while under this anointing of Holy Spirit.

**Gift of Prophecy or Prophetic Gifting** = This is considered “level two.” As the definition implies, this is a gift bestowed on the operator by the Holy Spirit. When we use this term, it means that this is a **resident gift** and it is usually operated more frequently than others who operate in the spirit of prophecy. As Paul admonished in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:1, saints can desire and ask for this gift. Saints should also be aware that although this is considered a resident gift, it can go dormant from inactivity (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:6).

**Prophetic Ministry** = considered to be “level three.” This is where saints who have the gift of prophecy also have a proven reputation of accuracy and reliability within their own churches and with other networked churches and ministries (Bickle, Goll). Many of these operators have itinerant ministries because they are in demand while many others stay within their home churches. Due to the relationship between these operators and the Holy Spirit, it can seem that these saints can operate the gift whenever they want to, although that may not be the case for each one. Often, these operators are considered as “prophets” by churches, although they do not carry governmental authority, nor do they represent areas or regions.

**Prophets** = are considered to be “level four” of the prophetic gifts (Bickle, Goll). Prophets are considered to be in an “office” and are gifts to the church for building up and equipping (Eph 4: 9-12). Many teachers and scholars rank prophets as the second highest office in the church which is a rational argument that can be made. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:28.) Prophets are also considered part of the government authority of the church and they can be based in local bodies or in other ministry organizations. Prophets can be assigned to regions, territories, political spheres, ministry organizations, and to large parts of the body of Christ. Of course, level four prophets are considered to be very deep in relationship and understanding of Holy Spirit and have years of a proven track record with their words and predictions. We should remember that the primary purpose is equipping and building, not just wielding authority. (Eph 4:12.) Level four prophets could be compared to the authority and power that was carried by OT prophets (Bickle).

**Prophecy** = Utterances from the Holy Spirit that are primarily meant for exhortation, edification, and comfort (or consolation in the NAS). (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:3.) Prophetic utterances can be foretelling or forthtelling (which can be directive, revealing or speaking truths). Not all prophecy is predictive. It can reveal how the Lord feels at the current moment or even reach into the past to reveal a truth.

**Tongues and Interpretations** = Refers to prophetic utterances spoken of in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:10. An unknown tongue usually precedes a prophetic utterance that is a recognized language. Some believe that T & I is a higher level of prophetic utterance (DeMain). From my experience, T & I’s have usually been exercised in front of whole assemblies and larger scale audiences. It is not as common within small groups to specific individuals, but it does depend on what the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish.

**Words of Knowledge** = knowledge or revelations that come from the spirit of prophecy or are direct revelations from HS. Revealed information does not necessarily mean it’s a coded message or a prophecy from Holy Spirit. Words of knowledge may be signals from Holy Spirit that He wants to deliver a prophetic message or move in another gift. Keep in mind that sensitivity and timing are important. Generally speaking, words of knowledge are not prophecies, but they are part of the revelatory gifts and thus, are lumped into the term “prophetic.”

**Words of Wisdom** = Supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit which reveals the mind and will of God for particular situations. It can impart facts, guidance, and give solutions to issues and problems. Generally speaking, words of wisdom speak into the future (Hagin).

### Other Points and Topics (if time allows)

The purpose of this section was to encapsulate some of the points made in the main body of this document and to introduce other points for a brief discussion if time permits.

1. What seems to be the pattern of becoming a level four prophet? The **call of God** through **encounters**, and **recognition** from churches, church authorities, and ministry organizations. Full church recognition can take up to 13-14 years (Goll, Vallotton, Cooke). Each level four prophet has his/her story and they all vary, but a common pattern is the one described above.

2. Level four prophets are chosen by God in Ephesians 4:11. You may to aspire to be one, but it's a heavy call of God and a sovereign choice. Instead of having ambition to become a level four prophet, let the wisdom of God dictate how and where He places you and the giftings he puts within you.

(Note: If you know that you are called to be a prophet, don't try to promote yourself. Stay faithful and stay connected to the leaders of the organization you are in. Time will do its work. Also, keep in mind that a lot of church and church leadership is relational. It pays to stay in right relationship.)

3. Personality inventories, questionnaires, assessment tools, or personality profiles do not call you into ministry nor mark you as a "prophet." You may have personality traits that match with a particular ministry or gifts (Romans 12:6 and Ephesians 4:11-13), but **the call of God must be on your life**, especially for the ascension gifts stated in Ephesians 4. We shouldn't cheapen the call of a prophet or prophetic ministry by referring to people as a "prophet" because of a survey or because one operates in the spirit of prophecy.

4. **Prophetic exhortations can carry warnings.** (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:3.) An exhortation is speaking emphatically urging someone or group of people to do something. The operator speaking a warning as an exhortation must use wisdom in how to bring the prophecy and also be cognizant of the place and timing to deliver it. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 14:32.) Beginners are initially trained to avoid giving warnings; however, maturing operators need to learn and be trusted to deliver some "heavy mail" when the Holy Spirit chooses to move that way.

5. Maturing operators need to be very careful after receiving prophetic downloads and whether or not to speak about life and death issues, marriages, sexual problems, and other highly sensitive issues. Beginners may have been taught to avoid those issues to stay away from potential problems, however, maturing operators who are frequently used will run into some "sticky situations" like that. Learning to process through those situations will require Godly wisdom. Operators should have a support network in place as well.

6. All operators will go through dark times. It is vital to establish a support network to assist with getting through difficult periods. Regardless of what level you are in, there will be mistakes, times of lingering doubts, personal distress, attacks on reputation, periods of loneliness, etc. John Paul Jackson openly confessed that he went through periods of depression and yet he was regarded as a true prophetic voice and had a ministry that affected thousands.

**7.** For each operator, one of the biggest critics will be him or herself. The human tendency is for operators to berate themselves mercilessly if a mistake(s) is made. On top of that is that the enemy wants to shut operators down. The ability to forgive oneself and process through the mistakes and mishaps will be vital.

**8.** The principle of allowing grace for NT prophets and prophetic people not being totally accurate all the time is perhaps one of the hardest principles to fully grasp. A case in point were the results of the 2020 presidential election and the intense arguments and divisions which resulted. (See James 3:14-16.)

**9.** You can try to train saints that are not spirit-filled (with the evidence of speaking in tongues) in prophetic ministry, but they will have difficulty. The best course is to have them seek the Holy Spirit, become spirit-filled, and then engage with the training. Prophecy comes from the Holy Spirit that dwells within. (John 7:37-38.) The Holy Spirit can anoint non-spirit filled saints for particular purposes such as preaching a message, but that is not the same as having the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Hagin).

**10.** It's advised to keep a journal or some kind of storage for your prophetic words. Look for themes and things that keep getting repeated. It is assuring and strengthening to go back and re-read a rhema word that was just for you.

**11.** As givers and receivers of prophetic words, we have to remember that we see through a glass darkly or a mirror dimly. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 13:12.) It is normal to only see fragments of a person's life, unless the Holy Spirit gives you more access into it.

**12.** Prophetic operators need to be open to various ways the Holy Spirit desires to move. Be aware that Holy Spirit can and will change things up on you. You may have one primary way that the Lord communicates through you, but be flexible. Train all your senses to the fullest extent possible. (Hebrews 5:14.)

**13.** If you want to get your prophetic journey on a faster track, then join a prophetic group with a capable leader. It may be hard to find, but once you do, the investment of time and energy will be worth it as the education and experience will start to compound.

**14.** Learning, maturity and growth will work best when all agree that accountability starts with good, capable leadership and that, at times, interventions must be made for the benefit of all. The leader must be able to "umpire" or "referee the game" capably.

**15.** Pastors can lead their prophetic groups within their church (if they choose to). If not, others can be appointed to do so. Keep in mind that pastors, elders, and others called in ministry are bestowed with other supernatural gifts for their service to the body of Christ (e.g., administrations, discernment of spirits, wisdom).

**16.** To lead a prophetic group, the pastor or leader does not need to have the strongest gift of prophecy. The leader **does** need to have the right blend of ingredients to capably lead the group and to have the respect of the church members. Other spiritual gifts and motivational gifts carried by the leader should be able to blend well with the revelation gifts carried by others.

## Notes